





Merry Christmas & Happy New Year 2026



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INBRIF

Six Killed as Water Tank Collapses at Nagpur Factory



Nagpur (TSIT) Six persons died after a water tank collapsed at an industrial unit on the outskirts of Nagpur city on Friday, a police official said. The incident occurred around 9.30 am at Avada Electro Private Limited, a solar panel manufacturing factory located in MIDC Bhatibori area, the official said. While three persons had died at the time of the incident after getting trapped under the debris, three others who were rushed to hospital have also succumbed to injuries, he informed.

ED Attaches Rs.7.93 Cr Assets in Illegal Betting App Case

New Delhi: In fresh trouble for cricketers Yuvraj Singh and Robin Uthappa, actor Sonu Sood and others, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) attached their movable and immovable assets valued at Rs 7.93 crore as part of action against illegal offshore betting platform 1xBet, an official said on Friday.

Earlier on October 6, the ED had attached assets amounting to Rs 11.14 crore of cricketers Shikhar Dhawan and Suresh Raina. Others against whom the latest action in the case has been taken by the ED Headquarters Office, include actresses Urvashi Rautela, Mimi Chakraborty, actor Ankush Hazra and actress Neha Sharma, an ED statement said. The attachment was done under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, an official

Manipur security forces recover 16 abandoned IEDs in Churachandpur

Manipur: Security forces in Manipur on Thursday recovered 16 abandoned improvised explosive devices (IEDs) at Lungdeipha Leinom village junction in the Kangvai area of Churachandpur district, officials confirmed on Friday. The explosives were neutralised by a bomb disposal squad.

Officials said the recovery took place during a search operation in and around the village junction. The incident follows a suspected armed attack by a Kuki group two days earlier, which involved indiscriminate firing and bombings in Torbung Sabal Mamang Leikai in neighbouring Bishnupur district.

41 CPI (Maoist) Cadres Surrender in Telangana

The Cadres handed over 24 firearms

HYDERABAD ■ (TSIT):

In a major setback to the banned CPI (Maoist) organisation, forty-one underground Maoist cadres, including six senior leaders of Company Platoon Committee Member / Divisional Committee Member (CyPCM/DVC) rank, surrendered before the Telangana Police on Friday in the presence of the Director General of Police (DGP), Telangana.

During the surrender, the cadres handed over 24 firearms comprising one INSAS Light Machine Gun (LMG), three AK-47 rifles, five SLR rifles, seven INSAS rifles, one BGL gun, four .303 rifles, one single-shot rifle and two air guns, along with 733 live rounds of ammunition and eight BGL shells. Police officials stated that the surrender of such a large cache of arms has significantly weakened the operational and combat capability of the CPI (Maoist) in the region.



The surrendered cadres belonged to key formations of the CPI (Maoist), including the PLGA Battalion, Komaram Bheem Asifabad-Mancherial Divisional Committee, 2nd Central Regional Command Company, Cherla-Shabari Area Committee, Platoon-33 of the South Sub Zonal Bureau, South Bastar and Darbha Divisional Committees, and the Gangaloor Area Committee of West Bastar DVC. Many of them had remained underground for periods ranging from seven to

twenty-four years.

The cadres stated that they were influenced by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's appeal on October 21, 2025, urging Maoists to abandon violence and rejoin the mainstream. Continuous pressure from security forces, shrinking support networks, harsh living conditions, declining health, prolonged separation from families, ideological disillusionment and internal leadership disputes were cited as reasons for surrender.

Under the Telangana Government's Surrender and Rehabilitation Policy, a total eligible amount of Rs.1.46 crore will be disbursed after documentation, with an interim relief of Rs.25,000 already provided to each cadre. Police officials revealed that 509 Maoist cadres have surrendered in 2025 so far, reflecting the steady decline of the extremist organisation.



KTR dares Revanth to prove 66% support

HYDERABAD (TSIT): Bharat Rashtriya Samithi (BRS) working president KT Rama Rao (KTR) on Friday, December 19, dared Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to prove his claims of having the approval of people in the panchayat elections by making the 10 defected MLAs from BRS resign and seek fresh mandate. Addressing a victory meeting of newly elected BRS sarpanches in Sircilla, KTR challenged the CM to test his "66 per cent support" claim.

"The CM claimed Congress won 66 per cent in local polls and called it a blessing for his government. Yet, within five minutes, he took a U-turn, stating local polls are fought on local issues and caste, not government performance," he said. "Mr. Chief Minister, if you truly believe the people are with you, accept my challenge."

CM Naidu Seeks Centre's Support for Projects



AMARAVATI (TSIT) : Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi on Friday and sought substantial central support for various projects.

rural connectivity, modernising irrigation systems, developing infrastructure, expanding industrial corridors, establishing food-processing clusters, and enhancing healthcare and education facilities.

Stressing that these interventions would significantly expand economic opportunities in rural Andhra Pradesh, he requested the Centre to prioritise State-specific needs and simplify administrative norms to ensure smooth implementation of Purvodaya projects.

The Chief Minister also sought the expeditious release of funds under the SASCI scheme for several important projects.

CM Naidu emphasised that the Purvodaya initiative is crucial for realising the Viksit Bharat vision, as it supports the holistic development of eastern states and strengthens India's national economic growth. According to an official release here, the Chief Minister explained that Purvodaya funds are essential for improving

Prez Murmu Urges PSC to Prioritise Honesty

HYDERABAD (TSIT):

President Droupadi Murmu on Friday asked the Public Service Commissions to give the highest priority to honesty and integrity of the candidates they recruit. Inaugurating the national conference



for the Chairpersons of State Public Service Commissions, being organised by the Telangana Public Service Commission, she stated that honesty and integrity are paramount as well as non-negotiable. She under-

lined that lack of skills and competencies can be dealt with through learning interventions and several other strategies, but lack of integrity may cause grave challenges which may be impossible to overcome.

93 Indian Airports Switch to 100% Green Energy

New Delhi : A total of 93 airports in India have switched over to 100 per cent green energy use, Murlidhar Mohol, Minister of State for Civil Aviation, informed the Parliament. In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, the minister stated that four airports in the country, including Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Bengaluru, have achieved the highest carbon accreditation level, five, as per the Airports International Council, and have become carbon neutral.

Siddaramaiah asserts full-term CM amid Cong infighting

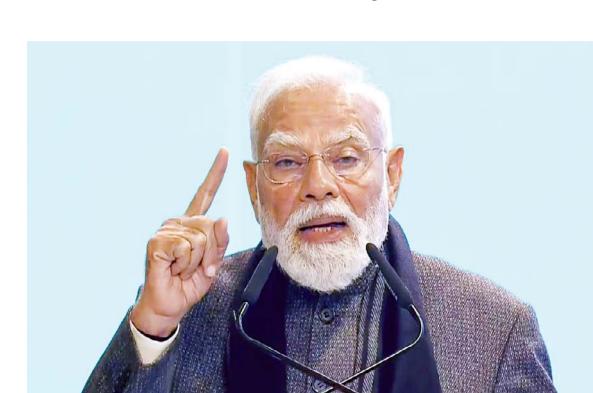
BELAGAVI (TSIT): Amid speculation over leadership change within the Karnataka Congress, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday asserted that he is the incumbent Chief Minister and will continue in office for the full term, while categorically denying that any power-sharing formula had been discussed within the party.

The Chief Minister made the statement on the floor of the Assembly after BJP leaders questioned whether he would remain in office long enough to implement the assurances announced for the development of the North Karnataka region during the ongoing Belagavi session.

"Today, you have made announcements for North Karnataka. You should be in a position to implement them. You will remain as the Chief Minister, right?" he asked. In response, Siddaramaiah said that he would indeed remain in office. Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka then sought clarity on whether the Congress Legislative Party (CLP) had decided if Siddaramaiah would serve a full five-year term or only a two-and-a-half-year term. The Chief Minister replied that no such decision regarding a half-term arrangement had been taken within the party.

BJP MLA N. Munirathna followed up by challenging Siddaramaiah to make a categorical declaration.

"Won't you thump the table and say that you will remain Chief Minister for five years?" he asked.



World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Ministry of Ayush.

Emphasising the theme of the event "Restoring balance: The science and practice of

health and well-being", PM Modi noted how India's age-old wisdom, Ayurveda, is centred around balance. "In Ayurveda, balance, that is, equilibrium, has been called the synonym of health. The one whose body maintains this balance is healthy," the PM said. "Today, we see imbalances in work-life, gut microbiome, sleep, and emotions creating global health challenges. Both studies and data indicate this. Thus, restoring balance is a global urgency," said PM Modi.

On December 17 to 19, was jointly organised by the

with district secretaries, MLAs, local body representatives, and members of the alliance parties.

The alliance demands the withdrawal of the Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Bill, 2025, which repeals MGNREGA and introduces a new rural employment framework.

"On December 24, the protest would be held at 10 am in the capital city and also in all the party's local levels by

DMK Alliance to protest MGNREGA replacement on Dec 24

CHENNAI (TSIT): The Secular Progressive Alliance led by the ruling DMK, has announced a state-wide protest on December 24 against the Centre's newly passed legislation to replace the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

Beneficiaries of the existing 100-day rural employment scheme will be mobilised, along



mobilising the beneficiaries of the 100-day employment scheme," it said. "Let us raise our voices against the union BJP government that deceives the people of Tamil Nadu and the AIADMK that supports them," the release said.

