


OM NAMO VENKATESAYA



11-12-2025  
Total pilgrims: 64,367  
Tonsures: 25,193  
Hundi kanukalu: 4.71 CR  
Waiting Compartments: 31

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens). 12 H

TO BOOK YOUR ADS CALL

99484 80279, 73307 78889



NATION | NEWS

Stalin projects Tamil Nadu as India's top state by 2031 under 'Dravidian Model 2.0'



WORLD | NEWS

Trump's 'historic' peace deal for DR Congo shattered after rebels seize key city

SPORTS | NEWS

Vaibhav Suryavanshi Reacts To Surpassing Virat Kohli As 'Most Searched Indian' In 2025



# Messi, Revanth Reddy play friendly match as Uppal Stadium turns festive

HYDERABAD (TSIT): Football fever peaked at Uppal Stadium on Saturday as Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and global football legend Lionel Messi arrived to take part in a high-profile friendly match amid tight security.

The stadium was packed with enthusiastic fans as "Messi mania" gripped the city, with supporters wearing Argentina jerseys bearing the iconic No.10. Hyderabad police made elaborate security arrangements and took control of the stadium and surrounding areas to ensure the smooth conduct of the event.

The friendly match was played between the Singareni RR and Aparna teams, with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy representing Singareni RR and Lionel Messi turning out for the Aparna team. The match drew huge cheers



Messi mania grips Hyderabad as Rahul Gandhi arrives for football event

Hyderabad: Amid growing excitement over the arrival of global football icon Lionel Messi, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi reached Hyderabad on Saturday evening to attend the much-anticipated football event. Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and senior Congress leaders welcomed Rahul Gandhi at Shamshabad airport before leaving together. Congress sources clarified that the visit is pure-

ly sports-related and not connected to any political programme. With football fans across the country eager to witness Messi in action, social media posts highlighted the spirit of sportsmanship, stating that the focus of the visit was football and not politics. The presence of a world-renowned player like Messi and a national leader at the event has further intensified the football frenzy in Hyderabad.

from the crowd as the two teams took the field. Adding to the festive atmosphere, the event featured a musical night and laser show. Popular singers Mangli and Rahul Sipligunj entertained the audience with energetic folk songs, while Sipligunj's rendition of "Naatu Naatu" received a rousing response. Police remained on high alert throughout the event, keeping in view recent security concerns elsewhere in the country.



# Angry fans on rampage as Messi's Kolkata tour turns 'Messy', Mamata apologies

KOLKATA (TSIT): Chaos erupted at the Salt Lake stadium here on Saturday as thousands of fans protested after failing to get a clear glimpse of Argentine football icon Lionel Messi during a much-hyped event, prompting police to baton-charge and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to order a high-level enquiry. What was billed as a marquee football spectacle turned into anger and disorder as Messi's brief and tightly ring-fenced appearance, his first at the venue since 2011, left large sections of the crowd frustrated despite many having paid hefty sums for tickets.

Accompanied by long-time strike partner Luis Suárez and Argentine teammate Rodrigo De Paul, Messi, the World Cup-winning captain,

Fans, who had paid between Rs 4,500 and Rs 10,000 for tickets to watch the Argentine star, hurled bottles and damaged fibreglass seats.



arrived at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan around 11.30 am.

His vehicle was parked near the touchline, and as he stepped onto the field, he was quickly surrounded by VIPs, organisers, celebrities and security personnel, leav-

ing spectators in the galleries straining for a view.

Messi walked a short distance on the pitch and waved briefly towards the stands amid loud chants of "Messi, Messi". Fans, however, soon realised that the footballer remained tightly

cordoned off and was barely visible from large sections of the stadium. Several spectators said even the giant screens failed to offer a clear view. Frustration mounted when it became evident that Messi would not complete the full lap of the stadium that had been part of the original programme. Instead, he turned back midway and was escorted out well before the scheduled end of his appearance. As word spread that the Argentine star had left the field prematurely, anger spilt over. Bottles and plastic chairs were hurled onto the pitch, sponsor banners and hoardings were torn down, fibreglass seats were smashed, and sections of the crowd attempted to rip open barricades to force their way onto the field.

# GRAP Stage-4 curbs kick in as Delhi's air quality turns 'severe'



NEW DELHI (TSIT) A thick blanket of smog shrouded the national capital on Saturday morning, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) registering a reading of 431, under the 'severe' category, prompting the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) to invoke Stage 4 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). "Keeping in view the prevailing trend of air quality and in an effort to prevent further deterioration of air quality in the region, the CAQM Sub-Committee on GRAP decides to invoke all actions as envisaged under Stage-IV of the extant GRAP - 'Severe' Air Quality (DELHI AQI > 450), with immediate effect, in the entire NCR.

# K'taka govt issues order to constitute team to expedite Mekedatu project

BENGALURU (TSIT): The Karnataka government on Friday said it has issued an order to form a team under the leadership of KERS Director K G Mahesh to expedite the Mekedatu dam works in view of "the favourable Supreme Court order". The Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir Project involves constructing a dam across the Cauvery River primarily to supply drinking water to the Bengaluru Metropolitan Region and generate hydro-electric power. The cost of the project is estimated to be between Rs 9,000 crore and Rs 14,000 crore, officials said.

According to the Government Order dated December 11, which was shared with the media on Friday, the committee will comprise the Deputy Chief Engineer and other staff of Karnataka Engineering Research Station (KERS) and will operate from its



project office to be set up in Ramanagara, the district headquarters town of Bengaluru South. The order further stated that Caveri Neeravari Nigama Limited (CNNL) will take steps to set up the Mekedatu project office. On November 13, the Supreme Court rejected Tamil Nadu's plea against the project, calling the objection "premature".

A bench comprising then Chief Justice of India BR Gavai, Justices K Vinod Chandran and Justice NV Anjaria had said the plan would be approved only after considering the objections of

the state as well as the opinion of the expert bodies, Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) and the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA).

The proposed project, located near the deep gorge of Mekedatu (goat's leap in Kannada)-where the Arkavathi River joins the Cauvery on the border of Ramanagara and Chamarajanagar districts-aims to utilise 4.75 TMC feet of water to meet the growing drinking water needs of Bengaluru and surrounding areas, while generating about 400 MW of power annually. According to officials in the Water Resources Department, the reservoir will act as a buffer, ensuring Tamil Nadu receives its share of Cauvery water without depleting the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) dam.

# LEADERSHIP ROW:

# DKS will assume CM post on Jan 6, claims K'taka MLA

BENGALURU (TSIT): Amid the leadership tussle in Karnataka, Congress MLA from Ramanagara, Iqbal Hussain, a close aide of Deputy Chief Minister and state Congress President D.K. Shivakumar, has claimed that DKS will assume the post of Chief Minister on January 6, 2026.

The statement has caused ripples in state political circles and within the ruling Congress.

Speaking to reporters in Ramanagara on Saturday, Iqbal Hussain said: "The post of Chief Minister should be handed over to Deputy CM Shivakumar. He must be given an opportunity. The high command is responding to this demand. There are



chances of Shivakumar becoming the Chief Minister on January 6. I am 99 per cent sure about this." "January 6 and January 9 are lucky numbers for D.K. Shivakumar. We are 140 MLAs, and it does not matter who has the numbers in terms of strength. The Congress is a disciplined party, and we are committed to the

decision of the high command," he said.

"There are no factions within the Congress party. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM Shivakumar are both assets to the Congress. Our demand is that Shivakumar should reap the fruits of his struggle and hard work," Iqbal Hussain maintained.

"I will be taking part in the 'Vote Chori' protest in Delhi on Sunday (December 14) under the leadership of Shivakumar. We are not meeting any high command leaders in Delhi. We have conveyed our plea to the high command and are confident that they will respond positively. They will take a decision soon," he said.

# 90% of IndiGo flight operations return to normal: Union minister



PUNE (TSIT): About 90 per cent of IndiGo's flight operations have returned to normal, Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol said on Saturday. He was speaking to reporters in the city, where he attended the inauguration of the Pune Book Festival at Fergusson College. Asked about the recent crisis faced by carrier IndiGo, Mohol said, "Air services will resume gradually in the country.

దర్శించండి ! తరించండి !!

కొత్తాగ మహాశివరాత్రి మలయు బ్రహ్మాశివరాత్రి (జాతర)

2025-26 సం॥ ఆహ్వాన పత్రం

శ్రీ మల్లికార్జునస్వామి దేవస్థానము

కొమురవెల్లి గ్రా॥ & మం॥

సిద్ధిపేట జిల్లా, సెల్ : 9491000652

తేది. 14-12-2025 నుండి

తేది. 16-03-2026 వరకు

తేది 14-12-2025 ఆదివారం ద్విష్టకుంభము, శ్రీస్వామివారి కొక్కాగము, ఏకాదశ దుర్గాభిషేకము, రథాశీర్వాదము (బండ్లు తిరుగుట)

తేది 15-12-2025 సోమవారం లక్ష్మబల్వార్చన

తేది 15-02-2026 ఆదివారం మహాశివరాత్రి, లింగాధీశము, శ్రీస్వామివారి సేవ, పెద్దపట్నం

తేది 15-03-2026 ఆదివారం అగ్నిగుండము ప్రజ్వలన

తేది 16-03-2026 సోమవారం అగ్నిగుండములో ప్రవేశము

శ్రీశ్రీశ్రీ స్వామివారి అన్నదాన పథకంలో చేరి అన్నదాతలు కండి, శాశ్వత నిత్యకళ్యాణంలో పాల్గొనండి - తరించండి.

పీఠరైవ అర్చక బృందం, ఒగ్గు పూజారులు మరియు ఆలయ సిబ్బంది

ధర్మకర్తల మండలి

టంకశాల వెంకటేశ్ కార్యనిర్వహణాధికారి మరియు ఉప కమిషనర్

R.O.No.SPL-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26



## 'Vision 2047' has turned into Poison 2047': Harish Rao targets CM over food poisoning cases

Hyderabad: A day after 20 children fell ill over alleged food poisoning incidents in residential schools across Hyderabad, senior Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader T Harish Rao called it a total administrative failure and remarked the chief minister's "Vision 2047" had turned into "Poison 2047" for hostel students.

The former minister along with MLAs Kaleru Venkatesh and Mutha Gopal, visited King Koti Government Hospital and met students of the Bagh Lingampally Minority Residential School who have been hospitalised after reportedly consuming contaminated food.

Launching a sharp attack on the Congress government, he said that food poisoning cases have become a daily occurrence in Gurukuls. "This 'Mestri' (Masson) is preparing to play against Messi. He spent Rs 100



crore for the match," he said. He cited recent incidents, including complaints by students of a BC Gurukul in Shameerpet over worm-infested rice, and the hospitalisation of 43 children from Chandu Naik Thanda in Madhapur. "This government prefers to spend on publicity. The slogan 'Telangana Rising' exists only in advertisements. Before talking about a trillion-dollar economy and future cities, the government should ensure that hostel students are served safe and hygienic food," he told mediapersons.

He questioned Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's priorities for preferring to spend crores on football events instead of visiting hospitalised students. The former health minister also took a swipe at senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who is scheduled to meet football legend Lionel Messi during his G.O.A.T. India tour. "He has time for this but cannot spare to meet the affected families of farmers, auto drivers or students here," Harish Rao said.

Food poisoning case in Hyderabad  
On Friday, 60 students

suffered food poisoning in two separate incidents. At Mandal Parishad Primary School, Chandra Naik Thanda, Madhapur, 102 students were served their mid-day meal by NGO Akshaya Patra. They were also served a seviyan kheer as a sweet, which reportedly caused 44 students to suffer vomiting. At about 3:00 pm, they were rushed to the Kondapur government hospital for treatment. Six students were later shifted to Rainbow Hospital in Gachibowli for better treatment. According to the Madhapur police, all the admitted students are out of danger. Earlier on Friday, 16 students from the minority residential school in Bagh Lingampally were admitted to the King Koti government hospital after they complained of vomiting and abdominal pain following Thursday's dinner.

## Warangal Mayor Sudharani participated in the Surat conference

WARANGAL: For the 116th Executive Conference of International Mayors being held in Surat, Gujarat on 13th and 14th of December, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel was the chief guest on Saturday. Mayor Gundu Sudharani represented on behalf of Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation on sustainable development,

she explained about the innovative sanitation development works being implemented in the city. Dakshesh Mavani, Mayor of Surat (Gujarat) presided over this meeting. Mayors of many cities from all over the country attended.

Speaking on the occasion, the Mayor mentioned about the historical city rich with the magnificent heritage of the Kakatiya Empire. She said that Warangal is making steady progress in strengthening urban



sanitation and promoting sustainable waste management practices that FSTP and STP plants are being operated to ensure scientific treatment of sewage and faecal waste, a biomethanization plant is in operation to convert organic waste into biogas, supporting clean energy initiatives. GWMC is operating biocompost units and biogas plants, allowing circular economy practices in the city, she said.

Plans are underway to set up a Future Resource Recovery Facility (FRF)

to improve recycling and resource recovery. Biomethanization units have been started in major vegetable markets to process waste at source, she said. Continuous awareness campaigns are being conducted at household and community level to create awareness among the citizens on converting wet waste into compost. To streamline the collection of faecal waste, permits were granted to 42 vehicles every 3 years, she said that they will ensure scientific disposal

of waste in FSTP facilities. Recently, the Chief Minister of Telangana, for comprehensive underground drainage for Warangal,

that an amount of Rs 4,100 crore has been sanctioned for setting up the sewage system. These works are progressing at a fast pace and will significantly transform the sanitation infrastructure of the city. Adopting innovative technologies and citizen-centric approaches in line with national urban development goals, GWMC is committed to building a clean, green and sustainable Warangal, she said. Thank you for the opportunity to share our city's progress. We look forward to learning from fellow cities across India and strengthening collaborative efforts. In this meeting, discussions were held on urban development, city administration and sustainable development.

## TTD plans 100-acre 'Divine Plantation' project for temple trees

TIRUMALA: The world renowned sacred hill shrine of Sri Venkateswara Swamy managed by the Hindu religious organization of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) is poised to launch a first-of-its-kind sacred and ecological initiative, the Divine Plantation Project in a 100-acre area, said TTD Trust Board Chairman Sri BR Naidu. In a press statement

released on Saturday evening, the TTD Board Chief stated that this unique project is aimed at nurturing home-grown 'Temple Tree' plantations to produce the Dwajasthambham—the holy flag mast that occupies a central and indispensable place in every ancient and Agama-compliant Hindu temple.

AP CM's visionary in develop-

ment of TirumalaThis sacred initiative stands fully aligned with the vision and future-ready goals envisaged for TTD under the leadership of the Honourable Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Sri Nara Chandrababu Naidu and reflects TTD's enduring commitment to preserving ancient traditions through responsible and forward-looking stewardship.

## Grand Celebration of Alumni Ruby Reunion (40 years) - Second Batch (1981-85) held at KITSW

WARANGAL, December 13, TSIT : The Kakatiya Institute of Technology & Science, Warangal is organising the "Alumni Ruby Reunion (40 years) of Second Batch, class of 1981-85" held at Auditorium (NLR Shed) KITS Warangal campus on 13th, December, 2025 told by the Principal Prof. K. Ashoka Reddy.

It was inaugurated by the chief guest, Prof. M. Prabhakar Retd. Professor, Dept. of CE & Former Principal, KITSW in association with guest of honours, C. Sridhar Reddy President KITSWAA - National Executive Council, Prof. C.B. Kameswara Rao Former Professor, Dept. of CE, Prof. M. Sanjeeva Reddy Retd. Professor, Dept. of E&IE, Special Guest - Class of 1985, Prof. Katherashala Ravi, Retd. Professor, Dept. of CE & Former Principal, BNCOE, Pusa, Maharashtra former MP, Rajya Sabha, KITSW Chairman, Capt. V. Lakshminantha Rao, Honored teachers, Prof. K. Bhagavan Reddy, and Principal Prof. K. Ashoka Reddy by lighting the lamp.

On the occasion of the Ruby Jubilee celebrations, the Chief Guest, Prof. M. Prabhakar, Retired Professor, Department of Civil Engineering and Former Principal of KITSW, expressed his pride and privilege in addressing the gathering. He remarked that it was a moment of honor to be part of the institution's milestone celebration.

Prof. Prabhakar highlighted the strong and enduring bond among KITSW alumni, stating that they remain friendly



and well-connected from top to bottom, forming a robust global network that significantly contributes to the growth and benefit of future generations. He emphasized that such unity and collaboration reflect the strong values instilled by the institution. He concluded his address by motivating students and alumni to uphold the legacy of KITSW through integrity, professionalism, and social responsibility.

On this occasion the Guest of Honour, C. Sridhar Reddy President KITSWAA - National Executive Council, Addressing the students, he underlined the importance of quality, quantity, and regularity as key pillars in the domains of education and industry. He encouraged students to cultivate discipline, consistency, and excellence in their professional pursuits.

We have been extending our support to the present batch of KITSW students by conducting seminars & workshops on emerging technical areas, industrial visits for internships and startups, procuring the latest equipment in the labo-

ratories and especially organising training programmes and internships regarding campus placements for the benefit of UG and PG students. During these 45 years of age there were 23 thousand above students registered in the KITSWAA through online registration. He appreciated management, the faculty and staff for maintaining continuous growth of the institute by inserting the dedicated efforts. He advised students to always take extra care of your self esteem, maintain friendship for constant and strong relationships.

On this occasion KITSW Principal Prof. K. Ashoka Reddy highlighted that our proud alumni have been imparting knowledge, practical skills, critical thinking and problem solving abilities by constantly maintaining quality. He further advised the students to first become responsible citizens of India with strong character and personality, and then transform those values into professional competence, ethics, and leadership in their respective

careers. The Honorable former Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, and Chairman of KITSW, Capt. V. Lakshminantha Rao, delivered the presidential remarks during the Ruby Jubilee celebrations. In his address, he shared valuable insights on the latest developments in technology, emphasizing the need for institutions and students to stay aligned with emerging trends and innovations shaping the future.

He concluded his address by reaffirming the institution's commitment to academic excellence, technological advancement, and alumni engagement. He expressed confidence that KITSW would continue to evolve as a center of excellence, producing globally competent professionals while strengthening its legacy through unity, innovation, and lifelong connections.

In this programme, management members, Dr. G. Madhusudan Reddy, Ex-Director, DMRL Hyderabad, Senior engineers, K. Srinivas, Madhan Mohan Reddy from America, Senior Scientist, DRDO, Sampath Rao, M. PanduRanga Reddy, Chiranjeevulu, Sathish, Registrar Prof. M. Komal Reddy, Administrative Officer, Prof. P. Ramesh Reddy, KITSW Alumni Affairs & External Relations, Professor in-charge and Head, Civil engineering department, Dr. M. Srikanth and Faculty in-charge, Associate professor, Dr. O. Anjaneyulu, 120 above alumni members across the globe, & PRO Dr. D. Prabhakara Chary, faculty and staff were present.