On December 18, the Tamil Nadu government expressed its strong objection to the Centre's new rural employment scheme, saying concerns includ-

ed, removal of Mahatma Gandhi's name from it and the increased financial burden on states.

Chief Minister M K Stalin told Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the proposed legislation "will jeopardise the livelihoods of crores of rural poor, particularly in performing states like Tamil Nadu, and strain inter-governmental relations."

"The leadership issue is an internal matter of our party. We will follow the directions of the high command. However, I am the current Chief Minister and have completed two-and-a-half years in office. I will continue as the Chief Minister in the future as well," Siddaramaiah said, reiterating "I am here and

Andhra Pradesh CM urges Centre to approve Metro Rail for Vizag, Vijayawada

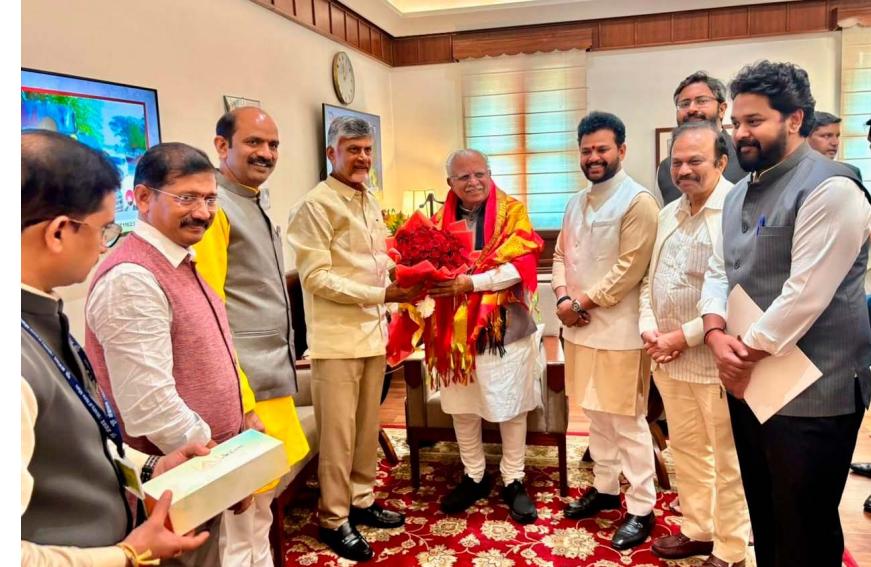
Amaravati, Dec 19: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Friday urged the Centre to approve Metro Rail projects for Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada.

He met Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar in New Delhi and informed him that the revised Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for both Metro systems have already been submitted to the Ministry for approval. He emphasised that early clearance is crucial for accelerating the development of two of Andhra Pradesh's fastest-growing urban centres.

CM Naidu explained that Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada require robust, modern and sustainable urban mobility solutions to keep pace with their expanding populations, growing economic activity and rising transportation demands.

The Chief Minister urged the Union Minister to prioritise and fast-track the approval process so that the groundwork for both Metro projects can begin at the earliest.

The Chief Minister also had a separate meeting with Union Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and sought strong Central support for the development of the Dugarajapatnam ship-



building ecosystem and key fishing harbour projects in the state.

The Chief Minister thanked the Union Government for the proactive policies introduced to strengthen India's port sector and shipbuilding capabilities and said Andhra Pradesh is committed to contributing to the national "Chip to Ship" vision.

CM Naidu informed the Union Minister that Andhra Pradesh is fully

prepared to take up the National Mega Shipbuilding and Ship Repair Cluster at Dugarajapatnam. He said the state has already agreed to allocate 3,488 acres of land for the project and that the Techno-Economic Feasibility Report (TEFR) has been completed. During the meeting, the Chief Minister also requested the Centre to extend additional financial assistance for the state's fishing har-

bour infrastructure. He said the government is implementing these projects with priority to improve the livelihoods of fishermen and modernise the fisheries sector.

CM Naidu also met Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri and extended a formal invitation to participate in the foundation-stone laying ceremony of the BPCL Greenfield Refinery Project proposed in Nellore district.

The Chief Minister informed the Union Minister that the refinery, with a massive investment of Rs 96,862 crore, would be one of the largest integrated energy projects in the country. He said the project would significantly strengthen India's refining capacity and contribute to national energy security.

CM Naidu explained that the State Government has already allotted 6,000 acres of land for the project and extended attractive incentives to facilitate its rapid execution. He briefed the Union Minister that the public hearing (for environmental clearance) for the project has been successfully completed, and that environmental clearances are expected shortly, enabling the project to progress swiftly through all remaining stages.

info.southindientimes@gmail.com

HC Orders AI-Driven Reforms in TTD Parakamani Operations

Vijayawada, Dec 19 (RNI): In the backdrop of the ongoing controversy surrounding the Parakamani case, the Andhra Pradesh High Court on Friday issued a series of significant directions to the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) to strengthen transparency and prevent irregularities in the hundi counting process.

The High Court directed the TTD to minimise human intervention in the counting of hundi collections and adopt artificial intelligence and advanced technology to improve accuracy and transparency. Observing that immediate and permanent measures are necessary to curb theft, the court suggested that the proposed reforms could be implemented in two phases.

The court also instructed the TTD to submit detailed information regarding the

existing security arrangements during the counting, transportation, and sealing of hundis. Emphasising the role of technology, the bench noted that artificial intelligence could be effectively used for segregating foreign currency and categorising donations.

Further, the High Court directed the TTD to prepare and submit a comprehensive draft proposal outlining the proposed reforms within eight weeks. The directions are aimed at ensuring foolproof systems and restoring public confidence in the management of temple donations.

INDIAN BANK DONATES RS. 38 LAKHS TO TTD



Tirumala: For the installation of a security luggage scanner at the Alipiri Check Post, Indian Bank on Friday donated an amount of Rs. 37,97,508 to Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams. In this connection, Indian Bank Field Manager Sri Pranesh Kumar handed over the donation DD to the Additional EO of TTD, Sri C.H. Venkayya Chowdary, at the Additional EO Camp Office in Tirumala. On the occasion, Indian Bank Zonal Manager Sri M. Selvaraj, Deputy Zonal Manager Smt. Indira, and Tirumala Branch Manager Sri Raghavendra were present.



The annual Adhyayanotsavams commenced in a grand manner on Friday evening at the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple, Tirumala. The sacred festival will be observed for a period of 25 days.

TATA CAPITAL LIMITED

Registered Address : Tower A, 11th Floor, Peninsula Business Park, Ganpatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai- 400013

DEMAND NOTICE

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

We, Tata Capital Limited (hereinafter referred to as "TCL" - Transferor) through Tata Capital Financial Services Ltd (hereinafter referred to as "TCFSL" - Transferee) vide Order dated 24th November 2023 passed by National Company Law Tribunal, Mumbai vide scheme of arrangement agreed between Tata Capital Financial Services Limited ("TCFSL") as Transferors and Tata Capital Limited ("TCL") as Transferee under the provisions of Sections 230 to 232 r/w Section 66 and other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 ("said Scheme") having our registered office at 11th Floor, Tower A, Peninsula Business Park, Ganpatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai 400 013 and a branch office amongst other places at KURNIOL ("Branch") do hereby serve upon you the following notice u/s 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as the "Act").

Whereas, the undersigned is the Authorized Officer of the Tata Capital Limited, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 06-11-2025 and also affixed the notice in the residence of the borrower and co-borrowers, calling upon the borrower & co-borrower/Guarantor, 1) M/s. MZ GOLD SMITH represented by its Proprietor Mr. Shaik Abdul Basha, Flat No 18-100-A7, Ground Floor, Pelala Kondiah Complex, Main Road Post Office, SVC Sharof Bazar, Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, Pin- 518001, 2) Mr. SHAIK ABUDL BASHA, S/o. Shaik Khader Basha, House No. 397-C-1, K V R Gardens, Kurnool, Kalyan Jewellers, Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, Pin- 518001, also having address at Mr. SHAIK ABUDL BASHA, S/o. Shaik Khader Basha, M/s. MZ GOLD SMITH, Flat No 18-100-A7, Ground Floor, Pelala Kondiah Complex, Main Road Post Office, SVC Sharof Bazar, Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, Pin- 518001, and 3) Mrs. S SHAHEEDA BEGUM, W/o. Shaik Abdul Basha, House No. 397-C-1, K V R Gardens, Kurnool, Kalyan Jewellers, Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, Pin- 518001, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice Rs. 33,81,105/- (Rupees Thirty Three Lakhs Eighty One Thousand One Hundred and Five only) in Loan Account No. TCFLAG833000013437757 as on 06-11-2025, along with interest, future interest, charges, costs etc. within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. As the notice issued to the borrower returned unserved, the Notice is hereby published under Rules 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 in 2 news papers informing the borrower and co-borrowers regarding the same.

This is further to notify you that you are under a legal obligation not to transfer the secured asset or create any right, title or interest by way of sale, lease, tenancy or license or any other rights whatsoever in or over the secured asset, or otherwise deal with the secured assets in any manner whatsoever to the prejudice of our interest, without obtaining our prior written consent from the Secured Creditor and the same is also prohibited under sub-section (13) of Section 13 of the said Act. It may also be noted that as per Section 29 of the Act, if any person contravenes or attempts to contravene or abets the contravention of the provisions of this Act or rules made there under, he/she shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both. Further please note that in the event of default in making payment of the aforesaid amount as demanded in full within 60 days from the date of this notice, we shall be constrained to take measures under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the Act. You shall further be liable to pay all costs, charges and expenses incurred by us in this connection under sub-section (7) of Section 13 of the Act. In case the dues to us are not fully recovered/satisfied with the sale proceeds of the secured assets, you shall continue to be liable to pay us the balance amount and we reserve the right to initiate appropriate proceedings for recovery. The borrowers 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.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTIES MORTGAGED

All that part and parcel of the Residential House bearing D No.1-22 (with Assessment No.18), Constructed in the land extent of 85.55 Sq. Yards, laid in Sy.No.305/2C of Gadivemula Village & Mandal, within limits of Gadivemula Grama Panchayat area, Kurnool Dist, under the jurisdiction of Ovvala Sub registration and registration district of Kurnool. **Boundaries:** NORTH: House of Hussain Saheb, SOUTH: House of Mahammad Haneef, EAST: Remaining Site of 5 1/2 Yards wide 770 Sq. Feet together with the buildings, structures, erections and other constructions thereon and all fixtures and fittings attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth, both present and future.

Place: KURNIOL
Date: 20.12.2025

Sd/- Authorised Officer
For Tata Capital Limited

SBI Suraksha Insurance Claim Provides Relief to Bereaved Family



Hyderabad: State Bank of India and SBI Life Insurance extended crucial financial relief to the family of Late Sri Repalle Chennarao, an Assistant Engineer in the Electricity Department, through the settlement of an SBI Suraksha Insurance claim.

Late Sri Repalle Chennarao had availed a home loan of Rs.53.10 lakh from State Bank of India and was covered under the SBI Suraksha Insurance Policy. Following his untimely demise in a tragic road accident, SBI Life Insurance promptly processed the claim and settled an amount of Rs.51,91,237.16, easing the financial burden on the bereaved family.

The claim cheque was formally handed over by

AGM Sri Satyam Naidu to the nominee and spouse of the deceased, Smt. Bhargavi, in the presence of bank and insurance officials. Sri D. Rajashekhar, Chief Manager (Maintenance), along with his team, played a significant role in facilitating and expediting the claim settlement. Mr. Sai Srinivas, Chief Manager (Sanctions), and Mr. Anil from SBI Life Insurance were also present on the occasion.

The timely settlement underscores the importance of insurance coverage and reflects the commitment of State Bank of India and SBI Life Insurance to support customers and their families during times of distress.

Flipkart Acquires Majority Stake in Minivet AI to Accelerate GenAI-Powered E-commerce Innovation

Bengaluru - December 19, 2025: Flipkart, India's home-grown e-commerce marketplace, today announced it has executed definitive documents to acquire a majority stake in Minivet AI, an innovative AI/ML solutions provider founded in 2024. The acquisition is a strategic move to build and invest in core Generative AI (GenAI) capabilities, at a time when e-commerce is rapidly shifting towards visual, conversational, and AI-led discovery. This is expected to accelerate the transition to a more intuitive, interactive, and immersive shopping experience for e-commerce platforms, including Flipkart.

Minivet AI focuses on generative video for e-commerce, transforming static product catalogs into rich, engaging video content at scale. Built on a foundation of sophisticated model orchestration and deep performance optimization, the platform delivers quality results at a fraction of traditional production costs. Beyond video, Minivet AI offers a broader suite of e-commerce AI capabilities—positioning the company as a full-stack AI partner and a foundational GenAI capability for online retail platforms.

Ravi Iyer, Senior Vice President - Corporate, Flipkart, said, "Acquiring Minivet AI is a strategic investment that will enhance Flipkart's core GenAI capabilities by the integration of niche talent and advanced proprietary technology, which includes leading solutions for catalog videofication and semantic search. These are critical for addressing the rising industry trend of visual-first and video-first commerce, ultimately driving higher customer engagement."

AMAVASYA FESTIVAL CELEBRATED AT SRI KALAHASTHEESWARA SWAMY TEMPLE

Sri Kalahasti: The Amavasya Festival was celebrated with religious fervour at the renowned Sri Kalahasteeswara Swamy Temple on the occasion of the new moon day of Dhanurmasam. The festival was held in conjunction with special rituals to Sri Gnana Prasunamba Devi, the consort of Lord Sri Kalahasteeswara Swamy. Devotees thronged the temple from early morning to participate in the sacred Amavasya rituals and offer special prayers, seeking blessings for peace, prosperity, and spiritual well-being.

The temple premises resounded with Vedic chants and devotional hymns, creating a spiritually charged atmosphere. The Amavasya celebrations hold special significance during the holy month of Dhanurmasam, attracting a large number of devotees from various regions. Temple authorities made elaborate arrangements to ensure the smooth conduct of rituals and facilitate darshan for devotees.



Chittoor MP Sri Daggumalla Prasada Rao gave a warm welcome to AP CM Chandrababu Naidu on his arrival in Delhi.

GITAM Hosts Exhibition on Musi River and Hyderabad's Evolution



Hyderabad: The Department of History, GITAM School of Humanities and Social Sciences (GSHSS), in collaboration with Deccan Archives, organized a historical exhibition titled "The Musi & the Evolution of Hyderabad" on December 19, 2025, at

GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad.

The exhibition offered a comprehensive visual and archival journey tracing the historical, cultural, and urban significance of the Musi River in shaping the growth of Hyderabad.

Rare photographs, maps,

documents, and archival records showcased the river's role from the city's early foundations to its transformation during the Nizam era and modern times.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Pooja Rhine and Dr. Nilam, who emphasized the importance of understanding Hyderabad's environmental and urban history through primary sources. Faculty members, students, historians, and history enthusiasts actively engaged with the exhibits, gaining insights into the socio-economic life that flourished along the riverbanks over centuries.

The exhibition highlighted how the Musi River influenced trade, settlements, architecture, and public life, while also drawing attention to contemporary challenges related to heritage conservation and environmental sustainability.

By blending academic research with public history, the exhibition served as an educational platform, reinforcing the need to preserve Hyderabad's historical narratives and natural heritage for future generations.

The inaugural session was graced by eminent academicians as Chief Guests, including Prof. V. Balakista Reddy, Chairman of the Telangana State Council of Higher Education; Prof. Nguyen Thi Dieu Linh, Deputy Head, Department of Science and Technology, Hanoi University of Industry, Vietnam; Prof. Atul Negi, Dean, School of Computer and Information Sciences, University of Hyderabad; and Prof. A. Krishnaiah, University College of Engineering, Osmania University.

Conference Chair Dr. Shivani Yadao delivered the introductory address, followed by the inaugural address by Conference Convener Dr. G. Sreelatha. The 10th International Conference on Research in Intelligent Computing Engineering (RICE-2025) was inaugurated at Stanley College of Engineering and Technology for Women on Tuesday at 10:00 AM. The conference is jointly organized by the IEEE Committee of Stanley College of Engineering and Technology for Women and Hanoi University of Industry, Vietnam.

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DOCUMENT LOST

I, KAMANA ASHOK KUMAR, S/o. KAMANA YALLAMANDIAH, R/o. H.No. 20-165, Eslampura, Miryalguda Town and Mandal, Nalgonda District, Telangana State. My Apollo Hospital Enterprise Limited Share Certificate vide Folio No. 3313, Certificate No. 353314, Distinctive No. 5130761-5131510, Number of Shares 750 lost hand bag in Miryalguda Bus Stand. So if anybody finds it kindly inform to above address.

Praja Vani Is a Unique Initiative Not Implemented Anywhere Else in India: Deputy CM Bhatti

Hyderabad: Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu on Friday said that Praja Vani, the public grievance redressal programme of the Telangana Government, is a unique initiative that is not being implemented anywhere else in India. Addressing the second anniversary meeting of Praja Vani held at Jyotirao Phule Praja Bhavan, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the programme was launched as a revolutionary decision jointly taken by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and the entire Cabinet, firmly rooted in the belief that governance and administration exist solely for the people.

He described the resolution of 74 per cent of public grievanc-



es received through Praja Vani as a remarkable achievement, stating that merely launching such a programme was not enough. "This success was possible only due to the commitment, sincerity and dedicated efforts of the officials and staff who worked relentlessly to address people's problems," he said.

Bhatti Vikramarka pointed out that applications are being received regularly every Tuesday and Friday, and assured that pending issues, including those still in the pipeline, would also be resolved in due course. He expressed satisfaction that the programme had achieved the very objective with which it was launched and reaffirmed that Praja Vani would continue without

interruption.

The Deputy Chief Minister lauded the role of the Centre for Good Governance (CGG) in developing a specialised software system at both State and district levels to effectively track and resolve public grievances. Taking a dig at the previous regime, he said that those who ruled the State for ten years without even opening the gates of Praja Bhavan for the public were now conducting similar programmes only as a formality, describing such criticism as "sheer hypocrisy."

Stating that he attended the anniversary meeting to personally congratulate the staff after listening to several success stories, Bhatti Vikramarka said the dedication displayed by officials in resolving public issues was commendable. "Our thinking, governance and functioning are entirely people-centric," he asserted. He emphasised that all institutions and systems in the State must serve the people, which remains the core objective of the people's government. Calling upon citizens to make use of Praja Bhavan without fear to voice their grievances, the Deputy Chief Minister urged collective efforts to move forward in resolving public problems effectively.