# STABILITY OVER STAGGER:

## Why the Constitutional Pillars of One Nation, One Election Are Essential for India's Future

The debate surrounding "One Nation, One Election" (ONOE) has been trapped in slogans and fear-mongering. Critics routinely dismiss it as an anti-federal move, yet they consistently fail to offer a workable solution to the fundamental problem plaguing Indian governance: a democracy perpetually running on empty due to the sheer cost and chaos of constant campaigning. It is time to look beyond the political noise and engage with the proposed constitutional mechanisms—the practical, necessary surgery required to grant India a period of sustained stability and focus.

The premise is simple: India, a nation of over 1.4 billion, holds elections—major state polls, by-elections, and central elections—every few months. This "perpetual election mode" exacts a massive toll, not just on the public exchequer but on the very fibre of governance. The constitutional amendments being proposed are not an ideological assault; they are a sophisticated engineering solution designed to fix the structural vulnerabilities that lead to policy paralysis, unchecked expenditure, and the cynical promotion of short-term populism over long-term vision.

The Economic and Administrative Imperative  
The first pillar of the ONOE argument is rooted in fiscal prudence. The Election Commission of India (ECI) spends billions of rupees annually, requiring massive deployments of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and



VVPATs, all of which must be moved, stored, and maintained across the country. More critically, the government estimates that the constant cycle demands the deployment of millions of government employees—teachers, police officers, and administrative staff—who are pulled away from their primary duties for extended periods. When the entire country votes together, these resources are mobilized once every five years, not continuously. The savings, running into tens of thousands of crores over a decade, represent funds that can be immediately redirected to social security, healthcare infrastructure, or capital expenditure, offering a direct, tangible benefit to the average Indian citizen.

Furthermore, the administrative cost is inextricably linked to the Model Code of Conduct (MCC). When elections are announced, the MCC comes into force, effectively pausing the government's ability to



announce new projects, launch welfare schemes, or make significant policy decisions. Given the staggered nature of current state elections, the MCC is often operational in some part of the country throughout the year, subjecting governance to a constant, crippling stop-start cycle. ONOE provides a clean, guaranteed five-year window of uninterrupted governance, allowing elected leaders, both at the Centre and in the States, to deliver on complex, multi-year developmental agendas without fear of an arbitrary policy freeze.

The Synchronization Mechanism: A Necessary Constitutional Alignment  
To achieve the ONOE goal, the government is looking at amending two central articles: Article 83 (concerning the duration of the Lok Sabha) and Article 172 (concerning the duration of State Assemblies). The constitutional adjustments are designed for a one-time "reset" to achieve synchronization.

This alignment will necessarily involve the temporary extension or curtailment of the terms of some existing State Assemblies. Critics decry this as undemocratic, but it is a one-off administrative action required to transition to a more stable future. It is a pragmatic compromise, essential to break the inherited staggered cycle. Once the new system is in place, all Houses—Lok Sabha and State Assemblies—will adhere to a fixed five-year term, ending simultaneously. This standardization imposes a discipline on the political calendar that currently does not exist.

The Safeguard: The Power of the 'Unexpired Term'  
The most sophisticated and crucial constitutional mechanism proposed addresses the critics' main fear: political instability. What happens if a government collapses mid-term? Currently, if a State Assembly or the Lok Sabha is dissolved prematurely—say, two years into its five-year mandate—the subsequent election grants the new ruling party a fresh, full five-year term. This is the precise mechanism that repeatedly breaks the cycle.

The ONOE solution introduces the concept of the "Unexpired Term." Under the proposed amendments, if a House falls prematurely due to a no-confidence motion, the subsequent election will only be for the remaining period of the original five-year cycle. For instance, if the Assembly dissolves after three years, the newly elected government will only serve for the remaining two years until the national

synchronized poll date arrives.

This mechanism is a brilliant constitutional safeguard because it achieves two critical objectives—

It maintains the fixed national cycle: No single political crisis can derail the entire country's schedule. It imposes accountability: Knowing that a snap poll will only grant a short, temporary term, political parties—especially regional ones—will be strongly disincentivized from recklessly engineering the collapse of a coalition government. It ensures that the majority mandate given by the voters remains stable and effective for the full five-year period. Far from being an assault on democracy, this is a mechanism that promotes maturity by imposing consequences for political opportunism. It stabilizes the political system against frequent defections and floor-crossing, giving the people's mandate the respect of permanence.

ADDRESSING FEDERALISM:

### FOCUSING THE DEBATE

The argument that ONOE harms federalism is intellectually weak and ignores the primary democratic unit: the voter. ONOE does not prevent a voter from making independent choices. The power of split-ticket voting—where a citizen votes for one party for the Lok Sabha and a different party for the State Assembly—remains completely intact.

<b>DCB Bank Limited</b> Jyothi Majestic, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, Telangana 500 034		<b>DCB BANK</b>
<b>POSSESSION NOTICE</b>		
The undersigned being the authorized officer of the <b>DCB Bank Ltd.</b> , under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SF) of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice on below mentioned dates calling upon the borrowers ( <b>Borrower's and Co-Borrower's</b> ) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice as detailed below in tabular form with further interest thereon from within 50 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.		
The borrower and Co-Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower, Co-Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 also r/w section 14(1) of the Security Interest Rules 2002 on <b>08th December, 2025</b> .		
The borrower, Co-Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property ( <b>Description of the immovable Property</b> ) and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the <b>DCB Bank Ltd.</b> , for respective amount as mentioned here below.		
The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.		
1. Demand Notice Dated	18-09-2025	
Name of Borrower(S) and (Co-borrower(S))	<b>MR. GUDURU VEERESH, MRS. GUDURU MUNIKUMARI AND MS. LAXMI BHAVINI HOTEL, IT'S AUTHORISED SIGNATORY</b>	
Loan Account Number	<b>DBLAKHM00814403</b>	
Total Outstanding Amount:	<b>Rs. 30,92,955/- (Rupees Thirty Lakh Ninety Two Thousand Nine Hundred Five Only) as on 18th September 2025</b>	
Description of The Immovable Property	<b>All Piece And Parcel Of Residential Building Bearing H.No.5-5-189/243/4/A/1 Survey No.168/A/1 168/B, 167/A &amp; 167/E Plot No.60 Part Along With Total Extent Of 116.30 Sq. Yards Situated In Sambani Nagar Pakabanda Khammam Municipal Corporation Khammam District. Bounded By: East-30-0" Wide Road, West-Plot No.60 Part, North-Open Land Of Others, South-15-0" Wide Road. (The Secured Assets)</b>	
Date: 14-12-2025 Place: Khammam	For DCB Bank Ltd Authorised Officer.	



All eligible voters urged to vote in Gram Panchayat polls: Garima Agarwal



Sircilla (Illanthakunta), December 13: In-charge Collector and District Election Officer Garima Agarwal on Saturday called upon all eligible voters to exercise their right to vote in the Gram Panchayat elections and said the Model Code of Conduct will remain in force until the completion of the third phase of polling. Along with District Election General Observer Ravi Kumar, she inspected the distribution centre set up at Illanthakunta Junior College ahead of the second phase of elections in Boinpally, Illanthakunta and Thangallapally mandals. Addressing election staff, Garima Agarwal said polling will be held on Sunday, December 14, for Sarpanch posts in 77 Gram Panchayats and 530 wards across the three mandals. She said 910 presiding officers and 1,093 polling offi-

cers have been deployed and instructed them to strictly follow State Election Commission guidelines. She directed officials to thoroughly check ballot boxes, ballot papers and other election materials, and ensure that polling material is transported to polling stations only in designated vehicles. She also briefed staff on vote counting procedures, postal ballots and related matters, and assured that all arrangements have been made for voters to cast their votes freely and fairly. The inspection was attended by ASP Chandrayya, Sircilla RDO Venkateshwarlu, ZP Deputy CEO Geetha, District Cooperative Officer Ramakrishna, Nodal Officer Bharathi, Tahsildar Farooq, MPDO Shashikala, and other officials and staff.

Divyang sportsperson Archana wins gold at Sri Lanka tournament, eyes Olympics



Rajanna Sircilla (TSIT) Differently-abled sportsperson Mittalpalali Archana won a gold medal at the First South Asian Para Throwball Championship held in Sri Lanka on December 6 and 7 and said she is striving to reach the Olympic Games. Archana returned to Sircilla on Saturday with the gold medal and a Diploma of Achievement and was felicitated by the Sircilla Welfare Society. She was part of a seven-member Indian team that

clinched the top honour at the international tournament. Currently working in an outsourcing role in the multi-tasking section of the Women, Child Welfare, Elderly and Disabled Department in Sircilla, Archana rose from rural-level competitions to district, state and national levels before earning the opportunity to compete internationally. The government facilitated her participation in the Sri Lanka championship. Hailing from a poor background, Archana holds an MA in Sociology and a B.Ed and resides in Chandrampeta village with her two children.

ACB surprise crack down on hostels reveal unhygeinic conditions

Hyderabad: The Rangareddy unit of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday, December 12, conducted surprise checks at the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Telangana BC Welfare Residential School and Hostel for boys in Medchal-Malkajigiri district, following reports on food poisoning cases that day. During inspection, the ACB teams, along with Inspector Legal Metrology, Sanitary Inspector, food inspector, and the auditor, checked the quality and quantity of the food in the MJPT BC welfare boys' hostel.

Senior Congress Leader Mandala Sammaiah A Symbol of 32 Years of Unwavering Loyalty and Service

Hanamkonda: Senior Congress leader Mandala Sammaiah continues to be widely appreciated for his 32 years of dedicated service and unwavering loyalty to the Congress Party. Known for his disciplined approach and strong grassroots connect, Sammaiah has remained firmly committed to the party's ideology and leadership through all political phases. A trusted and long-time follower of Hanamkonda MLA Naini Rajender Reddy, Mandala Sammaiah

Nirmala Jaggareddy Felicitates Newly Elected Sarpanchs and Ward Members

Hyderabad : Congress Party workers' meeting was held in the Sangareddy Assembly constituency with enthusiasm and strong participation from party leaders and cadres. During the meeting, DCC President and TGIC Chairperson Nirmala Jaggareddy felicitated the sarpanches, ward members and deputy sarpanches who won in the recent Gram Panchayat elections with the support of the Congress Party.

In a special gesture recognising commitment and fighting spirit, TPCC Working President Jaggareddy felicitated the sarpanches and ward members who contested and lost the elections, stating that dedication to



the party and courage to contest are equally important. Leaders highlighted that Congress-backed sarpanch candidates secured victories in 45 Gram Panchayats across the Sangareddy constituency, reflecting the growing strength and organisational base of the

party at the grassroots level. Addressing the gathering, Jaggareddy said, "Even though I could not personally campaign, you proved your strength by winning on your own efforts. Your victory is the result of hard work, unity and the support of people from all sections and all reli-

gions." He further stated, "Those who won wearing the Congress scarf are my sarpanches, and even those who wore the Congress scarf and lost are also my sarpanches. I had said this clearly in advance." He announced that winners would be felicitated by Nirmala Jaggareddy, while those who lost would be honoured by him, adding that he too had faced electoral defeats in his political journey and understands the value of struggle. Congratulating all the winners, he said, "Even without my presence, you proved your strength by winning. My congratulations to all of you."

INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK NAIDUPET BRANCH, KOTHAGUDEM BRANCH, SCHO-KOTHAGUDEM BRANCH

NOTICE - BREAK OPEN OF LOCKERS

The below-mentioned individuals/entities (hereinafter called Locker Holders) entered into Locker Hiring Agreement with us i.e. Indian Overseas Bank, Naidupet, Kothagudem and SCHO-Kothagudem branches, but failed to make payment of the Locker Rent as per terms of the Agreement. Notices were issued to the Locker Holders at their available residential/office addresses for payment of locker rent arrears. The notices returned due to reasons such as named person not available at the given address / addressee left the place / addressee not found etc. Our attempts to contact the Locker Holders remained unsuccessful. Thus, with no other means to contact the Locker Holders, we call upon the Locker Holders through this notice, to contact Naidupet, Kothagudem and SCHO-Kothagudem Branches within 15 days of this notice and deposit the amount of locker rent arrears. In case Locker Holders fail to do so, the Bank will proceed to break-open the locker(s) at Locker Holder's cost, risk and responsibility. The Bank will exercise its right of lien for recovery of locker rent arrears with incidental charges and taxes.

NAIDUPET BRANCH (1704)				
Address: H.No: 5-82, Opp to Bharat Petrol Bunk, Sai Prabhath Nagar, Pedda Thanda, Khammam, Phone No: 8925951704 & Email id: iob1704@iob.in				
S. No.	Locker Hirer's Name	Address	Locker Type & number	Locker Rent Arrears
1.	Mr. R Chandra Rao	Naidupet, Khammam	A & 010012	Rs. 52138.30 + Applicable charges and GST
2.	Mr. P Jagannadha Rao & P Bhagya Laxmi	Naidupet Khammam Rural 507003	A & 010064	Rs. 42173.20 + Applicable charges and GST
3.	Mr. Kottha Mohan Rao	H.No: 75/8, Ponnekall Village, Khammam Rural 507170. Mob: 9949970082	A & 010045	Rs. 30160.80 + Applicable charges and GST
4.	Mr. Banoth Venkanna	S/o. Lachiram Pedda thanda, Khammam Rural 507003. Mob: 9848459580	A & 010054	Rs. 38440.86 + Applicable charges and GST
5.	Mr. Mulyam Krishna Rao	D.No: 4-84/1, Chintalapalli Village, Arekodu Revenue, Khammam Rural 507163. Mob: 93464596726	A & 010034	Rs. 38440.86 + Applicable charges and GST
6.	Mr. Makkena Ramu	S/o. Venkateswar Rao Khammam Rural 507003 Mob: 9848459580	A & 010033	Rs. 35612.40 + Applicable charges and GST

KOTHAGUDEM BRANCH (0464)				
Address: Sri Gopalakrishna Complex 5-8-121 To 124, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Kothagudem 507101 Telangana, Ph No:8925950464, Email id: iob0464@iob.in				
1.	Mr. Durga Shankar Sarada Huf	D No: 7-5-2, Bhikukul, Estate, Medhara Basthi, Kothagudem, Bhadradi Kothagudem District, Telangana State - 507101.	A & 010041	Rs. 8400/- + Applicable charges and GST
2.	Mr. K Sivarama Krishnarao	D No: 1-100, Nk Nagar Kothagudem, Bhadradi Kothagudem District, Telangana State - 507101.	A & 010049	Rs. 9200/- + Applicable charges and GST
3.	Mr. Manchekanti Venkaiah	D No: 6-8-16, Jayalaxmi Medical Stores, Dummugudem, Kothagudem, Bhadradi Kothagudem District, Telangana State - 507101.	A & 010048	Rs. 8400/- + Applicable charges and GST
4.	Mr. Nandulal Agarwal	D No: 6-4-47, Netaji Market, Kothagudem, Bhadradi Kothagudem District, Telangana State - 507101	A & 010024	Rs. 9200/- + Applicable charges and GST
5.	Mrs. S Susila Bai,	D No: 6-2-1/85, Ramanjaneya Colony Kothagudem, Bhadradi Kothagudem District, Telangana State - 507101.	A & 010032	Rs. 9200/- + Applicable charges and GST
6.	Mr. Trivedi Manik Chand	D No: 6-6-26, Netaji Market, Kothagudem, Bhadradi Kothagudem District, Telangana State - 507101.	A & 010009	Rs.7600/- + Applicable charges and GST
7.	Mr. Machavarapur Koteswara Rao	D No: 6-2-1/85, Lakshmedevi Pally, Kothagudem, Bhadradi Kothagudem District, Telangana State - 507101	A & 010044	Rs. 9200/- + Applicable charges and GST

SCHO BRANCH (1254)				
Address: Singireni Collieries Co. Ltd, Near fire station, Kothagudem 507101, Ph: 8925951254 & Email id: iob1254@iob.in				
1.	Mr. G Yadagiri	H.No. 3-1-2/12, Vidyagar Colony, Kothagudem-507101.	B & 62	Rs. 34000/- + Applicable charges and GST
2.	Mr. O Madhusudan Reddy & Mrs. G Padma	Geologist SCCL Ltd Kothagudem-507101	B & 07	Rs. 37000/- + Applicable charges and GST
3.	M Venkateswarlu & Mrs. M Hymavathi	H No: 10-4-144, S R Sanikpuri, Near Kinnera Steel, Kothagudem.	B & 90	Rs. 28000/- + Applicable charges and GST
4.	Mr. Ganesi Mohan Rao	Babu Camp, Chunchupalli, Kothagudem-507101	B & 09	Rs. 28000/- + Applicable charges and GST
5.	Mr. Chava Srinivasa Rao	H No: 20-5-99/2, Contractors Colony, Kothagudem.	E & 104	Rs. 39000/- + Applicable charges and GST

Date: 12.12.2025 Sd/- Authorized Officer Indian Overseas Bank Place: Khammam, Kothagudem,

Wardhannapet MLA K.R.Nagaraju Pays Last Respects to Munja Ravinder Goud



Hanamkonda: Munja Ravinder Goud of Madipally village passed away on Saturday, leaving the village in deep sorrow. Wardhannapet MLA K.R. Nagaraju visited the bereaved family and paid his respects, expressing heartfelt condolences and offering strength to the family members during this difficult time. Senior Congress leader and Fishermen State Executive Committee member Mandala Sammaiah, along with Tallapally Ravinder (JK), TRS leader Puli Rajanikanth, Ravi, Srinivas, and several other leaders and villagers, also attended to pay their last respects and console the grieving family. Leaders remembered Munja Ravinder Goud as a humble and respected individual of the village and prayed for peace to the departed soul.

Christmas celebrations at KK Swara Super Specialty Hospital

Uppal, December 13, TSIT : KK Swara Super Specialty Hospital in Boduppal celebrated Christmas with grandeur. On this occasion, the premises of the hospital were beautifully decorated with Christmas decorations, a cake was cut and Christmas greetings were conveyed. In



this programme, the Christian religious leaders gave a grand reception and handed over health cards to them on behalf of the hospital management. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Goli Venu Reddy, Medical Director of the hospital said that Christmas is a symbol of love,

peace and brotherhood. In these celebrations, hospital doctors, nursing staff, Representatives of management and staff members participated and celebrated Christmas with joy. Organizers said that this programme has promoted happiness and unity among all.