Minister Azharuddin Christian Minority Leaders Meet CM Revanth Reddy Invite Him to State Christmas Celebrations



Hyderabad: Minister Azharuddin, along with Christian minority leaders, met Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday and formally invited him to attend the Christmas celebrations being organised by the State Government at LB Stadium, Hyderabad.

During the meeting, the Minister and the Christian leaders extended the invitation on behalf of the Christian community for the grand celebrations, which are being conducted under the aegis of the Telangana Government as part of its commitment to inclusive governance and respect for all faiths.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy welcomed the invitation and assured continued support to programmes that promote communal harmony, cultural diversity and unity among all sections of society. The leaders expressed gratitude to the State Government for organising Christmas celebrations at the official level and for recognising the cultural and religious sentiments of the Christian minority community in Telangana.

Telangana Sports Karate-Do Association to Hold General Body Meeting



Hyderabad: Telangana Sports Karate-Do Association will organise its General Body Meeting on December 26 at the LB Stadium Yoga Hall, according to Association President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud and Malyala Ramaswamy.

All members of the Association, including district presidents, secretaries, treasurers, Telangana State style chiefs, and India chiefs affiliated to the Karate India Organisation (KIO), have been requested to attend the meeting compulsorily.

The Association stated that key decisions concerning future programmes and the overall development of karate in the State will be taken during the meeting and appealed to all concerned members to attend on time and make the meeting a success.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds Launches 15th Edition of 'Brides of India' in Hyderabad



Hyderabad: Malabar Gold & Diamonds has launched the Hyderabad edition of its flagship bridal jewellery showcase 'Brides of India' at its Artistry Store in Somajiguda. Now in its 15th year, the showcase will be held from December 20 to 28, 2025, celebrating the diversity and richness of Indian bridal jewellery traditions with a special emphasis on South India.

exhibition features exclusive South Indian bridal jewellery, including temple-inspired designs and traditional gold craftsmanship, along with curated collections from

across India such as Rajasthani polki, Bengal's intricate jewellery styles, Kerala's kasavu-inspired gold, and Tamil Nadu's temple jewellery. Speaking on the occasion, Malabar Group Chairman M.P.

Ahammed said that Hyderabad's brides value tradition, purity, and thoughtful design, and that Brides of India aims to offer jewellery that is culturally authentic, comfortable for long wedding ceremonies, and meaningful beyond the wedding day. The showcase offers a curated in-store experience where complete bridal looks are styled using necklaces, chokers, long necklaces, bangles, earrings, mangalsutras, and rings, helping brides visualise jewellery for real wedding moments.

FOR ADVERTISEMENT PLEASE CONTACT: 9948480279, 7330778889

LASKHAR BAZAAR BRANCH, Laskhar Bazaar, 6-1-38, Laskhar Bazaar, Warangal Dt., Telangana State, PIN Code : 506 001, Phone: 0870-2577619, 0870-2542299, Hanamkonda, IFS CODE: IDB001009, Email: laskharbazaar@indianbank.co.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Lashkar Bazaar Branch, has taken physical possession of City Grand Hotel on 13.10.2025 as per the order dated 08.09.2025 by Hon'ble CJM Warangal in CRLMP No-120/2025 and accordingly inventory & panchama was prepared in the presence of Advocate Commissioner appointed by the Hon'ble court and officials of the District Administration. The said inventory & panchama was also served to the Borrowers and they were requested to remove the same from the premises of City Grand Hotel including the 21 rooms locked digitally letter sent dated 13.10.2025 & 23.10.2025 but the borrowers did not take steps for removing the articles/goods as per the inventory.

Therefore, final notice through paper publication is hereby given to 1.M/s City Grand Hotel (Borrower) House No. 15-2-64, SVP Road, Rangampet, Opp. KIA Showroom, Warangal - 506007, 2. Mr. Kandakatla Nageshwarrao & 3.Mrs. Kandakatla Neeraja, H No. 11-24-27/3, MV Colony, Road No. 1, Deshpai Road, Warangal - 506006 to remove the articles/goods as per the inventory dated 13-10-2025 kept in the premises of City Grand Hotel (Ground to fourth floor) bearing Municipal Door No-15-2-64 situated at SVP Road, Rangampet, Opp KIA showroom, Warangal within the limit of Warangal Municipal Corporation, Warangal and within the jurisdiction of District and sub registrar Warangal(Urban) within 7 days of the date of publication of this notice failing which the Bank is not responsible for any loss/pledge of such items and the Authorised Officer shall remove the movables and obtain access in accordance with law, at the cost and risk of the Promoters, without prejudice to the Bank's rights. It is also made clear that the Bank shall not take any insurance coverage for these items mentioned in the inventory.

Date: [19.12.2025]

Place: Hanamkonda

(Abhijit M. Wankhade)
Authorised Officer

Indian Bank, Lashkar Bazaar Branch

CORRIGENDUM

It is hereby informed that due to an inadvertent clerical / typographical error, the Schedule of Property mentioned in the aforesaid Demand Notice and Possession Notice was incorrectly described. Hence, this Corrigendum is issued to rectify the said error.

INCORRECT SCHEDULE (AS PUBLISHED EARLIER)

Plot No. 347 South Part admeasuring 50 Sq. Yds, and Plot No. 348 North Part admeasuring 100 Sq. Yds., total 150 Sq. Yds. (125.4 Sq. Mtrs.), in Survey Nos. 120, 121 & 122, situated at Ghateswar Village & Municipality, Ghateswar Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District, Telangana State, under S.R.O. Ghateswar, with boundaries as mentioned therein, bounded by: North: Plot No. 347 North Part, South: Plot No. 361 & 362, West: 25' Wide Road.

CORRECT SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS

Property-I:Open Plot No. 347 – North Part admeasuring 150 Sq. Yds. and Plot No. 348 North Part admeasuring 100 Sq. Yds., total 150 Sq. Yds. (125.4 Sq. Mtrs.), in Survey Nos. 120, 121 & 122, situated at Ghateswar Village & Municipality, Ghateswar Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District, Telangana State, under S.R.O. Ghateswar, bounded by: North: Plot No. 347 South Part | East: Plot No. 362 | West: 25' Wide Road.

CLARIFICATION

Except for the above correction in the Schedule of Property, all other contents, terms and actions taken pursuant to the Demand Notice dated 09.06.2025 and Possession Notice dated 20.08.2025 shall remain unchanged, valid and enforceable under the SARFAESI Act, 2002.

The Borrowers and the Public are hereby cautioned not to deal with the secured assets, as the same are under charge of Can Fin Homes Limited.

Sd/- Authorised Officer, Can Fin Homes Ltd.

HINDUJA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
Corporate office at#167-169" 2nd Floor Little Mount, Sadapet, Chennai - 600 015
HOUSING FINITE

APPENDIX -IV Possession Notice (For Immovable Property)
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Hindujia Housing Finance Limited (HHFL) under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorized Officer of the company to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) 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 the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement rules, 2002. 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.

The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of HHFL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.

Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/Guarantor/LAN No. Demand Notice Date and Amount **DATE OF POSSESSION**
1.Mrs. Akkanabeno Yadamma W/o. Govindu R/o. H.No.18-3891, Mandeewar Nagar, Devarakonda Mandal, Nalgonda District, Telangana-508248, Borrower 17/09/2025 Rs.12,121/- (Rupees Twelve lakhs Thirty One thousand Two hundred and Twelve only)
2.Mr. Akkanabeno Govindu R/o. H.No. 18-3891, Mandeewar Nagar, Devarakonda Mandal, Nalgonda District, Telangana-508248,Co-Borrower
Loan Account Nos. AP/HDB/MBNR/A000000268 & AP/HDB/MBNR/A00000268

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY : All that House in PLOT NO.03, BLOCK NO-18, SY NO:660, Admeasuring 161.94 Sq. Yards, Devarakonda Town, Nalgonda Dist, Telangana India - 508248, and bounded by: North: Plot No.4. South: Plot No.2, East: 15' Feet Wide Internal Road, West: 18' Feet Wide Internal Road.