Peaceful conduct of polls is the objective: Police Commissioner Amber Kishore Jha.

Mancherial , Dec 13, TSIT : The Ramagundam Police Commissionerate has put in place elaborate security arrangements to ensure the free, fair and peaceful conduct of the second phase of Gram Panchayat elections. Ramagundam Police Commissioner Amber Kishore Jha has warned that strict action will be taken against anyone attempting to disrupt the electoral process. In a press release issued on Saturday, the Commissioner said that within the Mancherial Zone of the Commissionerate, elections, Gram Panchayat elections. Ramagundam Police Commissioner Amber Kishore Jha has warned that strict action will be taken against anyone attempting to disrupt the electoral process. In a press release issued on Saturday, the Commissioner said that within the Mancherial Zone of the Commissionerate, elections, Gram Panchayat elections. Ramagundam Police Commissioner Amber Kishore Jha has warned that strict action will be taken against anyone attempting to disrupt the electoral process. 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Statewide Pulse Polio Drive on December 21



Amaravati: The State Government will conduct the Pulse Polio immunisation programme across Andhra Pradesh on December 21, Health Minister Satyakumar Yadav announced. More than 54 lakh children below five years will be administered polio drops through 38,267 booths across the state. A total of 61.26 lakh vaccine

doses have already been dispatched to all districts.Children who miss vaccination on December 21 will be covered through door-to-door visits on December 22 and 23 by 76,534 teams. The Centre has advised continued vigilance despite India being polio-free, the Minister said. The drive will involve 1,704 medical officers, 39,494 supporting staff, and 4,206 supervisors. Special arrangements include 1,854 mobile teams and 1,140 transit booths at bus stations, railway stations, airports, hospitals, markets, fairs, and tourist spots to ensure no child is missed.

Sustained Health Measures Reduce Kidney Disease Severity in A. Konduru



NTR District: Continuous and comprehensive healthcare initiatives in A. Konduru have significantly improved patients' quality of life and reduced the severity of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD), said District Medical and Health Officer Dr. M. Suhasini. She stated that life-sustaining treatments are now available at the village level, with a four-bed dialysis centre at the A. Konduru Primary Health Centre serving 26 patients. This has eliminated the need for patients to travel to Vijayawada. Each dialysis patient receives 10,000 per month as government assistance.Nephrologist OP services have been expanded to ensure specialist consulta-

tion, treatment guidance and early detection, helping control the disease at initial stages. Under the District Collector's guidance, regular surveys and close monitoring have led to a sharp decline in identified cases from earlier levels.Free medicines, nutritional supplements, regular blood and urine tests, dedicat-

ed patient transport, safe drinking water supply and awareness programmes on healthy lifestyles are being provided. Authorities urged the public not to believe rumours, assuring that the State government is taking all necessary steps to prevent the spread of kidney disease and protect affected patients.

HM Reviews Preparations for Constable Appointment Letter Distribution

State Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha on Friday inspected the arrangements for the distribution of appointment letters to constable candidates scheduled on December 16. She visited the APSP 6th Battalion at Mangalagiri and reviewed the preparations in detail. The Minister, along with senior police officials, examined the construction of the event stage, access routes, parking facilities, and arrangements for VVIPs and VIPs. She also reviewed facilities for



candidates arriving from other districts, their family members, and police personnel deployed for security.Directing officials to ensure flawless arrangements, the Home Minister emphasized inter-departmental coordination and adequate police deployment to ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the programme.

Youth Urged to Stay Away from Drugs: AIYF Leader



Tiruvuru: AIYF (All India Youth Federation) State Vice President Lanka Govindarajulu warned that drug abuse is destroying the future of youth and causing severe financial and mental distress to families. As part of an awareness campaign, AIYF released posters urging young people to adopt a healthy lifestyle and say no to drugs. He stated that drug addiction increases crime and ruins educational prospects, eventually turning individuals into a burden on families and society. He appealed to the public to report the sale or use of drugs by dialling 100 and sought collective support for a drug-free society. Calling on youth to lead the movement with the slogan "Say No to Drugs," AIYF leaders emphasized the need for everyone's participation to eradicate drug abuse.

Amaravati Farmers Told: Land Pooling or Acquisition, Says Union Minister

Amaravati:Union Minister of State for Rural Development P e m m a s a n i Chandrasekhar on Friday made it clear that if farmers do not come forward to give land under the Land Pooling Scheme (LPS), the government will proceed with land acquisition. Speaking after a key meeting of the three-member committee on issues faced by Amaravati farmers, the Minister said fresh talks will be held with farmers who have not yet pooled their land. If no consensus is reached, a land acquisition notification will be issued in the first week of next month.



He revealed that around 2,400 acres are still outside the land pooling framework. Addressing concerns over plot-related issues, Pemmasani said one-time modifications can be considered, but monthly changes are not feasible. Farmers with grievances were urged to come together and resolve issues at once. The Minister added that issues related to low-lying lands would be addressed after soil testing, which may take about a month. Farmers affected by the Tadikonda bypass will be given TDR bonds, while decisions on health cards will be taken through gram sabhas. He also assured that infrastructure works, boundary stone installations in LPS areas, and pending community halls and cremation grounds will be completed soon.

Tech-Driven Security for Bhavani Deeksha Concluding Event: City Police Commissioner

Vijayawada (TSIT) Vijayawada City Police Commissioner S.V. Raja Sekhar Babu, IPS personally supervised the security arrangements for the Bhavani Deeksha concluding ceremony, deploying advanced technology to ensure foolproof bandobast.From a command control room set up at the Model Guest House, the Commissioner monitored bathing ghats, queue lines, parking areas, hair tonsure centres,



holding areas, homa kundas, virumudi stalls and prasadam counters through CCTV, AI drones and facial recognition cameras, issuing real-time instructions to officers and staff.Traffic movement and crowd density were tracked using the ASTRA app, guiding devotees to designated parking areas. For the third consecutive day, AI drones were used to monitor congestion in Giripradakshina routes.Facial recognition systems were deployed around temple premises to track the movement of known offenders.On identification, alerts and photographs were instantly shared with local crime teams for prompt action.

Atal-Modi Good Governance Yatra Held in Nandyal

Amaravati:BJP Andhra Pradesh president P. V. N. Madhav addressed the Atal-Modi Good Governance Yatra and public meeting in Nandyal, paying tributes to the security personnel who laid down their lives during the December 13, 2001 Parliament attack. Recalling the incident, he said the bravery of security forces and Delhi Police saved the lives of hundreds of MPs, while the terrorists involved were neutralized and later conspirators brought to justice through Operation Parakram. He highlighted for-



mer Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's firm response to Pakistan-backed terrorism, including decisive action after Kargil and the Parliament attack.Madhav said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is following Vajpayee's path, citing strong responses to terror incidents such as Uri and Pathankot, and operations that dismantled terror camps across the border. He described Vajpayee as a visionary leader who strengthened national security, infrastructure, nuclear capability, and inclusive politics. The BJP leader called upon people to draw inspiration from Vajpayee's ideals and support the goal of building a Developed India and a Developed Andhra Pradesh under the leadership of Modi, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, and Pawan Kalyan.

SRM University-AP recognised as QS I-GAUGE Institution of Happiness



Amaravati: SRM University-AP, Amaravati, has been conferred with the prestigious QS I-GAUGE Institution of Happiness (IOH) Award 2025-26, recognising the university's strong commitment to fostering a positive, inclusive, and well-being-centred academic environment. The award was bestowed following an extensive stakeholder survey involving students, faculty, and alumni, reflecting the institution's consistent focus on happiness, emotional well-being, and holistic development throughout academia. The QS I-GAUGE Institution of Happiness is a flagship national initiative that evaluates and celebrates educational institutions prioritising mental health, stakeholder satisfaction, and human-centred campuses. The 2025-26 edition is guided by the theme "One Campus, Many Smiles: Celebrating Every Voice in Well-being", emphasising inclusivity, emotional health, and community engagement. Speaking on the achievement, Pro-Chancellor Dr P Sathyanarayanan remarked that SRM University-AP remains committed to foster a culture of happiness and a positive learning environment, building a brighter future through a transformative and inclusive education ecosystem. Prof. Ch Satish Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SRM University-AP said, "At SRM University-AP, we firmly believe that academic excellence and student well-being must go hand in hand. Being recognised as a QS I-GAUGE Institution of Happiness 2025-26 reaffirms our commitment to nurturing a campus culture where students and faculty feel valued, supported, and inspired."

Highlighting the significance of the evaluation process, Dr Karthik Rajendran, Associate Dean Quality Assurance and Rankings, SRM University-AP, remarked, "This recognition reflects the collective efforts of our academic community to build a supportive and engaging ecosystem. The feedback and analytics from QS I-GAUGE will further help us refine policies and practices that enhance quality, satisfaction, and overall campus happiness."

Thousands join Sri Radha Govinda Ratha Yatra in Hyderabad

Narsingi-Kokapet: The Hare Krishna Movement, Hyderabad, joyously celebrated the Grand 4th Annual Sri Radha Govinda Ratha Yatra in Kokapet on December 13th, drawing thousands of devotees into a vibrant display of devotion, tradition, and communal harmony. The magnificently decorated chariot carrying the divine Deities of Sri Sri Radha Govinda was pulled with great enthusiasm by devotees from all walks of life, accompanied by resounding Sankirtans and the generous distribution of prasadam throughout the procession. The Ratha Yatra commenced at Sri Krishna Goseva Mandal Goshala near Gandipet Main Road "Y" Junction and proceeded through Kokapet "X" Road, Allu Studios, 7 Hills Gated Community, Rajapushpa Atria, and Golden Mile Road, culminating at the Hare Krishna Heritage Tower project site. Residents along the route joyfully offered prayers and received darshan as the majestic chariot passed through their neighborhoods. The procession offered participants a deeply spiritual experience, with devotees performing Puja and Archana at designated spiri-



tual pit stops. Many offered coconuts, flowers, fruits, and other sacred items as tokens of devotion. The chariot, adorned with vibrant lights, flowers, and modern safety features—including air brakes, steering mechanisms, and canopy adjustment systems—represented a harmonious blend of traditional craftsmanship and contemporary engineering. Over 500 devotees pulled the chariot in unison, symbolizing collective dedication and community solidarity, supported by volunteers, announcement systems, and dedicated safety teams. The celebrations began with an inaugural Puja, Prathama Arati, and the customary brooming ceremony performed by dignitaries. The event was graced by Honourable Justice Sri Nagesh Bheemapaka garu, Judge, High Court for the State of Telangana, as Chief Guest and presided over by His Grace Sriman Satya Gaura Chandra Dasa Prabhuji (MTech, IIT-Madras), President of the Hare Krishna Movement, Hyderabad, and Regional President of The Akshaya Patra Foundation (Telangana & Andhra Pradesh). Thousands participated in devotional singing, prayers, and the distribution of Vedic literature. Cultural performances—including skits by Basil Woods School children, colorful rangoli presentations, and lively kolatam dances—enriched the festivities, and more than 20,000 devotees were served Donna Prasadam. A grand fireworks display illuminated the evening sky, adding to the celebratory atmosphere. The program concluded at the Hare Krishna Heritage Tower site with an enlightening Pravachan and Maha Mangala Arati by Sriman Satya Gaura Chandra Dasa Prabhuji, followed by dinner prasadam. In his address, Prabhuji highlighted the historical and spiritual significance of the Ratha Yatra, connecting it to Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's Sankirtana movement and Vishwaguru Srila Prabhupada's global mission to spread Krishna consciousness. Vishwaguru Srila Prabhupada explains that participating in the Ratha Yatra means associating directly with Lord Krishna. Anyone who takes darshan of the Lord seated on the chariot, offers even a little service by pulling the ropes, or joins the kirtan receives immense spiritual benefit. Such participation opens the doors to liberation. Ratha Yatra is a divine festival where the Lord Himself comes out to bless everyone, entering our homes and hearts to relieve us of anxieties and uplift our consciousness.Prabhuji also expressed heartfelt gratitude to all dignitaries, devotees, volunteers, police personnel, media, and government authorities for their support in making the event a grand success. The Hare Krishna Movement reaffirms that festivals like the Ratha Yatra play apivotal role in nurturing spiritual awareness, unity, and peace, while offering devotees a memorable and sacred experience. Elaborate arrangements for prasadam distribution and visitor convenience ensured a seamless and spiritually uplifting celebration.

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Tirupati: The NSS Unit-17 of the Department of Home Science, Sri Padmavati Mahila Vishwavidyalayam, inaugurated a special NSS camp at Pata Sanambatla village in Chandragiri mandal under the leadership of Programme Officer Dr. S. Santhi Sree. As part of the camp, a workshop on fabric painting, block printing, and pot painting was conducted on the sixth day to promote skill development among rural women. Ms. K. Umadevi, Guest Faculty from the Department of Home Science, B.Voc Fashion Technology, Sri Padmavati Mahila Vishwavidyalayam, provided hands-on training in fabric and pot painting, while Mr. K. Habeebulla from Nazeera Fashion Academy, Tirupati, trained participants in block printing. Addressing the gathering, Dr. S. Santhi Sree said such programmes help rural women utilise their free time productively, create home-based livelihood opportunities, and strengthen women's empowerment. The programme was attended by village Sarpanch Ms. B. Yashoda, Panchayat Secretary Ms. S. Haritha, secretariat staff, teachers, local residents, and NSS volunteers.



# Parliamentary panel asks govt to come up with updated air quality norms at earliest

**NEW DELHI:** A parliamentary panel on Friday asked the Centre to come up with the updated India's National Ambient Air Quality Standards "at the earliest", noting that the standards were last revised in 2009. In a report tabled in the Lok Sabha on Friday, the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change also recommended that all manual stations in Delhi-NCR be upgraded to continuous ambient air quality monitoring systems. It observed that the current distribution of air quality monitoring stations in Delhi is "heavily skewed" towards central and southern parts of the city, which are relatively less populated, greener and more affluent.



The committee said this geographical bias leads to "a distorted and nonrepresentative dataset", systematically excluding more polluted, densely populated and less affluent areas. The panel also noted that most of the six new continuous monitoring stations proposed for Delhi were again planned in relatively greener areas such as the JNU campus, while the trans-Yamuna

region has "again been left out". It "strongly" recommended that the Environment Ministry reconsider the sites for these six stations and evenly redistribute monitoring stations across Delhi and the wider NCR. Raising concern over the high GST on air purifiers and HEPA filters, the committee said it was contradictory that while attempts to control air pollution have

fallen short, a prohibitive tax is levied on a device citizens use for personal protection. "Imposing such a tax effectively monetizes a public health failure. The committee feels that the citizens of the country should not be penalized for trying to save themselves from a catastrophic situation," it said, recommending that the government either abolish or reduce the GST. The panel said delivery riders, traffic police personnel, bike taxi riders and similar groups are "more vulnerable to the hazards of air pollution" and called for targeted programmes for their protection. These could include directing e-commerce and logistics companies to provide high-quality protective masks such as N95 free of cost, mandatory company-funded annual health

check-ups with additional check-ups after severe pollution episodes and the creation of a dedicated health risk profiling and monitoring system. It also recommended enforceable SOPs for high-pollution days, including limits on continuous outdoor exposure and ensuring access to indoor rest areas, along with targeted public health campaigns on protective measures. It suggested that major public hospitals consider dedicated OPD counters for respiratory ailments to ensure "timely and hassle-free medical attention" for these workers. The committee said the situation for children and the elderly becomes acute during peak winter pollution and they "cannot afford to wait for government policies to yield results".

# Delhi LG chairs UT-level workshop at Police Headquarters, praises action in Red Fort blast case

**NEW DELHI:** Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Friday addressed a Union Territory-level workshop held at the Delhi Police Headquarters to review the actionable points emerging from the All India DGPs/IGPs Conference-2025 in Raipur, an official said. Senior Police officers made a detailed presentation on the actionable points of the national conference. Special CP (Crime) Devsh Chandra Srivastava outlined the performance of Delhi Police across various domains and assured the LG of time-bound compliance on all directives, adopting a whole-of-government approach. Addressing

the gathering, Delhi Police Chief Satish Golchha noted the force's achievements in counter-terror operations, stating that 70 sleeper modules have been dismantled and 30 terrorists and their associates arrested in the last three years. He also said the force is putting greater focus on extortion and threat calls made by gangsters. CP Golchha added that Delhi Police is intensifying its cybercrime crackdown, including reducing the threshold for filing e-FIRs in cheating cases from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 1 lakh. "Operations such as Cyhawk are being used to target cyber-criminal networks," the CP added. The CP also outlined the force's efforts against nar-

cotics, expansion of PCRVs, community policing initiatives like Sashakti, stronger action against overstaying foreigners and measures to improve traffic management. According to a statement of the Delhi Police, the LG praised Delhi Police for its investigation of the Red Fort car blast case and actions against organised crime, drugs and gangster networks. He said over 45,000 kg of seized narcotic substances worth around Rs 14,000 crore have been destroyed in the last three years. LG Saxena has approved the grant of Honorary Ranks -- one level above their existing posts -- to personnel on the day of their superannuation.

# Govt approves 'CoalSETU' for auction of coal linkages without end-use restrictions

**NEW DELHI:** The government on Friday approved the 'CoalSETU' window for the auction of coal linkages for diverse industrial uses and exports to ensure fair access and optimal utilisation of the resource. The Union Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the Policy for Auction of Coal Linkage for Seamless, Efficient & Transparent Utilisation (CoalSETU), according to an official statement. The policy will allow allocation of coal linkages on an auction basis for long-term for any industrial use and export by adding a separate window named 'CoalSETU' in the NRS (Non-Regulated Sector) Linkage Auction Policy of 2016. Any domestic buyer requiring coal can partici-

pate in the linkage auction, irrespective of the end use. Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said, briefing the media about the Cabinet decision. The coking coal will not be offered under this window, he said. The minister further said that the country has produced so much coal that we can start looking at exports, and the government is now focusing on the promotion of coal exports. Linkage holders can now export up to 50 per cent of their quantity and flexibly utilise the fuel among group companies as needed. According to the existing framework, coal linkages are given through the auction route to certain specified non-regulated sectors, including cement, steel (coking), sponge iron and aluminium. The existing coal sup-

ply arrangements to non-regulated sectors needed revision "in view of the evolving market conditions, and with the objective of improving ease of doing business". Accordingly, it has been decided to extend coal linkages in the NRS to consumers without end-use restrictions, the statement said. The move is expected to accelerate the utilisation of domestic coal reserves and reduce dependence on imported coal to meet the country's energy requirements. "The present auction of coal linkages for the specified end-user sub-sectors in NRS (Non-Regulated Sector) shall continue. The specified end-user can also participate in this window," the statement said. The modification comes in tandem with the opening up of the coal

sector for commercial mining, a move which enabled the allocation of coal blocks without any end-use conditions. Coal linkages allocated through the CoalSETU window are permitted for own consumption, coal exports, coal washing, or any other purpose—except domestic resale, it said, adding that participation by traders will not be permitted under this new window. The coal linkage holders can export up to 50 per cent of their allocated quantity. They may also flexibly allocate the coal among their group companies as needed. To meet rising demand for washed coal, allocations to washery operators will boost the domestic supply of washed coal, cutting import reliance. Washed coal may also be exported to international markets, it said.

# Hyderabad to Host Niri9 International Film Festival 2025, Strengthening North East-Telangana Cultural Exchange.

Hyderabad, December 13, 2025: The Niri9 International Film Festival is set to return with its third edition in Hyderabad on January 10 and 11, 2026, marking a significant moment of cultural convergence between the North Eastern region and Telangana. Organised with the cooperation of His Excellency, the Governor of Telangana, and the Telangana Cultural Department, the festival reflects the state's growing interest in deepening artistic and cultural linkages with the North East.

This year, the festival received an impressive 176 film entries across categories, including 40 Feature Films, 65 Short Films, 56 Shorter Films, and 15 Documentaries, underscoring its expanding presence on the national and global film



landscape. Out of this the top 19 films will be screened in the final round at Hyderabad. (Feature Film 6, Short Film 5, Shorter Film 5, Documentary 3) Festival Director Dr Junmoni Devi Khaund, who was recently felicitated by the Governor of Telangana, Shri Jishnu Dev Varma, and Cinematography Minister Shri Komatireddy Venkat

Reddy during the NE Connect Festival, shared her vision for this edition. She said, "This event is not just a festival; it's a movement of stories, cultures, and connections. Hosting the festival in Hyderabad reflects our commitment to bringing the North East and Telangana closer through cinema. With the invaluable support of His

Excellency the Governor and the Telangana Cultural Department, we hope to create a space where filmmakers, audiences, and storytellers truly discover each other."

Adding to the cultural fabric of the event, the festival will also feature performance of global performer Carlyta Mouhini, legendary musician Lou Majaw, Monisha Bordoloi and the event will also be showcasing the traditional dance and music of Assamese and Telangana folk and traditional dance during the event.

The Niri9 International Film Festival 2025 promises to be a vibrant and enriching celebration of cinema, storytelling, and cultural unity, bringing together diverse creative communities in the heart of Hyderabad.

# Goa CM Sawant should apologise over nightclub fire incident, says Kejriwal

**PANAJI:** Aam Aadmi Party leader Arvind Kejriwal on Friday said Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant should at least apologise to the people for the nightclub fire at Arpora which claimed 25 lives last week. Speaking at a public meeting in South Goa, the AAP leader alleged that the 'Birch of Romeo Lane' nightclub did not have requisite permissions, still it could operate because it paid bribes to government officials. "I want to ask Pramod Sawant, tell me one activity that happens (in Goa) without bribing the officers," Kejriwal said. "This is perhaps the most corrupt government, and the least the chief minister could do is to apologise to the people of Goa for Arpora incident and ensure safety in all the establishments," he added. The coastal state, known for



its scenic beauty earlier, is now "famous for its corruption and the Arpora incident," he commented. The nightclub, where the tragedy unfolded on December 6, was operating without occupancy certificate, trade licence, building permissions and other licences, said Kejriwal. "Without the building permissions they got electricity and water connection. The

local panchayat had ordered demolition of the structure one year ago, but still the club operated because they used to pay 'hafta' (regular bribes) to officials," the former Delhi chief minister alleged. No one can believe that the Pramod Sawant government was not aware of these things, he said, adding that the owners, Gaurav and Saurabh Luthra, were "made

to flee" the country after the incident. The coastal state, known for its scenic beauty earlier, is now "famous for its corruption and the Arpora incident," he commented. The nightclub, where the tragedy unfolded on December 6, was operating without occupancy certificate, trade licence, building permissions and other licences, said Kejriwal. "Without the building permissions they got electricity and water connection. The local panchayat had ordered demolition of the structure one year ago, but still the club operated because they used to pay 'hafta' (regular bribes) to officials," the former Delhi chief minister alleged. No one can believe that the Pramod Sawant government was not aware of these things, he said, adding that the owners, Gaurav and Saurabh Luthra, were "made

# EC deploys SIR observers in 8 states

**NEW DELHI:** Seeking to ensure greater transparency, the Election Commission has deployed 'special roll observers' in eight states to oversee the ongoing Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls. The observers have been appointed in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, the poll authority said in a statement on Friday. The special roll observers (SROs) have already begun their work and are expected to be present two days a week in these states until the final electoral rolls are published in February 2026. They will hold meetings with the state-level and district-level leadership of all the national and state political parties. The SROs will also attend meetings with the chief electoral officers and district election officers of the states, either physically or virtual-



ly, to ensure that the entire Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise is completed in a smooth, transparent and participatory manner. The SROs will observe the process of SIR so that no eligible elector is left out and no ineligible person is included in the electoral rolls. On Thursday, the poll panel extended the timeline for SIR in five states and one Union territory following

requests from the chief electoral officers. The schedules were revised for Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The enumeration period for these six states and UT was to end on Thursday, and the draft electoral rolls were to be published on December 16. The enumeration period

for Tamil Nadu and Gujarat has been extended till December 14, where the draft electoral rolls will be published on December 19, the statement said.

For Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the enumeration period has been extended till December 18, and the draft electoral rolls will be published on December 23. The enumeration period for Uttar Pradesh has been extended till December 26, and the draft electoral rolls will be published on December 31.

The enumeration period for Goa, Puducherry, Lakshadweep, Rajasthan and West Bengal will end on Thursday, and the draft electoral rolls will be published on December 16.

The schedule for Kerala was revised earlier. The enumeration period for the state will end on December 18, and the draft electoral roll will be published on December 23.

# Odisha's first steel-based 'zero energy building' inaugurated

**BHUBANESWAR:** Odisha's first steel-based 'zero energy building' (ZEB), constructed using advanced light-gauge steel frame (LGSF) technology, was inaugurated here on Friday, an official statement said. The 1,836 sq ft building, constructed by Tata Steel in partnership with World Steel Association (WSA) under steel construction market development programme 'constructsteel', was inaugurated by Tata Steel CEO and MD T V Narendran in the presence of WSA Director General Edwin Basson. "The steel-based zero energy building reflects the future of construction," Narendran said, adding that modern, energy-efficient, and low-carbon solutions

can be replicated at scale across India and integrated into mainstream infrastructure. The LGSF technology, where precisely manufactured steel sections are assembled like a frame, allows the building to achieve a tight envelope with minimal air leakage, better insulation, and reduced energy loss. Steel makes the structure lighter, faster to build, and highly durable, while its recyclability ensures lower long-term environmental impact, the statement said. Designed to produce as much energy as it consumes, the steel-based ZEB combines ultra-low operational energy demand with on-site renewable energy generation, achieving annual net-zero energy use.

# Par committee expresses concern over uneven distribution of medical seats across country

**NEW DELHI:** A Parliamentary committee has expressed concern over the uneven distribution of medical seats across the country and the huge cost of medical education "as if there are no takers for the poor guardian to get their off-springs admitted in the medical colleges". Flagging the seat distribution issue, the department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare in the 167th report presented to Rajya Sabha on December 11 stated that while some states have a high concentration of medical seats, some are severely lacking against the national average of 75 MBBS seats per million population. It suggested the government open up new medical colleges to provide quality medical education in Del-

hi so that students from the national capital do not have to travel to other states or even other countries to pursue medical education. Not accepting the Action Taken by government on the its recommendations/observations contained in the 157th Report on "Quality of Medical Education in India", the panel strongly recommended that the NMC must come forward with guidelines for establishing new medical colleges in states where there are fewer than hundred MBBS seats per million population. It observed that Karnataka, Telangana and Tamil Nadu have approximately 150 MBBS seats per million and Puducherry has close to 2,000 or even more MBBS seats for a population of just about one mil-

lion. While some other states have less than 50 seats per million population, Bihar has only 21 seats per million, it stated in the report. "The committee further suggests that the government may consider to plan to open new medical colleges to provide quality medical education in Delhi so that students from Delhi have not to travel to other states or even other countries to pursue medical education," the report said. The Committee appreciated the UG-MSR 2023 guidelines regarding setting up of new medical colleges providing approval for annual intake capacity of 50/100/150 MBBS seats. Notwithstanding the same, it stated that as per the guidelines, given that the infrastructure and facul-

ty position required are in place, a college, whether old or new, may be considered for granting permission to increase the undergraduate MBBS seats up to a maximum of 250 in a phased manner. It further recommended that adequate attention must be given for opening of medical colleges in underserved districts which can be encouraged to use the locally available government medical colleges and hospitals for imparting healthcare services. The committee further reiterated that the affordability of medical education in the country continues to be a matter of concern due to huge cost of medical education that ranges between Rs 60 lakhs to Rs 1 crore or even more, "as if, there is no takers for the poor guardian to get their

off-springs admitted in the medical colleges". It endorses that the government may apply the fee structure to 50 per cent of seats in private medical colleges and the state government fee may be levied to this 50 per cent of MBBS seats while the other 50 per cent to be decided in consultation with the fee regulatory committee of each of the states. The panel reiterated its recommendation that the ministry in collaboration with states consider need-based scholarships to deserving students. Other suggestive options that can be explored were running the medical college and hospital on a PPP model, giving tax benefits to the company/group, etc, it stated in the report. On the issue of addressing faculty shortages in medical colleges, especially in

remote areas, the panel stressed that it is essential to provide incentives for teaching positions and opined that competitive salaries, job security, and structured career growth need to be prioritized over ad-hoc or contractual appointments for streamlining and strengthening the faculty. The Committee reiterated that clear criteria and milestones for promotions by recognizing and rewarding excellence in teaching, research, and clinical work are required to be embedded in the system. Moreover, streamlining the sanctioning of posts and ensuring a balanced reservation policy will facilitate the timely filling up of vacancies, ultimately strengthening medical education and healthcare services, it underlined.



# EDITORIAL

## New Labour Codes Erase a Century of Hard-Won Workers' Rights in One Stroke

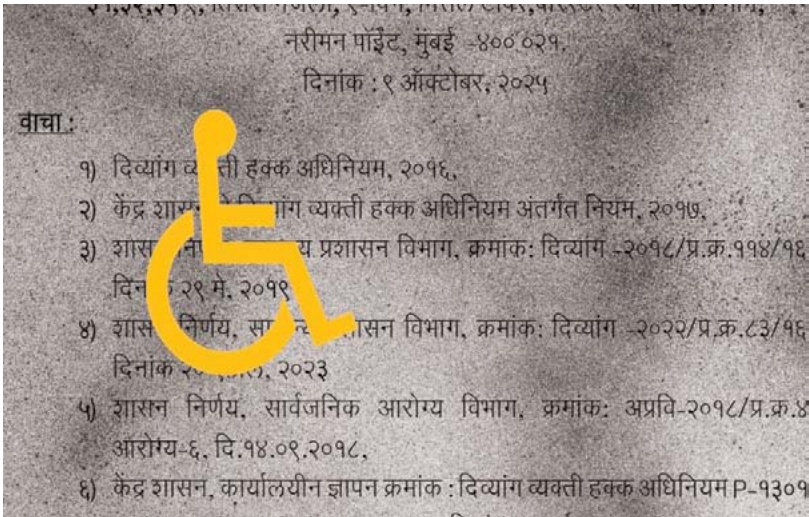
On November 21, 2025, the Indian government implemented four labour codes through executive fiat. This would come as a surprise to only those who forgot that the Codes were passed in the parliament without debate while most of the opposition members were suspended for protesting the three farm bills passed the previous day. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government has once again used its majority to change the face of labour legislation and jurisprudence in the country. In one sweeping stroke, the government has wiped away the struggles of millions of workers in the subcontinent over the last century and a half. From the time the Codes were legislated in September 2020 to now, the government has steadfastly refused to consult with trade unions, disregarding the tripartite process in its entirety, and even the state governments, defying the constitutional spirit that placed labour in the Concurrent List. The BJP government has even ignored the opposition from Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), their own fraternal organisation in the larger Sangh family.

### Constitutional rights under attack

There are three broad reasons why trade unions, irrespective of their differences, are opposing the codes – one, its attempt to redefine the Constitution and constitutional rights of working people; two, its attempt to further skew the balance of power between labour and capital by tilting the laws that protected basic labour rights in favour of capital; and three, its violation of the international labour standards as defined by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions. Labour is a subject in the Concurrent List. Yet, the Codes grant the Union government sweeping powers to frame rules, override existing state laws and dictate regulatory structures. States have been reduced to mere implementing agencies with no meaningful legislative authority. This is a direct assault on the federal balance envisioned by the Constitution under Articles 246, 254 and the Seventh Schedule. The Codes hand over essential legislative powers to the executive – particularly the Union government – through blanket rule-making authority. The power to decide the national floor wage, access to social security, inspection mechanisms, and thresholds for layoffs have been removed from Parliament and handed to bureaucrats. This violates the separation of powers and the principle that essential legislative functions cannot be delegated. By creating arbitrary thresholds regarding the number of workers for applicability of the Codes, the new legislation has excluded the majority of India's workforce. Additionally, the move towards fixed-term employment, relaxation of safety norms, and diluted inspection systems creates unjustifiable discrimination between workers performing the same work in the same establishments, thereby legalising inequality in violation of Article 14 of the Constitution. The Codes, for the first time, introduce the concept of a national floor level wage (NFLW) within the legal structure and state that no wage can be set below the NFLW. Under the Minimum Wage Act, no wage could be lower than the minimum wage and if it was so set, it was deemed to be forced labour and would be a criminal offense punishable by imprisonment. By creating a NFLW, the codes remove the criminal liability of non-payment of minimum wages, thereby allowing forced labour in violation of Article 23 of the Constitution.

## Re-Examined, Re-Verified: Maharashtra's Humiliation of Disabled Workers

When the Puja Khedkar scandal broke earlier this year, I warned in an interview: "Those with genuine disabilities will now be doubly scrutinised." I wish I had been wrong. But what followed proved the prediction with painful accuracy. Within weeks, a senior IAS officer in Telangana made a shocking remark that demeaned the competence of disabled officers. Soon after, a former G20 Sherpa and former CEO of Niti Aayog insinuated that persons with disabilities lack professional capability and reservation for disabled and transgender persons needs to be revisited. And now comes the latest Tughlaqi farmaan – not from fringe voices but directly from the state machinery of Maharashtra, India's second-most populous state and ironically the last major state to implement disability rules under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, doing it only in 2024. The newly created Persons with Disabilities Welfare Department has issued a sweeping, legally unsound directive ordering all government departments, hospitals, and subordinate offices to re-verify and medically re-examine every disabled employee – faculty members, doctors, Class I officers, and administrators – irrespective of whether they already hold a permanent Unique Disability ID (UDID) or a legally valid disability certificate. This is not governance. This is harassment masquerading as vigilance. And it raises some deeply troubling questions. Why are only disabled employees treated like suspects? No other reserved category – Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Other Backward Classes (OBC), and Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) – is asked to repeatedly "prove" their identity. Only persons with disabilities are subjected to the indignity of endless scrutiny: from pillar to post, from medical board to medical board, from exam



to re-exam. Why must only disabled officers undergo this ritual humiliation again and again? A state that can't clear its own backlog now wants to re-verify everyone Maharashtra currently has 1.2 lakh pending UDID applications, the second-highest backlog in India. Fourteen district and sub-district hospitals – from Ahikyanagar, Yavatmal Nagpur, Nashik, Nanded, Nandurbar, Dharashiv, Jalna, Raigad, Sangli, Satara, Thane to Wardha – have not issued a single UDID card. Not one. Yet instead of cracking down on this administrative paralysis, the government chooses to re-verify those who already hold valid, permanent certificates. Does Maharashtra have so much free time that it prefers re-examining legitimate employees rather than processing lakhs of pending cases? 'First, do no harm' – a principle forgotten At KEM Hospital, ground zero of this bureaucratic overreach, 848 UDID applications remain pending in just the last three months. Instead of completing this backlog, KEM doctors are being asked to spend precious hours humiliating their own colleagues. Here, the phrase "primum non nocere"

– first, do no harm – finds no resonance. Those entrusted with healing are instead reproducing stigma and harm, violating the very ethics they teach their students. Medical boards without doctors with disabilities: A direct violation of Supreme Court orders Despite the Supreme Court's landmark judgment in Om Rathod v DGHS, 2024, which accepted my recommendation of mandatory inclusion of a doctor with a disability in medical boards assessing disability, not a single such member is present in these re-verification boards. Is the Maharashtra government choosing to ignore the Supreme Court? Employees already submitted details in June: Why this second round of harassment? In June this year, the state asked all departments to submit UDID details. Employees complied. Yet today, they are again being forced to undergo full medical examinations. What purpose does this serve except creating fear and subjugation? A few journalists asked me why, if the order was issued in October, are concerns being raised only now? This is because many people with disabilities struggle with internalised ableism.