Note: "Through this notice, all the previous notices issued in this LAN is hereby recalled"

Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/Guarantor/LAN No. Demand Notice Date and Amount **DATE OF POSSESSION**
1.Mr. Vadila Vijay Kumar R/o. H.No. 20-73/5, Kosi Town, Narayanpet District, Telangana-509339, Borrower 17/09/2025 Rs.26,677/- (Rupees Twenty Six lakhs Eighty Six thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety Seven only)
2.Ms. Padma Vadila W/o. Ramchandraiah R/o. H.No. 20-73/5, Kosi Town, Narayanpet District, Telangana-509339,Co-Borrower
Loan Account Nos. AP/HDB/MBNR/A000000141 & AP/HDB/MBNR/A000000141

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY : ALL THAT THE HOUSE BEARING NO.20-73/5, Plot No.160, Admeasuring 160 SQUARE YARDS in Sy No.1665AA, SITUATED AT KOSI TOWN, NARAYANPET DISTRICT Telangana, India - 509339, and bounded by: North: Land of Others South: 20' Feet Wide Road, East: Sy No.1665AA, West: 10' Feet

Note: "Through this notice, all the previous notices issued in this LAN is hereby recalled"

Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/Guarantor/LAN No. Demand Notice Date and Amount **DATE OF POSSESSION**
1.Mr. Mohammed Gouse Pasha R/o. H. No. 1-25/B, Polessettipally Village, Bolmar Mandal, Nagar kumool District, Telangana-50376, Borrower 30/09/2025 Rs.24,44,297/- (Rupees Twenty Four lakhs Twenty Four thousand Two hundred and Ninety Seven only)
2.Mrs. Vijiya Pasha R/o. H.No. 1-25/B, Polessettipally Village, Bolmar Mandal, Nagar kumool District, Telangana-50376, Co-Borrower
Loan Account Nos. AP/HDB/MBNR/A000000773 & AP/HDB/MBNR/A000000937

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY : All that the Sy.No.308/A3, And Plot No.15, it was bearing H.No.20-134/2, Total Extant Of Land 207.77 Sq. Yds OR 173.88 Sq. Mtrs. And Plot Area 857 Sq. Fts. ACC. Roof, Assmt. No.1190100127. This Schedule Properly Sited in Achampet Village and Mandal, Teachers Colony, Achampet Town And Municipality, Nagar kumool District, TG, and bounded by: Boundaries of Property North: Palkapally 330' Fts Wide Road. South: Plot No.16. East: Plot No.14. West: 250' Fts Wide Road.

Note: "Through this notice, all the previous notices issued in this LAN is hereby recalled"

Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/Guarantor/LAN No. Demand Notice Date and Amount **DATE OF POSSESSION**
1.Mr. Shyam Duguru R/o. H.No. 5/19/C, Hanuman Nagar, Kosi Town and Municipality, Narayanpet District, Telangana-509339, Borrower 17/09/2025 Rs.9,25,102/- (Rupees Nine lakhs Twenty Five thousand One Hundred and Two only)
2.Mrs. Lakshmi Duguru W/o. Monappa R/o. H.No. 1-59/C, Hanuman Nagar, Kosi Town and Municipality, Narayanpet District, Telangana-509339, Co-Borrower
Loan Account Nos. AP/HDB/MBNR/A000000773 & AP/HDB/MBNR/A000000937

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY : All that the House No:1-59/1/C, PTIN No:12/082823, Admeasuring 50 Sq. Yards in Survey No: 1706, situated at Kosi Town & Mandal, Narayanpet District, Telangana State, Pincode - 509339 and bounded by: North: Open plot of dugunur Kashappa South: House of Lakshmi East: 10' Feet Road, West: 8' Feet

Note: "Through this notice, all the previous notices issued in this LAN is hereby recalled"

Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/Guarantor/LAN No. Demand Notice Date and Amount **DATE OF POSSESSION**
1.Mrs. Ashwini Lagacherla R/o. H.No. 2-44, Kotapally Village, Kosi Mandal, Mahabubnagar Narayanpet District, Telangana-509350, Borrower 14/08/2025 Rs.6,28,376/- (Rupees Six lakhs twenty eight thousand three hundred and sixty nine only)
2.Mr. Srinivas Goud Lagacherla S/o. Balraj Goud R/o. H.No. 2-44, Kotapally Village, Kosi Mandal, Mahabubnagar Narayanpet District, Telangana-509350, Co-Borrower
Loan Account Nos. AP/HDB/MBNR/A000000548

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY : All that the Property of Old House no. 1-19, New House no. 2, 44, extent of 50.11 square yards, ground floor 451 square feet, first floor 246 square feet, Kotapally village, Kosi mandal, Narayanpet district, Telangana, India - 509350 and bounded by: North: House of Kondreddy and Sakali Anjapala, South: Madur to Mahabubnagar Road, East: Sheri Chakali Chandrahama House, West: 8' Feet Own empty land and Road.

Note: "Through this notice, all the previous notices issued in this LAN is hereby recalled"

Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/Guarantor/LAN No. Demand Notice Date and Amount **DATE OF POSSESSION**
1.Mr. Basu Reddy Kottam S/o. Anantha Reddy R/o. H.No. 6-44, Nidjintha Village, Madur Mandal, Narayanpet District, Telangana-509411, Borrower 2.Ms. Laxmi Devi K R/o. H.No. 6-44, Nidjintha Village, Madur Mandal, Narayanpet District, Telangana-509411, Co-Borrower
Loan Account Nos. AP/HDB/MBNR/A000000881

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY : All that the Property of ALL THAT THE HOUSE NO.6-44 TOTAL PLOT AREA 210.33 SQ YARDS situated at NIDJINTHA VILLAGE MADDUR MNDL NARAYANPET DISTRICT Telangana, India 509411 and bounded by: North: Houses of Kommu Narisimha and Sakali Ambadasu, South: Madur to Mahabubnagar Road, East: Houses of Kondreddy and Sakali Anjapala, West: Open place of Chennubhanu Krishnadeva.

Note: "Through this notice, all the previous notices issued in this LAN is hereby recalled"

Place: Hyderabad Sd/- Authorised Officer Date : 17-12-2025

LIVING FOR THE NATION

Patriotism has long been measured by sacrifice, often dramatised through martyrdom and moments of crisis. But a mature civilisation must eventually ask a harder question. What does it mean to live for the nation every single day? True nationalism is not forged only on battlefields or in moments of extreme heroism. It is sustained in ordinary life, in conduct, choices, discipline and collective purpose. To live for the nation is to place it above narrow identities without erasing diversity. It is to understand that caste, creed, region and language are social facts, not political weapons. When society fractures over small differences, it signals not passion but intellectual laziness. Civilisations decline not because of external enemies alone, but because internal cohesion weakens. Unity, therefore, is not a slogan, but a strategic strength. History repeatedly shows that truth alone does not command respect in a competitive world. Moral righteousness without capacity becomes vulnerable. Strength, whether it is economic, cultural, intellectual or social, is what allows values to travel beyond borders. This strength, however, does not emerge from confrontation for its own sake. Wisdom lies in discernment. In knowing when to assert, when to adapt, and when to outgrow conflict altogether. An impulsive society fights every problem whereas a wise one understands which battles elevate and which only exhaust. Living for the nation also means rejecting the false binary between personal success and collective duty. One does not need to renounce the world to serve it. Professional excellence, wealth creation, innovation and ambition are not anti-national. They are essential to nation-building, provided they are anchored in responsibility. A society where individuals rise but forget the collective soon finds that individual success itself becomes fragile. Equally important is cultural confidence. A nation unsure of its own traditions becomes vulnerable to imitation without understanding. Cultural pride is not hostility to the world. It is clarity about oneself. Wearing traditional attire, preserving languages, valuing family bonds and celebrating indigenous thought systems are not acts of regression. They are acts of continuity. Global engagement is meaningful only when rooted in self-respect. Perhaps the most profound idea embedded in the call to live for the nation is the recognition of every individual's importance. Societies are not built only by towering heroes. They are sustained by millions of small contributions. The quiet honesty of a public servant, the ethical choices of a business owner, the discipline of a student, the compassion of a neighbour, these are the invisible bricks of national strength. When people believe their role is insignificant, apathy sets in. When they believe they matter, nations rise. Finally, living for the nation demands emotional maturity. It requires keeping selfish interests in check, resisting constant outrage, and cultivating patience. A great nation is not one that is perpetually angry, but one that is self-aware, resilient and purposeful. Patriotism, at its highest form, is civic responsibility, not performative emotion, not symbolic aggression, but sustained commitment. The future will belong to nations whose citizens can balance strength with wisdom, ambition with ethics, identity with unity. The challenge before us is to not just stop romanticising death for the nation, but start dignifying life lived consciously for it.

Modi's Gulf, East Africa Visit

SETTING STRATEGIC FOOTHOLDS

■ DR D K GIRI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day state visit to Jordan on 15-16 December, marked a watershed moment in India-Jordan relations, coming 75 years after diplomatic ties were established after a 37-year gap since the last full-fledged visit by an Indian premier. The visit, the first leg of a three-nation tour which also took Modi to Ethiopia and Oman between 16-18 December, was framed by both sides as an opportunity to move the partnership from "symbolic" to "substantive". In a series of social media posts and a joint press briefing in Jordan, Modi highlighted a 'meaningful expansion' of cooperation across a wide spectrum of sectors.

PM Modi's four-day, three nation swing though Jordan, Ethiopia and Oman is meant to give India a diplomatic push in two key regions – the Horn of Africa and the Gulf – at a time when New Delhi is rolling out its 'Link West' and 'Africa Initiative' strategies. At the time of writing (17 Dec), Modi will leave from Ethiopia to Oman. This article, thus, covers the events in Jordan visit while hinting at the purpose of Prime Minister's visits to Ethiopia and Oman.

In Jordan, the most tangible results were the Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) signed on 15 December. The Agreements covered renewable energy, water resource management, digital public infrastructure and a twining of UNESCO sites of Petra, Jordan and Ellora in India. The cultural MoU includes the renewal of the India-Jordan Cultural Exchange Programme for 2025-2029 an initiative that the Prime Minister said would 'further deepen people-to-people ties'. In renewable energy, both countries pledged technical cooperation aimed at clean growth, energy security and climate responsibility. This echoes Modi's earlier statement that the partnership "reflects a shared commitment to clean growth".

Water security, a critical issue for both arid countries, was addressed with collaboration on water-resources management and development, with an emphasis on sharing best practices in conservation and technological innovation. Digital transformation received a boost through a Letter of Intent on sharing successful digital solutions and a call for collaboration between Jordan's National Payment System and India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI). The latter was part of a broader push to support Jordan's digital public infrastructure and inclusive governance.

Strategically, the visit reinforced a shared stance against terrorism. King Abdullah II conveyed strong support for India's fight against terrorism as both leaders condemned

terrorism in all its forms. This part of the outcome has reportedly sent shivers through the spine of terror organisations and their patrons in Pakistani military. Modi also praised Jordan's 'active and positive role' on the Gaza issue, underscoring the geo-political dimension of the bilateral dialogues. While King Abdullah II acknowledged India's 'rising influence' expressing confidence that their partnership would serve as a model for South-South Cooperation.

On economic and trade prospects, India is Jordan's third-largest trading partner, with bilateral trade valued at about 2.8b USD. Jordan supplies a significant share of India's fertilizer imports – particularly Phosphates and Potash – making it a key component of India's food security strategy. During the talks, Modi proposed raising bilateral trade to US 5b USD over the next five years, a target that reflects the ambition to deepen economic inter-dependence. The Prime Minister's 8-Point vision, presented to the King, outlined cooperation in trade, critical minerals, civil-nuclear energy, and capacity-building programmes, including the training of 10 master trainers over three years. Jordan expressed its intent to join Indian-led global initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance (ISA), the Global Bio Fuel Alliance, and the Coalition for Disaster Resilience Infrastructure, signalling a convergence of interests on climate and sustainable development.

The latest trade figures show that India imported 1.2m tonnes of Phosphates and 0.8 m tonnes of Potash from Jordan in the last fiscal year, accounting for roughly 12 per cent of India's total fertilizer imports. Both governments have agreed to launch a Joint Business Council to explore new sectors such as renewable-energy components, agri-tech and pharmaceuticals, aiming to double trade volume by 2030.

On strategic and security dimensions beyond economics, the visit cemented a security partnership that builds on the 2018-defence cooperation MoU. Discussions covered military training, defence-industrial collabora-

The geo-political context is equally significant. Jordan's participation in the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) positions the Kingdom of Jordan as a lynchpin in a multi-model connectivity project that could cut shipping cost by up to 30 per cent and reduce transit times by around 40 per cent. Modi's visit, therefore, was not simply a bilateral affair but also a step toward integrating Jordan into a broader regional architecture that links South Asia to the Mediterranean. In the defence sector, India has offered to supply Jordan with advanced light-weight howitzers and to conduct joint training exercises at the Indian Army's training centre in Rajasthan. A Letter of Intent was also signed to explore co-production of spare parts, which could reduce Jordan's maintenance costs by an estimated 15 per cent over the next decade.

tion, counter terrorism, intelligence sharing and potential military exports. Modi's reference to Jordan's "firm stand against terrorism and extremism" highlighted a shared security outlook, while the King's support for India's counter terrorism efforts reinforced mutual trust.

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In cultural exchange and people-to-people ties, the Indian Diaspora in Jordan numbers around 17,500 employed mainly in textiles, construction, manufacturing and UN agencies. The twining of Petra and Ellora is presented as a 'Gateway for heritage conservation', tourism and academic exchanges. To nurture ties among the youth, India will offer 50 scholarships under the ICCR programme for Jordanian students to pursue undergraduate studies in engineering and technology with the first batch set to arrive in August 2026.

The outcomes of the December visit open up several avenues for future collaboration such as renewable-energy, joint ventures, with Jordan seeking to expand its solar capacity, Indian expertise through the ISA and private sector partnership could create large scale project, leveraging India's cost-effective solar technology. Similarly, digital infra-

structure and FinTech linking UPI – Jordan Payment-System could serve as a template for broader FinTech cooperation including cross-border remittances, E-commerce platforms and date-security standards.

There is also scope in water-management, technology transfer where Indian companies have notable experience – water recycling, drip irrigation and desalination. Opportunities can easily be explored in joint-investment in exploration of critical minerals and fertiliser that could secure supply chain for India's agriculture sector while providing Jordan with value-added industry.

Scope exists in defence and security collaboration, education and capacity building, tourism and heritage conservation which will boost both economies while supporting Jordan's ambition to become a technology hub. Such present initiatives and future scope collectively aim to transform the India-Jordan relationship into a dynamic, multi-sector partnership that can serve as a catalyst for broader regional integration and sustainable development.

Modi's visit to Ethiopia is timed to mark 70 years of diplomatic relations. Ethiopia hosts the Africa Union headquarter, making it a strategic foothold for India's broader Africa outreach. For Ethiopia, India is one of its top trading partners and a major source of concessional loans. Modi's second visit to the Sultanate of Oman also coincides with 70th anniversary of India-Oman diplomatic ties and following Sultan Haithm bin Tariq's state visit to India Dec 2023. Oman's location at the mouth of Strait of Hormuz makes it vital for India's security and maritime interest. In short, the Ethiopia leg is about cementing a strategic foothold in East Africa and expanding economic ties, while the Oman leg leverages a long-standing Gulf partnership, energy security and a pending Free Trade Pact, Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) that could boost bilateral trade beyond the current 10b USD. Also, such a pact with Oman should deepen India's influence in the Western Indian Ocean. ---INFA

Something is rotten in the state of Goa

GOA, a tiny state on the western coast of India, is the land of my ancestors, who were Hindus. My maternal grandmother told me that our distant ancestors had arrived there with the sage Parshuram, who had fired an arrow that struck the fertile land of Goa, following which the Goud Saraswat community has been living there for aeons. The last time I met my grandmother was in 1952, when I arrived at her home unannounced with my books to prepare for the UPSC's civil services examination. She stayed alone in her huge house with an old woman for company and to cook her meals. I arrived after dusk. To my surprise, all the doors were open. Murders and thefts were rare in Goa in those times.

Goa has progressed into a state comparable to any other in the Indian Union, alive in a sense that it is afflicted by crime and corruption. When the colonial rulers, the Portuguese, were driven out in 1961, the state was merged into the Union of India. The two core services, the IAS and the IPS, were introduced and the judiciary reorganised on the lines of neighbouring states. At first, the local inhabitants were very happy. The new rulers were among their own and till the casino culture gained prominence in Goa, disaffection with those who ruled was minimal. The Congress gave way to the BJP, which ensnared most of

the rival legislators through the lure of office. It can be safely said that till BJP leader Manohar Parrikar was the Chief Minister, crime and corruption had been checked despite the influx of citizens from northern states and the inroads of the casino culture. The current government led by Pramod Sawant has allowed the hold that Parrikar had on the administration to slip so badly that Herculean efforts will be needed to restore the rule of law. The fire that swept through the nightclub called Birch by Romeo Lane, killing 25 people — including 20 poor migrants who had shifted to Goa to make a living — sums up the sorry state of governance under Sawant's rule.

Two brothers, Gaurav and Saurabh Luthra, owned the nightclub, along with "sleeping partner" Ajay Gupta. The land had been leased to them by the owner, Surinder Kumar Khosla, though he knew that no construction was permitted there since it lay astride former salt pans.

It has been reported that Gaurav and Saurabh, both residents of Delhi, share their residential address with 42 firms, most of which are probably shell companies. The Enforcement Directorate would be well advised to ascertain if these firms are conduits for money laundering. As per a report in a leading English newspaper, when electoral bonds were the flavour of the season, the brothers or the companies they

controlled deposited Rs 37 crore in the scheme (which was later scrapped). This needs to be verified.

Now, the BJP, like any other political party, has to collect money by all means, fair or foul, in order to run its electoral machinery. In Goa, nightclubs and casinos present the politicians with easy pickings. The constructions that have changed the face of the Goan countryside are, of course, their prime source of funding.

The Luthra brothers were in Delhi when the fire struck their nightclub built with birchwood and having thatched roofs — all combustible material. They were informed telephonically within minutes of the disaster.

Immediately, they booked a flight to Thailand to avoid arrest. CM Sawant's minions went into top gear and managed to get the brothers arrested from Phuket. The government hoped that the public would forget that the real culprits were those who had shut their eyes to the illegalities.

Who are the officials who permitted the nightclub to operate brazenly on land on which no construction was permitted? If a politician has given the green signal, he or she should be exposed. Why have the erring officials not been named as co-accused along with the Luthra brothers and the landowner? The officer in charge of the police station where the

nightclub was operating is reported to have sent a written report to his superiors. He alleged that he was told to "keep quiet". If that is so, there is no solace for law-abiding citizens of Goa that the senior officers who should have enforced the law are themselves complicit in the crime committed under their very noses.

My brother retired as the head of the Town and Country Planning Department in the Central government. He worked for five years after retirement as the Director of the School of Planning and Architecture in New Delhi. He told me that he is not abreast of the happenings in his previous department in Goa, though he lives in our

ancestral home in the village. I consulted him about this fiasco. His first comment was that the land on which the nightclub was built was an "eco-sensitive zone, subject to tidal action". According to the Goa Regional Plan (2001-21), which was approved in 2008, no construction can be permitted on such land.

The second mandatory requirement that was disregarded was that there has to be a minimum distance of 70 metres between any building and the spot which a fire tender can access. In the Arpora case, the fire tenders had to operate from a distance of 400 metres, which was obviously ineffective. Planners should have pointed out these

requirements to those empowered to permit construction.