## Editorial

## Dear Modi, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyaya is Not Your 'Da'



APARNA BHATTACHARYA

Shakespeare famously asked, "What's in a name?" implying that "a rose by any other name would smell as sweet". In the high-stakes theatre of Indian politics, especially in culturally-wired West Bengal, Shakespeare couldn't have been more wrong. A name isn't just a label. They are passcodes into a shared cultural memory. Get them wrong, and you're not just mispronouncing a syllable, you're announcing you don't belong. By now, Narendra Modi should have understood that in Bengal's ruthless political arena, a slip of the tongue is rarely just a mistake – unless you're Mamata Banerjee with a different kind of immunity. For the Bharatiya Janata Party, the core challenge in the state has always been the "outsider" tag. To counter Trinamool Congress's nativist appeal, Modi has repeatedly tried to stitch himself into Bengal's cultural fabric. And in doing so, he often walks into a trap of his own making. One of the most telling instances came in the Lok Sabha this week, when Modi referred to Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay as "Bankim da". One could see what he was trying to do. In a debate marking 150 years of Vande Mataram, he reached for a Bengali touch of intimacy, adding the affectionate da, meaning brother, to Bankim Chandra's name. In Gujarat, or in the Hindi belt, such improvisations might pass unnoticed. In Bengal, however, they land with a thud. Within seconds, TMC MPs pounced. "You should say Bankim Babu," Saugata Roy cut in. Modi, to his credit, promptly corrected himself, thanked Roy and switched to "Bankim Babu" for the rest of his speech. But the damage was done. It is a textbook fish-out-of-water moment for @BJP4India. For years, these BOHIRAGOTO interlopers have tried to dishonestly appropriate Bengal's cultural icons, hoping that borrowed reverence might compen-



sate for their utter political bankruptcy in the state. Each attempt has only exposed how grotesquely alien they are to Bengal's cultural consciousness, history, and vocabulary," TMC said in a post on X. "In a clumsy, performative display of CULTURAL COSPLAY, @narendramodi, insultingly patronising as always, refers to Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay as "Bankim da." No, Modi ji, Bengal does not casually slap the suffix "da" onto figures it venerates. Only a CULTURAL ILLITERATE would think that sounds respectful," the party added in the same post. In Bengal, specific honourifics matter. "Babu" implies reverence for the canonised. You do not casually call Rabindranath Tagore or Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay by a sibling suffix. Bengalis do use "da" for some revered personalities – "Master da" Surya Sen, "Manik da" for Satyajit Ray, but the unwritten rule is clear. That intimacy is earned, organic, rooted in real social memory. It is almost never retrofitted onto 19th-century icons via a Delhi-based speechwriter. The warmth Modi tried to project felt manufactured, and that is what TMC hammered. It was not just a gaffe, but a presumptuous attempt to appropriate Bengal's icons. By misapplying the suffix, he didn't just make a linguistic mistake, he validated the TMC's accusation that he is "grotesquely alien" to Bengal's cultural consciousness. This is not an isolated case. Modi has repeatedly attempted to court Bengali sentiment through cultural gestures and symbolic overtures, yet each effort has spectacularly back-

fired. His 2018 Mann Ki Baat anecdote about waking up at 5:30 AM as a child to listen to Rabindra Sangeet on the radio, is a classic example. It's a lovely story. Young Narendra, pre-dawn, absorbing Tagore's songs he doesn't even linguistically understand, yet spiritually connects with. The only problem was All India Radio's schedule. Fact-checkers quickly pointed out that AIR's morning transmission in those years didn't start as early as 5:30 AM, and that the Rabindra Sangeet slot came significantly later. Then came the 2021 Bengal campaign. The longer beard that suddenly invited "Modi as Tagore" comparisons with right-wing social media influencers gushing about the "Gurudev" look. The outcome was predictable. "Just by growing a long beard nobody becomes Rabindranath Tagore," Mamata sniped, and everyone got the joke. But let's not pretend the gaffe economy is a Modi monopoly. Mamata Banerjee has her own rich catalogue, and her opponents know it line by line. Mamata Banerjee's own set of gaffes In 2009, long before she became chief minister, Banerjee famously recalled Rabindranath Tagore offering juice to Mahatma Gandhi to break his fast in Kolkata during the 1947 Kolkata riots. This otherwise poignant statement had one fatal flaw. Tagore had been dead six years by then. The Communist Party of India (Marxist), then in power, gleefully weaponised the slip. "How can someone who gets basic dates wrong lead a state that worships Tagore?" they asked, playing to the bhadralok

gallery. It did nothing to halt her rise. And then there are the more surreal moments. The mysterious "Dohar Babu" no one can identify (Dahar is Santhali word for a road), or the Kolkata Book Fair proclamation that Tagore had a great camaraderie with Shakespeare and Keats, all of whom were separated by decades or centuries. The problem is not merely that politicians misremember names or references. The deeper danger is that these errors allow politics to retreat entirely into the symbolic and superficial, successfully diverting attention from substantive issues. Bengal's political discourse repeatedly circles back to cultural identity markers. Whether it is Vande Mataram, Jai Shri Ram, or other emotive symbols, these debates resurface cyclically, each time reigniting old divisions. With "Bankim da", the prime minister thus handed the three-time Bengal chief minister another springboard to direct public debate from governance to symbolism. It is just what she needed. Soon after the gaffe, Mamata escalated with her own theatre. She dramatically tore up a central government note on MGNREGA conditions at a public rally, shifting the focus from technical questions of funding and compliance to a visually potent "battle for dignity and rights" that cast her as Bengal's fierce defender against a "disrespectful" Union government. It is a ready-made "dead cat" strategy. Throw a shocking distraction onto the table so everyone argues over the spectacle instead of the uncomfortable reality of poor governance.

### 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 humanitarianist 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. If refugee law belongs to immigration control, then the refugee becomes a management problem, and the demand for legal safeguards can be framed as an unreasonable entitlement.



OUR GOVERNMENT STANDS BY APARTMENT OWNERS AND RESIDENTS: SHIVAKUMAR

Bengaluru : Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar today said the State government was planning to introduce the Karnataka Apartment Bill 2025 to protect the interests of apartment owners and residents.

Speaking at an interaction with apartment owners and residents at Banquet Hall in Vidhana Soudha, he said, “We are meeting apartment owners and residents to collect their feedback for the proposed Bill. Those who have not been able to provide their suggestions may send an email to gbasugesion@gmail.com within the next 10 days. We are committed to the welfare of apartment owners.”

Seek cooperation in GBA election “While we are working for your welfare, we seek your support in the upcoming GBA election. We are bringing this Bill which was not brought by the other governments,” he said.

Want to leave behind a legacy

“I have taken up the responsibility of Bengaluru development to bring change. I would like to leave behind a



legacy for Bengaluru. We have taken up many projects which will change the face of the city. Two tunnel roads, 130 km Bengaluru Business Corridor and other projects are planned. PM Narendra Modi and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari have asked us to proceed with these projects.”

“Besides, we have also brought in Nambike Nakshe to ease the process of obtaining sanction plans for sites up to 50x80 square feet. We have introduced premium FAR and e-khata as well. We can’t do magic in a day and it needs

consistent perseverance, commitment and patience,” he added.

No one can threaten the govt

“One Mr Kiran Hebbar has written a threatening letter saying that the apartment owners could influence the GBA elections if it doesn’t listen to them. We are not scared of threats. One must have basic common sense who they are talking to? We are here for you and that is why we are calling you here and seeking your feedback,” he added. “Our government has given up to 200 units of free power to even apartments. The PM had said that

guarantee scheme can’t be implemented but now BJP is copying our schemes in other states. We have also given installment scheme for getting water connection to apartments,” he added. GBA for better governance

“Bengaluru has grown too big and hence we have formed GBA for better governance. Nineteen percent of Bengaluru residents are apartment dwellers. No government tried to change the Apartment Bill since it was introduced in 1972. Our government is trying to do that,” he noted.

“During elections, I visited 100 apartments and sought their support, but we were not supported. We stepped in helped Bengaluru when 6000 borewells had dried up in City. My brother lost 1 lakh votes in one constituency during parliamentary election. Naturally, I felt disappointed at the time. I have invited you seeking your suggestions and feedback for the Apartment Bill. We want to incorporate your suggestions into the Bill before it is tabled. We will discuss this with MLAs too,” he added.

Women must rise like Kittur Chennamma and Durga against injustice: Basavaraj Bommai

Hubballi: Former Chief Minister and BJP MP Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday said there is no safety for women in Karnataka, with incidents of rape, murder, suicides and atrocities continuing under the present government. Addressing the North Karnataka divisional meeting of the BJP Mahila Morcha at Aravind Nagar in Hubballi, he said women cannot be silenced by providing 2,000 a month and called for greater social awareness against injustice.

Bommai said the gathering reflected the emerging strength of women power in Karnataka and urged participants to organise themselves and raise their voices. He noted that women constitute 50 per cent of the population and asserted that giving them equal opportunities would accelerate



the nation’s development. Recalling historical figures such as Kittur Chennamma and Rani Lakshmbai, he said Indian women are strong and capable leaders, citing the significant presence of women scientists in ISRO as an example. Alleging that

crimes against women are rising, Bommai criticised the state government for failing to ensure safety, misusing statistics, and not effectively implementing laws. He also accused the government of not utilising central funds under the Nirbhaya scheme and of discontinuing welfare initiatives for women’s organisations. Raising concerns over maternal and infant mortality rates, he said the future generation was being affected.

Calling for a mass movement, Bommai urged women to take to the streets against injustice and become warrior queens like Kittur Chennamma and Goddess Durga. Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, BJP Mahila Morcha State President Kumari C. Manjula, and other senior leaders attended the meeting.

BAF seeks tabling of apartment law bill in Belagavi session



Bengaluru: The Bangalore Apartments’ Federation (BAF) on Saturday welcomed the dialogue convened by Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar with apartment owners at Vidhana Soudha and urged the government to table the proposed

Karnataka Apartment Ownership and Management Act (KAOMA) during the ongoing Belagavi legislative session. BAF President Satish Mallya described the interaction as historic, stating that the existing Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act of 1972 contains several ambiguities. He said the proposed KAOMA includes comprehensive and much-needed provisions to address long-standing issues faced by apartment owners, making its implementation an urgent necessity. Mr. Mallya appealed to the government to immediately incorporate the suggestions received during the dialogue into the bill and present it in the current session.

AF Welcomes Dialogue with DCM: Urges Tabling of Bill in Belagavi Session: President Satish Mallya



Bengaluru : “We are delighted that Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar organized a special dialogue at the Banquet Hall of Vidhana Soudha to listen to the suggestions of apartment owners. However, our appeal is that these suggestions be immediately incorporated into the bill and presented during the ongoing Belagavi session,” stated “Satish Mallya, President of the Bangalore Apartments’ Federation (BAF). Speaking after the interaction, Mr. Mallya termed the event historic. “The Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act of 1972 is riddled with confusion. To rectify this, the proposed comprehensive Karnataka Apartment Ownership and Management Act (KAOMA) has incorporated excellent provisions. The implementation of this Act is an urgent necessity,” he said. He further emphasized, “We request that the suggestions provided during today’s dialogue be included and the bill be tabled in the current legislative session in Belagavi. Apartment owners are facing significant distress without the support of a proper legal framework. While the dialogue has brought us joy, it is crucial that this bill is introduced and enacted in this session itself. We appeal to the Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister to issue necessary instructions to officials in this regard.” The event saw the participation of BAF General Secretary Shri K. Arun Kumar, Treasurer Shri Kiran Hebbar, and thousands of apartment owners and federation representatives from various parts of the city, who actively offered their suggestions.

Propel Industries Unveils India’s Largest Portfolio of “Next-Gen Electric Tippers and Mobility Solutions at EXCON 2025”



Bengaluru : Propel Industries Private Limited, India’s leader in Crushing and Screening equipment and a pioneer in Electric Tipper manufacturing - announces expansion of its electric mining and construction portfolio with the unveiling of four new tipper models, all-new connectivity platform, and a comprehensive after-sales uptime solution today at Excon 2025 in the presence of Chief Guests Dr. Soumya Ranjan Samal, Founder and CMD of Kalinga

Commercial Corporation Limited and Mr. J Rudrasekar, Director - RAJIRAJ MINERALS PRIVATE LIMITED.

The launch includes four new electric tippers - 90CED, 70CED, 560HEV-X, 470MEV Gen-2, Pulse.ev - An all-new Connectivity Platform, and Pro EV Care - A comprehensive EV Service Program.

Speaking on the launches, Mr. V. Senthilkumar, Managing Director, Propel Industries Private Limited, said, every new platform we

introduced today responds to the real needs of Heavy-Duty mining and construction environments. Our focus remains on productivity, long-term operating economics, reliability, and safety. With these additions we are strengthening India’s Electric Heavy-Duty eco system and giving operators technologies they can trust in demanding conditions.

Mr. Siddarth Kirtane, President - EV Sales, Marketing and Service, added that, the announcements reinforce Propel’s commitment to innovation, high-productivity for customers, zero-emission, and future-ready heavy-duty mobility. Since start of EV truck sale in 2023, the brand has expanded its presence across coal, overburden, limestone, iron-ore, stone quarry, marble & granites, and solid waste management segments. Propel trucks have cumulatively covered over 5 lakh operating hours and the first set of 8 trucks have clocked 12,500 hours in 2 years, which is equivalent to 20 hrs per day.

“Sammilana 2025” – 40th Alumni Meet of Sir M. Visvesvaraya Institute of Technology

AI MUST BE USED RESPONSIBLY FOR THE GREATER GOOD: VEENA SRIGOPAL



Bengaluru : “Artificial Intelligence (AI) is not merely a source of employment opportunities; it is a powerful solution to real-world problems. It must be used with responsibility, ethics, and human values. Future engineers should integrate critical thinking, continuous learning, and ethical responsibility along with technical expertise,” said Ms. Veena Srigopal, Global Head - AI Strategy, Solutions and Advisory Board, Wipro.

She was delivering the keynote address at “Sammilana 2025,” the 40th Annual Alumni Meet of the prestigious Sir M. Visvesvaraya Institute of Technology (Sir MVIT), Bengaluru. Ms. Srigopal highlight-

ed the rapid global transformations in the field of Artificial Intelligence, the evolving future job market, and the importance of multidisciplinary skill sets for students. She noted that deep insights into AI technologies can provide strong direction and purpose to young minds.

Dr. Thippeswamy M.N., Principal, Sir MVIT, in his welcome address, appreciated the global professional achievements of the institution’s alumni. He elaborated on the college’s academic progress, research accomplishments, innovative technological initiatives, and future vision. He emphasized that active participation and support from alumni are crucial for the

institution’s holistic development.

The event witnessed the reunion of alumni from different generations, faculty members, trust representatives, and current students on a single platform, rekindling their emotional bond with the institution. The programme was conducted with great enthusiasm, blending academic deliberations with cultural celebrations. The event was graced by Mr. V. Srinivasa Raju, Founder trustee and President, Sri KET, Mr. K. V. Shekhar Raju, Founder Trustee, Sri KET and Chairman, Academic Committee, Mr. N. G. Raju, Trustee, along with Dr. Thippeswamy M.N., Principal, Sir MVIT, Dr Bharathi Ganesh, Vice Principal Sir MVIT and other distinguished guests.

Prof. K. V. R. Prasad, Secretary Sir MVIT Alumni Association, concluded the programme by thanking the alumni for their presence and for sharing their experiences, insights, and thoughtful messages with the students. More than 500 alumni participated in the commemorative meet, fondly reminiscing about their student life and renewing their commitment to the growth and legacy of their alma mater.

Tenders invited for feasibility study of Bengaluru’s second international airport

Bengaluru: The Karnataka State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (KSIDC) has invited tenders to select an expert consultancy firm to prepare a location suitability and comprehensive technical and financial feasibility report for the proposed second international airport for the State capital. The last date for submission of applications is January 12, 2026, Infrastructure Development Minister M. B. Patil said on Saturday. Providing details, he said the State Government has identified sites at Choodahalli and Somanahalli on Kanakapura Road, along with another location near Nelamangala, for the proposed airport. A high-level team from the Airports Authority of India has inspected these locations and submitted a preliminary report. The consultancy firm selected through the tender process will be required to submit a detailed technical and financial feasibility report to the Government within five months, he added. Firms that have executed projects worth at least 250 crore annually over the past five years, and have handled or prepared consultancy reports for a minimum of five projects in the relevant sector, will be eligible to participate in the tender, he said. The selected consultancy firm will study parameters such as rainfall patterns, topography,

‘Volunteers are the Real Changemakers’: CRY Celebrates Volunteers in Bengaluru

Bengaluru : On the occasion of International Volunteers Day CRY – Child Rights and You, a leading Indian non-profit organisation, honoured its dedicated volunteers from South India at a special event on Saturday held at the Indian Social Institute in Bengaluru. Volunteers from diverse backgrounds came together to celebrate and share their inspiring stories and experiences of contributing to child rights.

In a heartfelt video message, Puja Marwaha, CEO of CRY, emphasised the profound impact of volunteering: “Volunteering is giving back to society. Volunteers undertake challenging tasks to bring real change in society and in the lives of children – this is truly something to celebrate.” She highlighted CRY’s origins, founded decades ago by a group of young volunteers and



friends, and noted that the organisation now has over 10,000 volunteers across India contributing creatively to

uphold children’s rights. “On behalf of the children and CRY, I thank each and every one of you for your time and

for standing up for children,” she added.

John Roberts, Regional Director, CRY South,

described volunteers as the “real changemakers.” He recounted a powerful historical example: “In the 1990s,

when education was not yet a fundamental right, volunteers across the country launched a massive campaign called ‘Voice of India’. One lakh postcards were sent to the President of India. The postcards simply read ‘I demand education should be a fundamental right for the children.’ The campaign culminated in November 2001, when tens of thousands of volunteers and supporters marched to Delhi, leading to the passage of the Right to Education law in Parliament.” He added, “This is just one of numerous examples of how volunteers can transform societies and lives. Each of you is bringing positive change to children – thank you for being there.”

Several volunteers shared personal insights into their journeys.



# CM Stalin says Tamil Nadu will rank first in all sectors by 2031 under Dravidian model

CHENNAI: Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Saturday asserted that Tamil Nadu would emerge as the number one State in India across all spheres by 2031, when what he described as “Dravidian Model 2.0” reaches completion.

In a post on social media platform X, he highlighted Tamil Nadu’s current economic performance, saying the State had topped the country in Gross State Domestic Product growth with a rate of 16 per cent. He said the achievement was notable as Tamil Nadu was neither among the largest States by area nor by population, and did not receive extensive support from the Union government.

Stalin said Tamil Nadu had recorded stable and high growth over the past three years, a trend reflected in data released by the Reserve Bank of India. Between the financial years 2021 and 2025, the State’s economy had expanded by about Rs 10.5



lakh crore, taking the total value of the economy to Rs 31.19 lakh crore.

Stalin said Tamil Nadu had recorded stable and high growth over the past three years, a trend reflected in data released by the Reserve Bank of India.

He noted that Tamil Nadu’s growth rate had surpassed that of other developed large States such as Maharashtra, Karnataka and Gujarat. The Chief Minister added that the State’s performance in per capita income growth also continued to remain strong. Reiterating his confidence in the development model being pursued by his government, Stalin said Tamil Nadu’s success demonstrated the effectiveness of the Dravidian model. He said the aim was to ensure that by 2031, Tamil Nadu would not trail any other State in any sector, but would instead set the national benchmark for development.

## ‘Think beyond elections, think bold’: PTR calls for long-term vision to make TN a USD 4 trillion economy by 2047

CHENNAI: A day after Chief Minister MK Stalin launched the second phase of the Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thogai (KMUT) scheme, under which women heads of families receive a monthly direct cash assistance of Rs 1,000, State Minister for Information Technology and Digital Services Palanivel Thiaga Rajan (PTR) on Saturday called for bold, long-term thinking in governance, cautioning against an excessive focus on incremental, election-driven decision-making. Addressing the gathering after inaugurating the Startup



Pavilion at the UEF Trade Summit 2025 at the Chennai Trade Centre here, the minister said transformational outcomes require the political courage to move beyond short-term calculations. “If we want fundamentally different results, we must

take bold decisions and do many things very differently. Long-term vision and profound change are rarely natural to electoral politics, which tends to be incremental and gradual,” he observed, describing platforms such as the UEF conclave as essential for strategic thinking. Highlighting Tamil Nadu’s economic performance, Thiaga Rajan said the State had recorded a real growth rate of 11.19 per cent last year, adding that growth had remained above 10 per cent even during the previous DMK regime between 2006 and 2011.