Most native Goans feel that there is no governance in their state. It has collapsed beyond repair and only change of guard can stem the rot.

The CM is attempting to shift the blame to officials. He has suspended a few of them and threatened not to spare any other who has not acted in good faith. He has not pointed a finger at any politician! But without political blessings, these violations could not have occurred. Goa is too small a state for its residents not to be aware of the levels to which corruption has risen.

The 20 migrants who lost their lives represented the India that has not benefited from PM Narendra Modi's development initiatives and the economic advances the country has made. There appears to be a sense of oblivion about the existence of this India when decisions have to be taken, like they have to be taken every day by those who rule. When Covid struck, our Prime Minister abruptly announced a lockdown. He forgot to factor in the poor migrants who were left without shelter and sustenance. PM Modi's acolytes in Goa apparently don't spare a thought for the migrants who go there to make a living. Forgetting about this parallel, poor India is inexcusable.



“Soulful Strokes” – the 6th Annual Art Exhibition will be held in Chitrakala Parishath



Bengaluru : Celebrating the spirit, rhythm, and evolving identity of the city, artist Barnali presents her latest art series titled “Namma Bengaluru: Colours of the City” as part of “Soulful Strokes”, the 6th Annual Art Exhibition organised by the Kalashrishti Group of Artists at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Gallery 2 and 3, Kumarappa Road, Bengaluru.

The exhibition, held from December 17 to 21, 2025, will be open to the public daily from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Entry is free. Through “Namma Bengaluru: Colours of the City,” Barnali offers a heartfelt visual tribute to the city she calls home,

moving beyond its image as a technology-driven metropolis to reveal its deeper character shaped by heritage, greenery, memories, and lived experiences. Her artworks depict iconic Bengaluru landmarks such as Cubbon Park, Vidhana Soudha, Lalbagh, KR Market, and Church Street, not as postcard images, but as vibrant spaces filled with emotion and everyday life.

“Bengaluru is not just a city I live in. It is a feeling I paint,” says Barnali. Her works reflect the calm, chaos, nostalgia, and rhythm of the city, inviting viewers to pause and observe moments often overlooked in the rush of

urban life. “In every Bengaluru street, there is a story waiting to be remembered. From Cubbon Park to KR Market, my art captures the rhythm of everyday Bengaluru,” she adds.

Curated by Bernari Ray, Soulful Strokes features works by eminent artists Vikram, Archana Shailesh, Haribabu, Chaitanya, Latha, Sanjay Kumar, Manoj Ajay Gurunatha, and Suparna Rajan, along with promising student artists Adrija Chatterjee and Samita Ghosh. The exhibition brings together diverse artistic styles and contemporary themes, highlighting evolving narratives in Indian art while encouraging emerging talent.

Aware of existing conditions, tenders invited with a forward-looking approach: MB Patil



Bengaluru: Infrastructure Development Minister M. B. Patil said on Friday that the State Government is aware that permission from Bengaluru International Airport Limited (BIAL) is required to construct a second international airport near the State capital, and that the relevant condition remains valid until 2033. With this in view, and adopting a long-term perspective, the Government has initiated preparatory work well in advance, he said. He has responded to the matter raised during the recent session of Parliament regarding the proposed second international airport for Bengaluru. At the time of commissioning Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), a condition was imposed prohibiting the development of another airport within a 150-km radius until 2033. However, similar conditions have been relaxed in cities such as New Delhi

Development Corporation (KSIIDC) to prepare a location suitability report along with a comprehensive technical and financial feasibility study.

A period of five months will be provided for submission of the report to the Government. While preparing it, factors such as passenger density, potential for industrial and tourism growth, infrastructure availability, geographical features, rainfall patterns, sewerage, noise pollution and waste management will be taken into consideration.

The Government is clear that Bengaluru requires another international airport, he said. A high-level team from the Airports Authority of India had earlier inspected the sites at Choodahalli and Somanahalli on Kanakapura Road, as well as another location on the Nelamangala-Kunigal Road, and submitted its report to the Government. Based on this assessment, the tenders have now been invited,

and Navi Mumbai to facilitate the development of second airports. This matter will be addressed appropriately at the appropriate time, he said.

Patil explained that several critical steps are involved in establishing an airport, including site identification, inspections, land acquisition and disbursement of compensation. Completing these processes alone would take at least five to six years. Approval from BIAL would be required only after these stages are completed. Therefore, tenders have been invited through the Karnataka State Industrial and Infrastructure

Nethradhama Launches Karnataka's First Mobile Unit for Bladeless Eye Surgery;



Bengaluru : In a major leap for precision eye surgery in Karnataka, Nethradhama Superspeciality Eye Hospital has launched the Ziener Z8 Neo, a state-of-the-art multi-purpose femtosecond laser system, now being delivered across multiple centres within the city through a custom-engineered mobile unit. We were among the earliest adopters of Femtosecond laser technology in India,” said Prof. Dr. Sri Ganesh, Chairman and Managing Director, Nethradhama.

“We were the first in India to install the Catalys platform for bladeless cataract surgery and the first in the country to introduce the VisuMax 800 system offering SMILE Pro. From introducing the state’s first Catalys platform for bladeless cataract surgery to pioneering SMILE in South India, innovation has always been part of our DNA. With the Z8 Neo, we have elevated this further, not just by upgrading our in-centre capabilities, but also by mobilising the technology itself. Our specially engineered van, with climate and shock control, allows us to rotate the machine between five centres.

Speaking at the same time, Varshini Aparna said that with the great

Nothing wrong in Satish Jarkiholi's dinner meeting: DCM DK Shivakumar

Belagavi: Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Thursday said there was nothing wrong in Satish Jarkiholi hosting a dinner meeting of legislators, asserting that such gatherings were common. Speaking to reporters at the Circuit House, he remarked that no one could object to a dinner meeting and said he had no role in organising it.

Responding to BJP leader B.Y. Vijayendra’s remarks branding him the “father of corruption” and alleging that



the Congress was an ATM for the High Command, Shivakumar said the allegations must be proven and that time would answer Vijayendra.

On his personal secretary Rajendra Prasad’s accident, the Deputy CM said he was stable and out of danger, though advised rest. Expressing grief over the death of a youth in the accident, Shivakumar said the government would ensure adequate compensation to the bereaved family.

Varshini Aparna brings glory to the state by winning 1 gold, 3 silver, 1 bronze in the 63rd National Roller Skating Championship



Bengaluru: Varshini Aparna has won one gold medal, three silver medals, and one bronze medal in the 63rd National Roller Skating Championship-2025 held in Visakhapatnam.

Aparna, who was being trained by Best Club Coach Raghavendra G. V., has increased the glory of the country by achieving this unique achievement.

Speaking at the same time, Varshini Aparna said that with the great

desire to win a gold medal in skating, she trained continuously under the good guidance of Coach Raghavendra G. V. Thus, she expressed her joy that it helped her win the gold medal.

Coach Raghavendra G. V. Speaking, he said that the BEST Club is working with the aim of encouraging and

supporting boys and girls who are interested in skating.

and so far hundreds of skaters have played at the national and state levels and achieved fame.

The state’s Sports Department is providing appropriate cooperation to the skating sport. He said that it is our hope that the youth of our state should represent the sport of skating at the international level and bring fame to our state.

KREDL celebrates Energy Conservation Week

Bengaluru : Hundreds of students from various schools participated in the National Energy Conservation Day celebrations held at KREDL’s headquarters in Nagarbhavi today. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the Union Ministry of Power, mandates the observance of Energy Conservation Week across all states. The National Energy Conservation Week is typically observed from December 14 (Energy Conservation Day) to December 20, promoting energy efficiency through awareness, activities, and awards for industries, institutions, and students, with events like the painting competitions and National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA) encouraging saving energy for future generations.

Congress gave nothing to North Karnataka in Belagavi session: Opposition leader R. Ashok



Bengaluru : The Congress government has given nothing to North Karnataka in the Belagavi session. They have only told lies, said opposition leader R. Ashok, expressing outrage.

Speaking to reporters, he said that in every Belagavi session, discussions take place on the problems of North Karnataka. This time, the BJP had emphasized this issue. Even though discussions went on for a total of 21 hours, it was like washing tamarind fruit in a river (meaning it was futile). CM Siddaramaiah, who has presented the budget 16 times, says that injustice has been done to North Karnataka—if that’s the case, it is his own failure. Even though there are Public Works and Irrigation Ministers, there are potholes in the roads of North Karnataka. They say they will provide 10,000 crore rupees every year,

but later lie by saying it’s for the entire state.

They first give assurances on irrigation projects, then say there is a court injunction. The Govindaraj Commission report is still not complete. CM Siddaramaiah is a complete liar and has told lies. People thought the Chief Minister would announce something new. But they have made it as if there is no electricity, snatching away the light from the entire North Karnataka. They have only made allegations against the central government. They haven’t provided land for the central railway project, nor their share for the waste management project. Even though the central government provided a grant for the development of the Ellamma Temple project, they haven’t started it. Even though about 50 crore rupees were given for Belagavi’s lakes, they haven’t used it. Congress MPs asked a question in the Lok Sabha about the release of funds for the Jai

Jeevan Mission scheme, and the answer was to submit the bill. Officials told the CC Patil committee that they couldn’t submit the bill.