# Tamil Nadu farm labour union opposes move to drop Gandhi’s name from rural jobs law

CHENNAI: The AITUC-affiliated Tamil Nadu State Agricultural Labourers’ Association general secretary, A Bhaskar, on Saturday, strongly opposed the Union government’s decision to rename the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), terming it an expression of “deep-seated hatred” towards Mahatma Gandhi.

In a statement, Bhaskar recalled that the NREG Act was enacted in 2005 by the UPA government following sustained initiatives by Left parties. The law provides a statutory right to 100 days of employment every year for agricultural labourers and rural worker families who depend solely on physical labour for their livelihood.

“The scheme, which has drawn global attention as a pioneering welfare initiative, is named after Mahatma Gandhi and has ensured employment for rural manual workers for nearly 20 years. We strongly object to, and also reject, the decision taken by the Union government on December 12 to remove ‘Mahatma Gandhi’ from the scheme’s name and rename it as ‘Pujya Babu Gramin Rozgar Yojana’,” he said. Bhaskar alleged that organisations such as the RSS and the Hindu Mahasabha had historically refused to accept Gandhi, and recalled that Gandhi, who respected all religions equally and dedicated his life to social harmony, was assassinated by Hindu extremist forces. “The Sangh Parivar has been glorifying figures such as Savarkar and Nathuram Godse over the past 11 years and engaging in historical distortion. The move to rename the rural employment law is a continuation of this approach,” he stated.



Minister for Tamil Development, Information and Publicity chaired the review meeting for Regional Joint Directors of the Information and Public Relations Department at the State Information Centre Conference Hall in the Kalaivanar Arangam Complex, Chennai.

# Pay Rs 350 cr dues in 3 months, Madras HC to private players

CHENNAI: The Madras High Court has ordered private industrial establishments that use high-tension (HT) electricity to pay the pending dues of Rs 350 crore to Tangedco within three months.

In 2006, the Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission announced a concessional scheme for HT electricity consumers. Under this scheme, consumers could generate and use electricity on their own for their needs, and if they required additional electricity, they could obtain HT power from Tangedco at a concessional rate.

However, this concession resulted in heavy financial loss to Tangedco, and the scheme was subsequently withdrawn. Opposing this, private industrial establishments



using HT power filed cases before the Madras High Court. A judge delivered a verdict in favour of the private companies in 2018, and Tangedco was unable to collect nearly Rs 700 crore in electricity charges from 2013 to date. As a result, Tangedco and the state government filed appeals challenging the order. During the hearing of these appeals, the High Court had earlier granted an interim order allowing

Tangedco to collect 50 per cent of the dues.

A division bench of Justice G Jayachandran and Mummneni Sudheer Kumar heard over 100 appeals filed by Tangedco in this matter. Senior Counsel P Wilson appeared for Tangedco, Richardson Wilson represented the TNERC, and counsels Rahul Balaji and Parthasarathy Pandiaraj represented the private industrial establishments. Delivering the final judgment, the division bench set aside the single judge’s order. The court further directed that private industrial establishments using HT electricity must pay the pending dues of Rs 350 crore to Tangedco within three months, and disposed of the petitions accordingly.

# Quantum Transformation: TiS3 Nanoribbons Become Superconductors Under Pressure

A study has shown that compressing TiS3 nanoribbons transforms them from insulators to superconductors, enabling electricity transmission without energy loss. This discovery opens new possibilities for advancing energy-efficient technologies and material science. According to a study in the journal Nano Letters, compressing nanoribbons made of titanium and sulfur can significantly alter their properties, transforming them into materials capable of conducting electricity without energy loss. The authors have made the discovery during their painstaking search for new materials that can transmit electricity without loss of energy, a hot topic that has for long haunted the scientific community.

“Our research focuses on one such promising material: TiS3 nanoribbons, which are tiny, ribbon-like structures made of titanium and sulfur. In their natural state, TiS3 nanoribbons act as insulators, meaning they do not conduct electricity well,” says Mahmoud Rabie Abdel-Hafez, an associate professor at University of Sharjah’s Department of Applied Physics and Astronomy. “However, we discovered that by applying pressure to these nanoribbons, we could change their electrical properties dramatically,” adds Abdel-Hafez, who is the study’s main author.

**Experimental Findings**

The scientists exposed TiS3 to gradual pressure. As they increased the pressure, they found that the TiS3 system



underwent a series of transitions, from being insulators to becoming metals and superconductors, for the first time. TiS3 materials are known to work as good insulators, but it is the first time scientists have discovered that under pressure they can function as superconductors, paving the way for the development of superconducting materials.

Temperature Pressure Phase Diagram of TiS3

(A) Temperature-pressure phase diagram of TiS3. (B) Photograph and SEM image of quasi-1D microstructure. Credit: Nano Letters (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.nanolett.4c00824>

tricity with zero energy loss, which is incredibly valuable for technological applications,” says Abdel-Hafez. “[But] imagine a world where electrical power could be transmitted without any energy being wasted as heat. This would revolutionize how we use and distribute electricity, making everything from power grids to electronic devices far more efficient.” It is exactly this potential which the authors tout as a breakthrough: the potential of TiS3 to turn into materials causing no waste when transmitting electricity. By carefully controlling the pressure applied to these materials, the authors identified the exact points where they changed from one state to

another. “This is significant because understanding these transitions helps us learn how to manipulate other materials in similar ways, bringing us closer to discovering or designing new superconductors that can operate at higher temperatures and more practical conditions,” notes Abdel-Hafez.

The study shows that TiS3 has the potential to become such materials when subjected to the right conditions. By gradually increasing the pressure on the investigated materials, the authors observed that they transitioned from being insulators (poor conductors) to metals (good conductors) and finally to superconductors (perfect conductors with no energy loss). Discovering that TiS3 materials can become superconductors under pressure is certain to help scientists understand more about the conditions required for superconductivity. This knowledge is crucial for developing new materials that might be superconductors at higher, more practical temperatures, the authors maintain.

Collaborative Efforts and Future Prospects

“This research not only enhances our understanding of superconductivity but also demonstrates the power of international collaboration in achieving groundbreaking scientific results,” affirms Sweden’s Uppsala University Professor of Physics and Astronomy, a co-author. The project is part of the University of Sharjah’s research quest to develop materials that can transmit electricity without energy loss, offering new insights into how pressure can transform the electrical properties of TiS3 nanoribbons.

# Plant-based alternatives healthy for your heart than meat



Eating plant-based meat alternatives may have profound benefits against cardiovascular disease risk factors, such as cholesterol levels and blood pressure. Their analysis shows that on average, the plant-based alternatives tend to have a more heart-healthy nutritional profile than meat, although the high sodium content of some products may be of concern.

However, these alternatives do not raise blood pressure, but instead improve some cardiovascular risk factors, including cholesterol levels, in several randomised controlled trials.

“There is currently a lack of long-term research evaluating how these alternatives may affect the risk of developing a heart attack or stroke,” the researchers said. “For those looking to reduce their meat intake, especially if it’s red meat, replacing that with plant-based alternatives is likely a heart-healthy choice,” said Ehud Ur, Professor, from the varsity. “For those who already limit their meat intake, the alternatives can be incorporated into a healthy dietary pattern as an excellent protein source; however, it may be beneficial to choose options that are lower in saturated fat and sodium if consuming them regularly,” Ur said.

plant-based meat alternatives, their contents, nutritional profiles, and their impact on cardiovascular disease risk factors, such as cholesterol levels and blood pressure. Their analysis shows that on average, the plant-based alternatives tend to have a more heart-healthy nutritional profile than meat, although the high sodium content of some products may be of concern.

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# After US, Mexico approves tariffs of up to 50 pc on goods from India

Washington: Mexico's Congress has approved a bill that seeks to impose higher tariffs on imports from India, China, Brazil and several other countries with which the North American nation doesn't have free trade agreements. The levies, which is set to take effect on January 1, 2026, was passed by Mexico's Senate on Wednesday after the lower house approved it. The development comes months after US President Donald Trump imposed steep 50 per cent tariffs on Indian goods entering American markets, including 25 per cent for Delhi's purchases of Russian oil, in August. The bill, submitted to Congress by President Claudia Sheinbaum in September, proposes modifications to 1,463 tariff categories (or products) covering more than a dozen sectors, including auto parts, light vehicles, plastic, toys, textiles, furniture, footwear, clothing, aluminium and glass, according to the Mexico News Daily. The proposed tariffs range from 5 per cent to 50 per cent. Among the other countries



that will be affected by the proposed higher tariffs are India, China, South Korea, Thailand, Indonesia, Brazil, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates, the daily said. China will be the most affected country. The paper said that the government believes that the proposed tariffs would generate additional revenue of USD 3.8 billion per year. The Mexican government is aiming to reduce reliance on imports from Asian countries, especially China, it added. The proposal to increase tariffs on China and other countries with

which Mexico doesn't have free trade agreements represents "an alignment with US trade policy," Horacio Saavedra, a Mexican diplomat, was quoted as saying by the news outlet La Silla Rota. "The [tariff] measure responds to the shared concern of Mexico and the US about practices that have affected national industries, especially textiles, clothing and certain manufacturing sectors," Saavedra said. India was Mexico's 9th largest trading partner in 2023, with a trade of USD 10.58 billion. The bilateral trade in 2023 con-

sisted of Indian imports of USD 2.54 billion and exports of USD 8.03 billion to Mexico. In the trade basket from the Indian side, the most important items of export are automobiles and auto parts, pharmaceuticals, engineering goods and chemical products. From the Mexican side, the most important item is crude oil. Other products of export to India are gold and related jewellery, chemical compounds and telephone machinery. India shipped goods worth \$5.3 billion to Mexico in the last fiscal year, of which cars made up

close to \$1 billion, according to the letter and commercially available customs data. Skoda Auto accounts for nearly 50 per cent of India's total car shipments to Mexico. Hyundai shipped cars worth \$200 million, Nissan's exports stood at \$140 million, and Suzuki's at \$120 million, the data showed. In meetings with government officials last month, carmakers said the majority of shipments from India to Mexico are compact cars with an engine size of less than one litre, which are designed for the Mexican market and not for further export to the U.S., one of the sources said. "Indian-origin vehicles are not a threat to Mexican local industry, as Indian vehicles do not cater to high-end segments manufactured by Mexico for serving the North American market," the industry group said in its letter. Car makers also told Indian officials that of the 1.5 million passenger vehicles sold in Mexico each year, about two-thirds are imported, and India's shipments make up "just about 6.7 per cent" of the total sales.

## Croma Launches First Store in Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh

**Vizianagaram , December 13, 2025:** Croma, India's trusted omni-channel electronics retailer from the Tata Group, has strengthened its footprint in Andhra Pradesh with the launch of its first store in Vizianagaram. The new Vizianagaram - Krishnarajapuram outlet also marks Croma's 19th store in the state, reinforcing the brand's commitment to serving customers across key markets in South India. Strategically located at Plot No. 110 & 111, 100 Feet Ring Road, Ice Factory Area, Krishnarajapuram, Vizianagaram - 535002, the store spans 8,559 sq. ft. and is designed as an immersive experience centre. Customers can explore the latest electronics, enjoy hands-on product demos, and seek expert guidance to make informed choices across categories such as smartphones, laptops, televisions, home appliances, and more. Exclusive Launch Offers: Celebrate the launch with exciting deals on select smartphones, LED 32inch and 40inch TV, Laptops, Refrigerators and Front Load Washing Machines: · Dec 12 - Dec 26: 5% off up to ?1,200 · Dec 27 - Jan 11: 4% off up to ?800 "Vizianagaram is a fast-growing market, and we are



excited to open our first store in the city. Croma is committed in offering customers access to the latest electronics and home appliances under one roof. This store reflects our ongoing effort to reach new regions and bring world-class electronics closer to consumers." said a spokesperson

on of Infiniti Retail Ltd. The store will be open daily from 11:00 AM to 9:00 PM. For more information on products, services, and ongoing offers, please visit the new Croma store in Vizianagaram, or log on to www.croma.com. \*Offers valid on select brands, categories, and models only. Terms and conditions apply.

## Rupee slumps 9 paise to close at all-time low of 90.41 against US dollar

Mumbai: The rupee depreciated by 9 paise to close at an all-time low of 90.41 against the US dollar on Friday, as uncertainty over the India-US trade deal and persistent foreign fund outflows dented investor sentiment. Forex traders said the rupee is under pressure, largely due to aggressive dollar purchases by importers amid surging global precious metal prices. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 90.43 against the US dollar, then fell further to a record intraday low of 90.56 against the greenback, registering a fall of 24 paise from its previous close. The unit settled the day at 90.41 against the US dollar, down 9 paise over its last close. On Thursday, the rupee had plunged 38 paise to close at an all-time low of 90.32 against the US dollar. The rupee is expected to trade with a negative bias as the delay in the trade deal between India and the US may weigh on the domestic unit. India and the US on Thursday concluded two days of talks, during which



both sides exchanged views on trade-related issues, including the ongoing negotiations for a mutually beneficial bilateral trade agreement. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump on Thursday discussed ways to sustain momentum in the bilateral economic partnership in a phone conversation amid signs of the two sides inching closer to firming up a much-awaited trade deal. "We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias amid uncertainty over the Indo-US trade deal. However, improved global sentiments and falling crude oil prices may support the rupee. A weak dollar and

any intervention by the central bank may also support the rupee at lower levels," said Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, MiraeAsset ShareKhan. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.07 per cent higher at 98.41. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 0.02 per cent higher at USD 61.27 per barrel in futures trade. On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share benchmark index Sensex jumped 449.53 points to settle at 85,267.66, while the Nifty surged 148.40 points to 26,046.95. Foreign Institutional Investors sold

equities worth Rs 2,020.94 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data. India and the U.S. on Thursday (December 11) concluded two days of talks, during which both sides exchanged views on trade-related issues, including the ongoing negotiations for a mutually beneficial bilateral trade agreement. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday (December 11) discussed ways to sustain momentum in the bilateral economic partnership in a phone conversation amid signs of the two sides inching closer to firming up a much-awaited trade deal. "We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias amid uncertainty over the India-U.S. trade deal. However, improved global sentiments and falling crude oil prices may support the rupee. A weak dollar and any intervention by the central bank may also support the rupee at lower levels," said Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, MiraeAsset ShareKhan.

## Meta India appoints Aman Jain as new public policy head

New Delhi: Meta India on Friday named Aman Jain as the new head of public policy, tasking him with steering policy strategy and engagements in a market the US-headquartered social media giant considers strategic. Jain will also be a member of the India leadership team. He will join the company early next year and will report to Simon Milner, Vice President of Policy, Asia Pacific (APAC) at Meta, the company said in a release. "Aman brings over 20 years of public policy and business strategy experience, with a proven track record at Amazon, Google, the Government of India, and international organisations," Meta said announcing the appointment. Jain has held senior roles at Google India, including country head for government affairs and public policy. Most recently, he served as Director of Public Policy at Amazon, leading policy strategy across marketplace, operations, competition, and technology. India is a strate-



gic market for Meta, the parent company for popular apps, including Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, and Messenger. As the country's digital economy accelerates across areas such as AI, emerging tech and the creator economy, Meta aims to help build a more inclusive, trusted, and future-ready internet ecosystem for India, Milner said. Jain's extensive experience in public policy and technology, will help Meta be an even more effective partner to regulators and industry stakeholders in developing an enabling

policy environment, Milner said, adding that he will also be a strong addition to Meta's APAC Policy leadership team. Jain's appointment comes amid recent leadership changes at Meta India. Earlier this year, Shivnath Thukral stepped down as Vice President of Public Policy at Meta India and joined PhonePe as Vice President for Public Policy and Government Affairs. Mid this year, Meta named Arun Srinivas as the new Managing Director and Head for its India operations, effective July 1, 2025.

The appointment came after Sandhya Devanathan, previously leading India, was given an expanded role overseeing both India and Southeast Asia. India is a high-stakes market for global technology and social media giants and the government has been moving swiftly to tackle issues related to AI governance, content moderation, and misinformation, while mooted new guardrails and frameworks suited to the digital era. Earlier this year, Centre proposed changes to IT rules, mandating the clear labelling of AI-generated content and increasing the accountability of large platforms like Meta and YouTube for verifying and flagging synthetic information to curb user harm from deepfakes and misinformation. This month, a committee set up by the DPIIT has proposed giving a mandatory blanket licence to artificial intelligence developers for using all legally accessed copyright-protected works to train AI systems.

## AWS to invest USD 7 billion for data center expansion in Telangana

**Hyderabad:** The Telangana government and Amazon Web Services (AWS) have signed an agreement under which the latter will invest USD 7 billion for a massive expansion of cloud data center infrastructure over the next 14 years. As part of the agreement signed during the Telangana Rising Global Summit held on December 8 and 9, the state government will extend a comprehensive set of facilitation measures, infrastructure support, and ease-of-doing-business interventions to enable AWS to rapidly scale its data center footprint here, an official release said on Thursday. "With the newly announced USD 7 Billion expansion over the next 14 years, the Hyderabad AWS Region will play a central role in powering cloud services, AI, startups, enterprises, and government platforms across India," it said. Hailing



the investment, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said, "We are delighted by the extraordinary confidence shown by global leaders like Amazon in Telangana. The scale of this commitment reflects the trust investors now place in our governance, stability, and long-term vision to propel Telangana to the 3 trillion dollar goal. This is Telangana Rising 2047 in action." Sandeep Dutta, President of AWS India and South Asia

said, "This framework agreement represents our continued commitment to supporting India's digital transformation and fostering innovation across the region. "We look forward to contributing to Telangana's vision of becoming a global technology hub by creating more employment opportunities, supporting local businesses and enabling a skilled workforce that will drive India's digital economy forward," he said.

## SAMSUNG UNVEILS NEW INNOVATION VISION AS IT CELEBRATES 30 YEARS IN INDIA

**GURUGRAM, India** – December 13, 2025 – Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, today unveiled a renewed strategic vision — #PoweringInnovationForIndia — that places people-centric innovation, Indian talent, and India-led product development at the heart of its next phase of growth in the country. Marking 30 years of operations in India, Samsung's new vision reinforces its commitment as a long-standing partner in India's digital transformation, Make-in-India manufacturing ambitions, and innovation-driven economic growth. Since entering India in 1995, Samsung has expanded from introducing televisions that redefined home entertainment to establishing one of the world's largest mobile manufacturing facilities in Noida, driving India-built innovations that now power its global ecosystem. With revenue of INR 1.11 lakh crore, Samsung is the only brand in India with a truly end-to-end AI ecosystem, bringing Galaxy AI (smart-

phones, tablets, wearables), Bespoke AI (refrigerators, washing machines, and A/Cs), and Vision AI (televisions and smart monitors) together through SmartThings. "From selling our first TV in India in 1995, when liberalisation was unlocking new possibilities to becoming the most trusted technology partner for Bharat today, Samsung's journey has been shaped by India's confidence, creativity, and limitless ambition. As the most loved and widely adopted brand inside Indian homes — through our smartphones, TVs, digital appliances, and a seamlessly-connected ecosystem — we are proud to make lives better every day for millions of Indian families. Young Indians expect technology to be secure, intuitive, and always evolving, and we are committed to delivering personalised innovations for them. We believe the next era of meaningful global innovation will be led by India — where the future of smart homes, connected living, and intelligent devices is rapidly



taking shape with AI that understands India's cultural diversity. We will continue to work closely with the Government of India for a Viksit Bharat, creating a digitally empowered nation where innovation fuels inclusive progress and co-prosperity. Our vision is clear: to build advanced technologies here that will shape how the world lives, works, and connects tomorrow," said JB Park, President & CEO, Samsung Southwest Asia.

**Powered by India: Innovation Begins with People** For 30 years, Samsung has believed in one simple philosophy: India powers innovation. Today, its two plants in Chennai and Noida, three R&D centres in Delhi, Noida, and Bengaluru, and a state-of-the-art design centre in Delhi NCR are shaping Samsung's next era of people-centric technology — with India at the heart of its global roadmap. Samsung Design Delhi is building experiences that feel uniquely Indian. These are innovations that understand the country's culture and creativity. Breakthroughs born here — from Kids TV, which creates safe and meaningful learning for digital-native children, to vibrant CMF designs for Galaxy M and F Series — reflect Samsung's belief that design must begin with people. Similarly, across its R&D ecosystem, Samsung teams are leading advancements in AI, accessibility, streaming, and digital displays along with

pushing the boundaries of language intelligence and next-generation networks. As one of India's leading private sector patent filers, with over 14,000 patents, Samsung is also showcasing India's role as an innovation powerhouse. **Investing in India's Future Innovators** Samsung's vision of #PoweringInnovationForIndia goes beyond just products, as the company is expanding its university collaborations and open innovation initiatives with Indian startups — ensuring that more ideas born in India scale globally. Similarly, through initiatives such as Samsung Solve for Tomorrow, Samsung Innovation Campus, and Samsung DOST, Samsung is nurturing India's next-generation workforce, aligned with the requirements of Industry 4.0. Samsung is providing students across the country access to grants, incubation support, skills in AI, IoT, digital technologies, and employment opportunities.



# Cambodia shuts border crossings with Thailand as fighting continues

=Cambodia has shut its border crossings with Thailand, as fighting continues between the two forces on Saturday despite US President Donald Trump earlier saying they had agreed to a ceasefire. The crossings will be closed until further notice, according to Cambodia's interior ministry. Earlier, Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said he told Trump a ceasefire would only be possible after Cambodia had withdrawn all its forces and removed landmines. Thai officials said four soldiers were killed on Saturday, as both sides reported continued bombing and artillery exchanges. Cambodia has not been updating its military casualty figure. Cambodia's defence ministry said that Thai fighter jets bombed hotel buildings



and a bridge, while Thailand reported several civilians were injured in a Cambodian rocket attack. The four deaths on Saturday bring Thailand's total military death toll since Monday to 15, with 270 others injured. It added that six civilians had also been injured. On Friday,

Cambodia said at least 11 civilians had been killed and 59 others injured. At least 700,000 people have been evacuated on both sides of the border. Trump had claimed earlier in the week that he could stop the fighting between Thai and Cambodian forces that broke out on Monday just

by picking up the phone. After speaking to both prime ministers on Friday night he wrote on social media that the two countries had agreed to "cease shooting effective this evening" and go back to the agreement they signed in front of the US president in October. "Both countries

are ready for peace," he wrote. But in their comments after speaking to the US president, neither side mentioned an imminent ceasefire. Anutin said he told Trump that Thailand was not the aggressor, and that Cambodia must show that it had withdrawn its forces and removed landmines from the border before a ceasefire was possible. "They must show us first," he said. The Cambodian leadership said they must fight on to protect their country's sovereignty. There was no mention of the use of tariffs as leverage to force the two sides to disengage, as happened in July. Thailand has warned the US not to link the conflict to trade. On Saturday Cambodia reported that it had been struck by more Thai air strikes. "On

December 13, 2025, the Thai military used two F-16 fighter jets to drop seven bombs" on a number of targets, the Cambodian defence ministry said in an X post. "Thai military aircraft have not stopped bombing yet," it said. The Thai military also confirmed that fighting continued. The long-standing border dispute escalated on 24 July, as Cambodia launched a barrage of rockets into Thailand, which responded with air strikes. Both countries have accused each other of initiating the attacks. After days of intense fighting which left dozens dead, the neighbouring South East Asian countries agreed to an "immediate and unconditional ceasefire" brokered by Trump and Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim.

## Ukraine's health supplies hit in series of Russian strikes on medical warehouses



Warehouses supplying the vast majority of Ukraine's pharmacies have been destroyed in a series of Russian attacks over recent months. Medical supplies worth about \$200m (£145m) were destroyed in just two strikes in December and October. A large warehouse storing medicines in the city of Dnipro was destroyed in a Russian air strike on 6 December. As a result, about \$110m worth of medicines were destroyed - estimated at up to 30% of Ukraine's monthly supply. "It was a

missile and drone strike against our facility. The missiles flew past, but the drones hit it," said Dmytro Babenko, acting director-general of pharmaceutical distributor BADM. "They caused a fire which unfortunately proved impossible to contain and the whole facility was destroyed." BADM is one of two companies that supply about 85% of Ukrainian pharmacies in roughly equal shares. The other company is Optima Pharm, whose warehouses have been hit three times this year.

## AN EYEBROW TIP and MCDONALD'S FOOTAGE: TAKEAWAYS from Luigi Mangione's evidence hearing



Luigi Mangione, the man accused of fatally shooting United Healthcare CEO Brian Thompson in a case that sparked national attention, watched as new testimony and never-before-seen footage from the day of his arrest in a McDonald's was unveiled during a hearing this week. Mr Mangione has pleaded not guilty to state charges related to the 2024 murder of Mr Thompson, a father of two, as well as federal counts that carry the possibility of the death penalty. The pre-trial hearing is focused on the defence's attempts to keep certain evidence out of the trial, which has not been scheduled yet, including items found in his backpack during his arrest and statements he made to officers. During the first two weeks of the hearing, supporters of Mr

Mangione - the scion of a prominent Maryland family and Ivy League graduate - filled the back rows of the Manhattan criminal courtroom, some wearing a pin portraying him as a saint-like figure. Prosecutors and Mr Mangione's legal team are expected to question over a dozen witnesses from the day of his arrest, including the employees who spotted him and the police who arrested him. Here is a look at some of the key pieces of evidence discussed that offer a window into Mr Mangione's trial. An eyebrow giveaway The pre-trial hearing has centred on the small-town McDonald's in Altoona, Pennsylvania, where officers were shocked to find the high-profile suspect days after Mr Thompson was fatally shot.

## Migrant Channel crossings resume after four-week gap



Migrants have been pictured arriving in Dover on Saturday after the longest period without any small boat crossings in seven years. Photos appeared to show dozens of migrants wearing life jackets being brought in to Dover, Kent, aboard a Border Force vessel. Before the weekend, no migrants had made the journey for four weeks, according to Home Office figures. The last recorded

arrivals before Saturday were on 14 November, marking the longest uninterrupted stretch since 2018. December is typically a quieter month for crossings due to adverse weather conditions, and this is thought to have contributed to the lull. Home Office figures on the number of migrants that arrived in the UK on small boats on Saturday will be published on Sunday.

## NEW PHOTOS FROM EPSTEIN ESTATE SHOW TRUMP, ANDREW AND BILL CLINTON

Democratic US lawmakers have released two new batches of photos from Jeffrey Epstein's estate, revealing details of the convicted paedophile's home and ties to the rich and powerful. US President Donald Trump, former prince Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor and former Trump adviser Steve Bannon are among the high-profile figures featured in the photos. The images, many of which have been seen before, do not imply wrongdoing. The nearly 100 photos released by members of the House Oversight Committee on Friday are some of more than 95,000 images obtained via subpoena, the Democrats said. The justice department is separately approaching a deadline next week to publish all Epstein-related documents. In the first batch of



photos released on Friday by lawmakers, Epstein is seen with multiple high-profile figures, none of whom have yet commented. Many of them have previously denied any wrongdoing in relation to Epstein. Trump appeared in three of the images released on Friday. One image showed him standing next to a woman whose face has been redacted. Another showed Trump standing next

to Epstein while talking to model Ingrid Seynhaeve at a 1997 Victoria's Secret party in New York - an image that was already publicly available. A third photo showed Trump smiling with several women, whose faces have also been redacted, flanked on either side of him. An additional photo showed an illustrated likeness of the president on red packets next to a sign that reads: "Trump Condom". The White House called the release a "Democrat hoax" against Trump that has been "repeatedly debunked". Trump had for months argued the Epstein saga was a distraction orchestrated by his critics to take attention away from his administration's accomplishments. Friday's files also include private images of Epstein, including one of him in a bathtub and another that appears to show sexual toys. They also show him with several other prominent people including former President Bill Clinton and tech billionaire Bill Gates. One photo featuring Clinton shows him standing next to Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell, who was convicted in 2021 for her role in facilitating the disgraced financier's abuse.

## Trump's 'historic' peace deal for DR Congo shattered after rebels seize key city



The US ambassador to the UN has accused Rwanda of leading Africa's Great Lakes region toward war, just over a week after a peace deal was signed in Washington to end the decades-long conflict. US President Donald Trump Trump hailed the deal between DR Congo's President Félix Tshisekedi and Rwanda's President Paul Kagame as "historic" and "a great day for Africa, great day for the world". But the M23 rebel group says it has "fully liberated" the key city of Uvira in an offensive the US and European powers say is backed by Rwanda. UN experts have previously

accused it of having "de facto control" of the rebel force's operations. Rwanda denies the allegations, however, its presence in Washington was a tacit acknowledgment of its influence over the M23. The rebels were not signatories to Trump's deal - and have been taking part in a

parallel peace process led by Qatar, a US ally. The latest fighting risks further escalating an already deeply complex conflict. Why did the M23 seize Uvira now? Prof Jason Stearns, a Canada-based political scientist who specialises in the region, told the BBC that the view in

M23 circles was that "they need more leverage in the negotiations", while the feeling in the Rwandan government is that Tshisekedi cannot be trusted. He added that the assault on Uvira, in South Kivu province, "flies in the face of all the negotiations that are under way". "It appears to humiliate the US government. I'm not sure what strategic purpose that would serve," Prof Stearns told the BBC. The M23's new offensive in South Kivu started a few days before Kagame and Tshisekedi flew to Washington last week to ratify the agreement first hammered out in June.

## Nobel laureate Narges Mohammadi arrested in Iran, supporters say



Iranian security forces have "violently arrested" Nobel Peace Prize winner and women's rights activist Narges Mohammadi, her foundation has said. The Narges Foundation said Ms Mohammadi, 53, was detained in the eastern city of Mashhad, along with other activists. The Nobel Committee said it was "deeply concerned by today's brutal arrest of Narges Mohammadi" and called on the authorities "to immediately clarify Mohammadi's whereabouts, ensure her safety and integrity, and to release her without conditions". Iran does not appear to have commented. Ms Mohammadi was awarded the 2023 Nobel Peace Prize for her activism against female oppression in Iran and promoting human rights. In December 2024, she was given a temporary release from jail for three weeks on medical grounds, after being held in Tehran's notorious Evin prison since 2021. She was expected to

return to prison soon after, where she was serving multiple sentences. Her latest arrest reportedly came as she attended a memorial ceremony for Khosrow Alikordi, a lawyer found dead in his office last week. Norway-based group Iran Human Rights had called for an independent inquiry to establish how he died, saying the circumstances around his death were "suspicious". Several other activists were detained at the ceremony, where it's reported they shouted slogans, including "death to the dictator" and "long live Iran". Taghi Rahmani, Ms Mohammadi's husband, told BBC Persian: "They arrested Narges violently. The brother of the lawyer witnessed her arrest at the memorial. "This act is against human rights laws, and amounts to some kind of revenge. "This happened in Mashhad today and is concerning because the establishment's crack-down has intensified recently."

## ONE MILLION HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT POWER IN UKRAINE AFTER RUSSIA ATTACKS ENERGY GRID

More than a million households are without electricity in Ukraine after a barrage of overnight Russian strikes hit energy and industrial infrastructure, officials said. Ukraine's internal affairs minister, Ihor Klymenko, said five regions were hit and at least five people were injured, and work was under way to extinguish fires and restore supplies. While Russian attacks on Ukrainian energy infrastructure have been common throughout the war, Moscow has intensified strikes as the country heads into winter. It comes as US President Donald Trump's overseas envoy will travel to Germany this weekend to meet Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and European leaders for more

talks on ending the war. Steve Witkoff, who has been leading White House attempts to mediate between Ukraine and Russia, will discuss the latest version of the proposed peace agreement in Berlin. On Saturday, Zelensky said more than 450 drones and 30 missiles were used by Russia in overnight strikes. Klymenko said the Dnipropetrovsk, Kirovohrad, Mykolaiv, Odesa and Chernihiv regions were hit. Russia's defence ministry said it used weapons including Kinzhal hypersonic missiles in the strikes - which are hard to track as they can change direction mid-flight. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant temporarily lost all offsite power



overnight "due to widespread military activities affecting the electrical grid", but is now reconnected. The plant is in Russian-controlled territory in Ukraine. It is not operating, but relies on a constant power supply to cool its reactors. In Russia, regional governor Roman Busargin said two people were killed in Saratov

after a drone strike hit a residential building. The Trump administration is pushing for a deal to end the war to be in place by Christmas and has held several rounds of talks with Ukrainian and Russian representatives in recent weeks, though there has been little sign a breakthrough is imminent. It has not yet been

confirmed which European leaders will attend the Berlin talks. The Wall Street Journal, which first reported details of the meeting, said UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer, French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz would all take part. The Witkoff-Zelensky meeting comes after Ukraine gave the US its revised version of a 20-point peace plan, the latest iteration of a proposal which first emerged in late November and has triggered a flurry of diplomatic activity. The fate of territory in eastern Ukraine remains one of the most intractable topics in the negotiations, with Kyiv refusing to cede land which has been illegally occupied, and Moscow repeating its inten-

tion to take the Donbas region in full by force unless Ukraine withdraws. Zelensky has reacted sceptically to the White House's latest proposal on resolving the territorial question, which is for Ukraine's army to pull out of the region and for it to be turned into a "special economic zone". The Ukrainian president told reporters that under the US-proposed terms, the Kremlin would undertake not to advance into the areas vacated by Ukraine's forces, with the land between Russian-controlled parts of the Donbas and Ukraine's defensive lines effectively turned into a demilitarised zone. "What will restrain [Russia] from advancing? Or from infiltrating disguised as civilians?" said Zelensky.



# Decoding The Utter Chaos In Kolkata On GOAT Tour That Led To Embarrassment

Lionel Messi's visit to Kolkata ended in embarrassment, as the 'G.O.A.T. Tour of India 2025' got off to a disastrous start on Saturday morning. Fans were left terribly upset as Lionel Messi himself was barely visible from the stands at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata, having been surrounded by what seemed like hundreds of politicians and dignitaries. As fans began to show their disapproval, Messi was whisked away from the stadium after just 20 minutes. Images from the event have gone viral on social media, in which Messi is almost impossible to be seen from certain areas of the stadium. Within minutes of Messi's arrival at Kolkata's gigantic Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (VYBK) Stadium, the 38-year-old was surrounded by several officials and dignitaries who attempted to grab a moment with the football icon. That, in turn, ended up disrupting the view of the thousands of spectators who



had flocked to catch a glimpse of their favourite footballer. Many of these fans had paid well in excess of INR 5,000 to attend the event, and were left frustrated after being unable to witness him. Indeed, several videos and photographs have been cir-

culated on social media, where Messi (and his Inter Miami teammates Luis Suarez and Rodrigo de Paul) can barely be spotted amidst the crowd around him. What was supposed to be a two-hour-long event - during which Messi would've inter-

acted with superstar actor Shah Rukh Khan, cricket legend Sourav Ganguly and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee - ended abruptly as Messi's security team guided him out of the arena after just 20 minutes. This led to further anger

from fans, whose dreams of witnessing their beloved football icon had been left unfulfilled despite the thousands they had paid for it. Several fans threw bottles and chairs from the stands in protest, damaging the barricades of the Salt Lake Stadium.

## Who Is Satadru Dutta? Main Organiser Of Lionel Messi Event Who Was Arrested After Kolkata Chaos

=Lionel Messi's Kolkata leg of the 'G.O.A.T. Tour of India 2025' turned into complete chaos on Saturday morning, as the Argentina football legend left the Salt Lake Stadium after just 20 minutes, leading to vandalism from unhappy fans who barely got a glimpse of him. Following the chaos, it was confirmed by Additional Director General Law and Order Jawed Shamim that Satadru Dutta, the main organiser of the Messi event, had been arrested. But who exactly is Satadru Dutta? Satadru Dutta is the main organiser and promoter of the event, and the man behind Messi's much-awaited arrival to India. Under all promotional banners and posters of Messi's 'G.O.A.T. Tour', it can be seen that they have been organised as part of 'A Satadru Dutta Initiative'. 'There's a great atmosphere of joy that Messi is coming to India after 14 years... It's also good for the fans, an opportunity to see Messi. Football's connection to India is growing again.



Never before have so many sponsors come to Indian football," Satadru Dutta had told reporters, ahead of Messi's arrival. In the past, Dutta has played a crucial role in bringing football icons Pele and Diego Maradona to India. In an interaction on Instagram, Dutta had also spoken about his desire to bring legendary Portuguese footballer Cristiano Ronaldo to India. However, on Saturday, Messi's highly-anticipated Kolkata visit turned into nightmare. Within minutes of arriving at the Salt Lake

Stadium in Kolkata, Messi was surrounded by a bevy of politicians, police officers, VIPs and their aides, forming a human blockade that ensured the paying public saw everything except Messi. Messi looked confused and bemused, gamely signing autographs for former players while attempting a slow circuit of the ground. The situation only worsened. Promoter Satadru Dutta, his voice choking, repeatedly pleaded over the public address system: "Please leave him alone.

## "Captain's Job Is Not Just To Toss And Manage The Bowlers": Suryakumar Yadav Reminded By Ex-India Star

India's T20I captain Suryakumar Yadav is facing the heat over his poor batting form in the format. It has been 20 innings since the right-handed batter smashed a T20I fifty. Since November last year, Suryakumar has scored only 227 runs at an average of 13.35. His poor string of performances continues during India's ongoing five-match home series against South Africa. Suryakumar scored 12 in the first game and only five in the following match. After his latest failure, former India batter Aakash Chopra has reminded the player about his role. "You are the team's captain, but a captain's job is not just to toss and manage the



bowlers. It's not just about making the strategy. If you bat in the top four, your primary role is to score runs," Chopra said on his YouTube channel. "It's been many matches. If you have an average of 14 in 17 innings and the strike rate is also not very good, you don't have a single fifty, and have crossed

25 just twice, it's been a problem on either side of the IPL," he added. The cricketer-turned-commentator clarified that he was not against Suryakumar captaining the Indian side, but added that the swashbuckling batter needs to have runs under his belt going into the T20 World Cup 2026. The mega event

will be taking place in February-March next year in India and Sri Lanka. "I am not saying there is any doubt over Suryakumar Yadav's captaincy, or that he won't be India's captain in the World Cup. I am not suggesting that at all, so don't ever misquote me, but the truth is that he needs to score runs," said Chopra. "If you are playing at No. 3 or No. 4 and are not scoring runs, and they aren't being scored consistently and over a long period of time, you won't be that confident when you start the World Cup. So, Suryakumar Yadav, the captain, and Shubman Gill, the vice-captain, scoring runs is absolutely imperative," he added.

## Smriti Mandhana Congratulates Harmanpreet Kaur After PCA Unveil Stand In Her Honour

India's vice captain Smriti Mandhana congratulated her teammate and skipper Harmanpreet Kaur after the Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) unveiled a stand in her honour at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium on Thursday. Two new stands were inaugurated at the venue on Thursday, with the other one being named after former India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh. The inauguration ceremony was led by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and PCA President Amarjit Mehta, with Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) President Mithun Manhas and Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria also in attendance. BCCI posted a video of



the same on their social media handles, and sharing the same on her Instagram story, Mandhana wrote, "Congratulations @imharmanpreet kaur!! What a day for women's cricket and so so proud of you!" In the video, Harmanpreet said, "After winning the World Cup, a lot of things have changed in my

life. But I think this is a special moment for me. The soil on which I started playing—today I will finally have a stand on my name. So I think it's a very proud moment for me and I really want to thank the Punjab Cricket Association for that. All the hard work, all the struggle, has paid off today. So I think

it is a very emotional moment for me. But also, whoever is going to watch this video, whoever is listening, I think it is going to be very motivational for all of them." Last month, Harmanpreet made history by leading the Indian team to their first senior ICC women's cricket trophy as the Women in Blue beat South Africa by 52 runs at the D.Y. Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai to lift the coveted silverware. She became only the third female Indian cricketer to have a stand named after her. Previously, legends of the game Jhulan Goswami (Eden Gardens, Kolkata) and Mithali Raj (ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium, Visakhapatnam) were bestowed with this honour.

## 'Noosa, Noosa, Noosa' - England's Ashes break ends



England have left their Ashes break in Noosa and will resume training on Sunday before the crucial third Test in Adelaide. The tourists, who must win at the Adelaide Oval to keep their hopes of regaining the urn alive, flew from Brisbane on Saturday. England spent four nights in the beach town of Noosa, a trip that was planned well ahead of the series and not altered despite defeats in the opening two Tests. Captain Ben Stokes' men attracted plenty of attention during their time on the Sunshine Coast. They were pictured in bars, playing golf and on the beach. The England squad were happy to interact with locals and media alike - Stokes even posed with two radio presenters dressed in full whites carrying signs that read: "For sale - moral victories" and "Bazballers anonymous - free counselling". Australian newspapers have paid close attention

to England's downtime. The Brisbane Courier Mail claimed England are "not even trying anymore", the Advertiser from Adelaide labelled the tourists "rub a dub duds" and Sydney's Daily Telegraph carried the headline "Surfed and Turfed". Former Australia fast bowler Jason Gillespie told ABC radio: "The tourism commission will be licking their lips. It's been Noosa, Noosa, Noosa. "There's been a lot of criticism about the England team having a break. I don't have a problem with it. I think it's absolutely fair and reasonable." England's decision to take the break in Noosa has continued the debate around their preparation and training on the tour of Australia. Billed as a huge opportunity for England to earn a rare win down under and the most anticipated Ashes for a generation, this series is at risk of being over at the earliest opportunity.

## ICC, JioStar Break Silence On Indian Media Rights Deal Collapse Reports

The International Cricket Council (ICC) and JioStar have denied reports of a split after media reports claimed that their four-year India media-rights agreement could come to an abrupt end. A report in The Economic Times claimed that JioStar - controlled by Reliance Industries formally informed the ICC that it cannot fulfil the remaining two years of their media rights contract. This would have meant that JioStar would withdraw as the official broadcaster for the ICC T20 World Cup 2026, scheduled to be held in India and Sri Lanka, and the subsequent commitments in the current contract. "The International Cricket Council (ICC) and JioStar have noted recent media reports concerning the status of the ICC's



media rights agreement in India. These reports do not reflect the position of either organisation. The existing agreement between the ICC and JioStar remains fully in force, and JioStar continues as the ICC's official media rights partner in India. Any suggestion that JioStar has withdrawn from the agree-

ment is incorrect," the joint statement read. ICC and JioStar, in a joint statement, confirmed that their \$3 billion deal remains fully in force, and that they are fully committed to "delivering uninterrupted, world-class coverage" to cricket fans in India. "JioStar is fully committed to honour its contractual obliga-

tions in letter and spirit. Both organisations remain focused on delivering uninterrupted, world-class coverage of upcoming ICC events to fans across India, including the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, one of the sport's most anticipated global tournaments. Preparations for these events are progressing exactly as planned, and there is no impact on viewers, advertisers, or industry partners. ICC and JioStar, as long-term commercial partners, maintain regular communication on operational, commercial and strategic matters focused on the role the partnership can play in growing the sport," he added. As per media reports, JioStar's sudden exit was believed to be the heavy financial losses the platform has been incurring.

## Vaibhav Suryavanshi Reacts To Surpassing Virat Kohli As 'Most Searched Indian' In 2025

India's batting prodigy Vaibhav Suryavanshi has reacted to becoming the most-searched Indian personality on Google in 2025. The 14-year-old on Friday continued his rich vein of form in 2025, slamming a record-breaking 171 off just 95 balls, shattering the mark for the highest score by an Indian in the U19 Asia Cup. He achieved the feat during India's Group A opener against the United Arab Emirates (UAE) at the ICC Academy Ground in Dubai. After the match, Suryavanshi was asked about his growing popularity as the broadcaster reminded him that he was the most searched Indian in 2025, even surpassing Virat Kohli. "When we conduct research



about you, you may not be aware of this. According to Google, you are the most searched person in India overall over the last year, even surpassing Virat Kohli. You are in the sixth spot in terms of being the most searched personality in the world. Our job

is to build you up; our job is to do research about you. But it is not your job; your job is to keep the focus. Amidst all this hype, how do you stay grounded?" the broadcaster asked. The 14-year-old from Samastipur, Bihar, admitted that while these things do give

him happiness and joy, his focus remains on improving his game. "I don't pay attention to these things. I keep the focus on my game. Yes, I do hear about these developments, and it does feel nice. I look at it, feel good about it and then move forward. That's about it," replied Suryavanshi. Suryavanshi's record-breaking knock is now the second-highest score by an Indian in youth ODIs, behind Ambati Rayudu's unbeaten 177 against England in 2002 and the ninth-highest score by a batter in a men's U19 ODI. Suryavanshi's knock was laced with nine fours and 14 sixes - the most by any batter in a single innings in the U19 level.

## Watt has surgery on collapsed lung



Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker TJ Watt has had surgery to repair a partially collapsed lung sustained during dry needle treatment. Watt, the 2021 NFL Defensive Player of the Year, made six tackles in Pittsburgh's victory over Baltimore Ravens last Sunday. But the 31-year-old was taken to hospital for a lung evaluation after feeling discomfort on Wednesday. Dry needling is a treatment for pain and movement issues involving the insertion of tiny needles into the body. The Steelers made no reference to dry needling in an update on Friday but that element was revealed in a post on X, external by his older brother JJ. "Yesterday TJ had suc-

cessful surgery to stabilize and repair a partially collapsed lung suffered Wednesday after a dry needling treatment session at the facility," said JJ Watt, who is a minority investor in Premier League side Burnley. "Recovery timeline is still TBD [to be determined], but all went well and he is being released from the hospital today. He and his family are very appreciative of everyone's kind words and well wishes." Steelers coach Mike Tomlin said TJ Watt, who signed a three-year contract extension in July, will miss Monday's game against Miami and is at "home and resting comfortably" but does not know when he will be back.



# “Dhandoraa Is an Emotion and One of the Best Scripts I’ve Heard This Year; the Whole Country Will Talk About It,” Says Shivaji at the Title Song Release Event

The makers of Dhandoraa unveiled the title song of the film at a media interaction attended by the cast, crew, distributors, and members of the press. Presented by Smt. Muppaneni Srilakshmi under the banner of Loukya Entertainments, the film is produced by Ravindra Benarjee Muppaneni and directed by Muralikant. Dhandoraa stars Shivaji, Navadeep, Nandu, and Bindu Madhavi in the lead roles. The film is set for a December 25, 2025 theatrical release, with early overseas premieres beginning December 23, 2025. Opening the event, Editor Srujana Adusumilli thanked the media and everyone who graced the occasion. She said that while the title song itself is effective, the film is even more impactful than the song, and requested audiences to wait for December 25 and watch the film in the theatres. Music Director Mark K. Robin thanked everyone for attending and shared that the title song was the very first composition he worked on after listening to director Muralikant's narration. He said the narration was extremely strong and that its



impact directly translated into the song. He added that the film features a strong ensemble of actors and said it was an honour to be part of such a project. Director Muralikant thanked Mark K. Robin for delivering what he described as a “kick-ass song and a kick-ass album.” He revealed that the title song was composed immediately after the first narration and that the moment they heard it, they knew it was the right one. He added that the entire album has come out equally

strong and mentioned that one more song from the film is yet to be released. He requested audiences to support the film in theatres if they liked the teaser, songs, and content released so far, and said the team would love to hear audience feedback. Producer Ravindra Benarjee Muppaneni said he hoped everyone liked the title song and stated that the intent of the song is the intent of the film itself. He spoke about the many questions faced during the making of the movie and

said that the confidence that audiences would support good cinema is what kept the team moving forward. He added that after the film was completed, Mythri Movie Makers' Shashidhar Reddy, Prime Show Entertainment's Niranjan Reddy, and Atharvana Bhadrakali Pictures immediately came on board after watching the film, giving the team confidence that Dhandoraa had landed in safe hands for both domestic and international release. He also mentioned

that the team is attempting early premieres in India along with the overseas premieres. Actress Manika Chikkala thanked everyone for attending and said the film is ten times more impactful than the title song. She shared that she watched the song for the first time along with the audience at the event and felt deeply moved. Praising Mark K. Robin, she said he had “killed it” with the composition and added that she was extremely proud to be part of Dhandoraa. Actor Ravi Krishna thanked the media for being supportive and helping the film reach a wider audience. He said Dhandoraa would be one of the most remarkable films of the year and noted that the buzz around the film has grown organically because of its content. Describing the title song as a “killer” track, he praised Mark K. Robin and expressed confidence that after the trailer release, audiences would automatically start looking forward to December 25. Actor Nandu congratulated Mark K. Robin, stating that while the composer has delivered notable work earlier, this song truly announces his arrival.

# 'Bad Girlz' to hit the cinemas on December 25th



Anchal Gowda, Payal Chengappa, Roshini, Yashna, Rohan Surya, and Moin are the main actors in 'Bad Girlz'. The tagline for the film, 'Kani Chala Manchodlu', contradicts with the title in an interesting way. Sasidhar Nalla, Emmadi Soma Narsaiah, Ramiseti Rambabu, and Ravula Ramesh are producing this film. This Entertainer film is set to release on December 25th.

Director Phani Pradeep Dhulipudi has described his movie as a complete entertainer that explores what it would be like if female characters headlined a Jathi Ratnalu or a MAD. "We are very happy with how the film has shaped up. It's for everyone to like. You are in for a thorough entertainer," the director said. He added that the talented Anup Rubens has provided excellent music, and that the Oscar-

winner Chandra Bose penned the lyrics for all the songs. "The songs have come out very well. The song 'Ila Chusukuntane', which was recently released, received a good response and got 6 Million views. The recent release Bad Girlz Anthem song is getting a good response in Social Media. We will be releasing the remaining songs soon. Please watch our movie in theatres on December 25th."

## I will marry Ayaan', confesses Farrhana Bhatt



Mumbai: Bigg Boss 19 may be over, but the spotlight on its contestants continues to shine bright. One of the most talked-about names this season has been Farrhana Bhatt. While she narrowly missed lifting the trophy, Farrhana won millions of hearts with her fierce gameplay and strong presence, eventually walking away as the runner-up. Ever since stepping out of the Bigg Boss 19 house, Farrhana has been busy with back-to-back interviews, many of which are now going viral for her candid and fun statements. In one such recent media interaction, the actress surprised everyone when she jokingly said that she would “marry” Ayaan Lal, the son of her former co-contestant Kunickaa Sadanand.



## UNIQUE DARK COMEDY THRILLER GURRAM PAAPIREDDY TRAILER OUT NOW; GRAND THEATRICAL RELEASE WORLDWIDE ON DECEMBER 19TH

Starring Naresh Agastya Sand Faria Abdullah, "Gurram Paapireddy" is presented by Dr. Sandhya Goli and produced by Venu Saddi, Amar Bura, and Jayakanth (Bobby). Director Murali Manohar brings a fresh concept with a dark comedy story that is unlike anything audiences have seen on screen so far. The teaser, songs, and character looks released from the film have already received a huge response. Today, the makers have released the official trailer of "Gurram Paapireddy." The trailer introduces Judge G. Vaidyanathan played by Brahmanandam, an expert in dealing with foolish people. He is approached with an unusual case. Meanwhile, four friends - Gurram Paapireddy played Naresh Agastya, Saudamini played by

Faria Abdullah, Military played by Rajkumar Kasireddy, and Chilipi played by Vamshidhar Kosgi head to the Srisaillam forest to steal a buried dead body for their con. Along the way, they encounter rival grave robbers, leading to a series of hilarious conflicts. The trailer raises curiosity with intriguing elements: whose body is buried in Srisaillam, why multiple gangs are after it, how the Yogi Babu character turns the story, and the link between Kalinga Pothuraju (who lived from 1927 to 1987) and Sri Markandeya Raju. The trailer impressed with a perfect team behind the project, featuring a strong cast including Brahmanandam, Yogi Babu, John Vijay, Motta Rajendran, Jeevan Kumar, and Prabhas Sreenu, creating a strong impact.

## “VICHITRA” – A Mother–Daughter Sentiment Film Starring “Killer” Fame Jyothi Apoorva, Ready for Release



Under the SIS Films banner, the emotional family entertainer “Vichitra” is getting ready for its theatrical release. The film features Jyothi Apoorva in the lead role, with Ravi Ravan Rudra and Shreya Tiwari playing the hero and heroine. Baby Sri Harshini and Meenavvasu appear in special roles. Produced and directed by Saifuddin Malik, Vichitra is soon to arrive before the audience. “Vichitra” is crafted as a heart-touching mother-daughter sentiment drama, promising to appeal strongly to family audiences. The film has recently completed its censor formalities and is now set for release. Director-Producer Saifuddin Malik's Statement Speaking on the occasion, director-producer Saifuddin Malik said: “Vichitra is a warm and emotional film centered around a mother-daughter bond.



## “WIFE” Title & First Look Launched as Adhira Talkies Production No.1

Adhira Talkies Production No.1, titled “WIFE”, was officially launched with the unveiling of its title and first look in the presence of several prominent filmmakers. The film is being produced under the Adhira Talkies banner with the support of Cinitary Media Works, which has contributed to over 100 films in the industry. Directed by Srinivas (Bujji), the film features Naren Tej and Suhana in the lead roles. Murali Krishna Varma handles cinematography, Satya Kashyap composes the music, and Nandamuri Hari serves as the editor. The title and first look were launched under the guidance and encouragement of renowned directors. Speaking as the chief guest, noted director Chandra Mahesh said, “Thank you to the entire team for inviting me to the title and first look launch of WIFE. The strong media support itself indicates that this film will achieve good success. The backing of Cinitary Media Works and Venkat garu adds great strength to the project. Music will also be a major asset. The title WIFE, which symbolizes strength to the husband and

the family, perfectly suits this film. I wish the entire team great success.” Renowned director Samudra shared, “I thank everyone who attended this event. Everyone has a wife in their life, and choosing WIFE as the title is very apt. Many talented technicians are working on this film, and I sincerely wish it great success.” Producer Rama Satyanarayana stated, “The backbone of this film is Cinitary Media Works CEO Venkat garu. Another highlight is K Music acquiring the film's audio rights. Publicity plays a crucial role in taking good cinema to the audience. I thank everyone for supporting this film and congratulate director Bujji.” Director Srinivas (Bujji) said, “My salutations to my parents, my favorite director Ram Gopal Varma garu, and everyone who attended this event. We have already completed one schedule. WIFE will be a crime and suspense thriller. I thank every technician who worked on this film. We will be starting the next schedule soon and request continued media support.” Venkat, CEO of Cinitary Media Works, remarked.



## The launch of the Ammoru Thalli song, under the Shourya Creations banner, took place grandly at Prasad Labs in Hyderabad

M.L. Raja composed the music for this song, which features Amani and Nagadurga in the lead roles. Speaking on the occasion,

Nagadurga said, “This song is different from all my previous songs. We all worked very hard for this song. It will give the

audience a new experience,” and thanked the producer for giving her the opportunity. Industry prominent figures participated in the song launch event and

congratulated the song team. The captivating choreography for this song was provided by Veda, and the cinematography was handled by Pawan.