Even after all this, Congress leaders claim they have done development. When our MLAs asked about the Grahilakshmi funds, no answer was given. When asked where the 5,000 crore rupees went, no answer was provided on that either. This is a government of debtors, engaging in corruption and looting. Under this government, things have become even worse for North Karnataka. The MLAs are wasting time by holding dinner parties. If there is no rift, everyone should have been present when the Chief Minister was speaking in the House. But only 6 ministers were there. About 50% of the MLAs were not present at all. Here, there is no guarantee for the Chief Minister. This government has given an empty vessel to North Karnataka, he alleged.

Highways Clogged by Encroachments, Shrines and Statues



CHALADI PURNACHANDRA RAO
SENIOR JOURNALIST

ters in the country. The Union government has invested heavily in the development of National Highways, with a focus on improving infrastructure, reducing congestion, and enhancing safety. By achieving these objectives, the National Highways aim to contribute to India’s economic growth, social development, and overall prosperity. India has a total of 599 National Highways

(NH) covering a length of approximately 1,51,874 kilometers. These highways play a crucial role in connecting different regions and fostering economic growth and development throughout the country.

Existing impediments on NH in many spots

Contrary to the objective of national highways, some political party activists and other sector persons have extensively and haphazardly erected religious structures and statues on many National Highways across the country, causing serious disruption to road traffic and leading to accidents. Consequently, the National Highways Authority



“A total of 2,524 unauthorized statues have been erected in various government lands across the Andhra Pradesh state alone. Among them, 38 are on national highways, 1,671 on state roads, and 815 on state highways. A

government order (GO) was issued in 2013, prohibiting installation of statues on public roads, footpaths, sidewalks, and other public utility spaces.

approached the Supreme Court.

Finally the Supreme Court of India has directed all States and UTs to stop granting permission for installing statues or any structures on public roads, pavements, and utility



areas that obstruct traffic, emphasizing public safety and free movement. From around 2013 the SC orders covered National Highways too, except setting up of streetlights etc.

This ruling pertained to cases challenging unauthorized constructions, with courts stressing public funds should serve people, not glorify leaders through road encroachments.

The Supreme Court of India has directed all States and UTs to stop granting permission for installing statues or any structures on public roads, pavements, and utility

areas across the Andhra Pradesh state alone. Among them, 38 are on national highways, 1,671 on state roads, and 815 on state highways. A government order (GO) was issued in 2013, prohibiting installation of statues on public roads, footpaths, sidewalks, and other public utility spaces.

As per the GO issued in 2019, no permissions have been granted for existing statues, nor for their removal. Collectors will take decisions based on the guidelines. It must be said that these haphazardly constructed statues, encroachments on roads, and religious structures are becoming a serious obstacle to national highways and severely undermining the central government’s objective.

Therefore, it is the responsibility of the respective state governments to immediately intervene, remove any statues or religious structures that are causing obstruction, regardless of who they represent, and uphold the purpose of the national highways, thereby implementing the Supreme Court orders.

Catastrophe looming, CM Stalin cautions PM Modi; urges swift resolution to tariff row with US

Thousands of textile, leather export units on verge of collapse, lakhs of workers staring at joblessness

CHENNAI: From thousands of small and medium enterprises in textile and leather pushed to the brink of collapse to lakhs of jobs consequently hanging in balance, the punitive 50 per cent tariff imposed by the United States on exports from India is not merely an economic challenge but a looming humanitarian challenge, cautioned Chief Minister MK Stalin, urging Prime Minister Narendra Modi to immediately intervene and resolve the issue.

In a letter to the Prime Minister on Thursday, Stalin expressed his deep sense of urgency and concern over the crisis faced by exporters in Tamil Nadu, particularly the textile, leather and foot-



wear sectors. The State accounts for 28 per cent of textile and 40 per cent share in leather and footwear exports, both of which are now reeling under the tariff imposed by President Donald Trump.

Citing an example, the chief minister said exporters in Tirupur, called the knitwear capital of India, have reported a staggering loss of Rs 15,000 crore in confirmed orders. And, with new orders drying up at an alarming rate, these units were forced to enforce production cuts up to 30 per cent.

"This has translated

into a combined daily loss of Rs 60 crore in revenues for exporters in Tirupur, Coimbatore, Erode and Karur districts, pushing many small and medium enterprises to the brink of collapse. A similar dismal scenario is witnessed in our footwear clusters in Vellore, Ranipet and Tirupattur districts," he said.

Pushed to a corner by tariffs, exporters are compelled to offer deep discounts to retain clients, which is eroding their viability. "The ripple effects are profound: lakhs of jobs hang in the balance, with the sectors

already witnessing layoffs and wage deferrals that threaten the stability of entire communities."

This is not merely a short-term hurdle, but could prove to be disastrous in the long run, Stalin warned. International buyers are rapidly diverting orders to competitors like Vietnam, Bangladesh and Cambodia, which have a tariff advantage over India. "Once these markets are lost, regaining them would be an uphill battle, as entrenched supply chains rarely revert. This has ominous long-term implications for the future employment prospects of our youth, especially women."

In the letter, the chief minister urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to prioritise the resolution of tariff deadlock through a bilateral agreement at the earliest possible juncture. "A swift decision would not only revive our exporters' fortunes but also reinforce India's position as a reliable global manufacturing hub," Stalin added.

Rs 7.7 Cr sports medicine wing to come up at Omandurar Hospital

CHENNAI: State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Ma Subramanian on Friday announced that a dedicated medicine wing for sportspersons, built at a cost of Rs 7.70 crore, will soon be inaugurated at the Tamil Nadu Government Multi Super Speciality Hospital (TNGMSSH) in Omandurar estate by the Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin.

Addressing reporters after presiding over an appreciation ceremony at the TNGMSSH, the Minister said the facility has emerged as a benchmark institution in advanced tertiary care. "Over the past four-and-a-half years, the hospital has successfully performed more than 20,000 interventional cardiology procedures and around 500 robotic surgeries, marking a major milestone in public healthcare delivery," he said.

The minister noted that a state-of-the-art robotic surgery system was procured in 2022 at a cost of Rs 34 crore, enabling the hospital to offer advanced.

BJP defends VB- G RAM G overhaul, says new Bill aims at Viksit Bharat



In a statement, TN BJP chief spokesperson Narayanan Thirupathy

said the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme was originally enacted by Parliament in 2005 to ensure livelihood security for rural households and was renamed MGNREGS only in 2009.

The programme, he noted, focused on creating durable assets such as water bodies, roads, afforestation projects and soil conservation works.

"After more than two decades, the scheme has now been comprehensively revamped through the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeekika Mission

and reform, not a mere change in nomenclature funding trends, the BJP leader pointed out that the scheme's allocation had increased from Rs 33,000 crore in 2014 to Rs 86,000 crore last year, and now stands at Rs 1,51,852 crore under the new Bill, with the Centre contributing 60%.

He rejected Chief Minister M K Stalin's claim of reduced Central funding for sponsored schemes, stating that BJP-led governments had released Rs 84 lakh crore to States over the past decade, compared to Rs 22 lakh crore during the Congress-led UPA regime.

Under the new law, guaranteed employment has been increased from 100 to 125 days, with a 60-day pause during peak agricultural seasons to prevent disruption of farm activities. The scheme is fully digitised to eliminate irregularities, prioritises women, senior citizens and persons with disabilities, and empowers gram panchayats with greater authority.

IIT-M, Google launch AI capacity-building programme for govt officials

CHENNAI: The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M), through its Centre for Responsible AI (CeRAI) at the Wadhwan School of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (WSAI), on Friday announced the launch of a new capacity-building programme aimed at training Indian government officials in the design, procurement and large-scale deployment of responsible artificial intelligence (AI) systems.

Developed in partnership with Google and the Digital Futures Lab (DFL), an independent interdisciplinary research studio, the initiative was unveiled



during the Conclave on Strengthening Human Capital for the AI Era, held at the IIT-M campus here. The programme seeks to equip government officials with critical technical, operational and governance capabilities required for the effective and ethical use of AI in public institutions. With AI increasingly shaping domains such as education, service delivery and digital governance, the

initiative addresses the urgent need for AI literacy, informed decision-making and robust oversight frameworks within the public sector.

Highlighting the significance of responsible AI adoption, B Ravindran, Head of WSAI, IIT-M, said that as AI systems begin to influence decision-making at scale, trust, inclusion and accountability must form the bedrock of their development and deployment. He noted that the conclave aims to foster open dialogue among diverse stakeholders and co-create policy-relevant, context-aware frameworks reflecting the realities of the Global South.

CHENNAI: Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin on Friday flagged off the upgraded Poonamallee electric bus depot of the Metropolitan Transport Corporation, developed at a cost of Rs 43.53 crore, and inaugurated the operation of 125 new low-floor electric buses procured at an outlay of Rs 214.50 crore as part of the third phase of the electric bus rollout in Chennai.

The newly launched fleet includes 45 low-floor air-conditioned electric buses and 80 non-air-conditioned low-floor electric buses. Officials said the addition would strengthen electric bus services on major city

routes and enhance commuter comfort.

Transport and Electricity Minister S.S. Sivasankar, Minorities Welfare and Non-Resident Tamils Welfare Minister S.M. Nasar, Poonamallee MLA A. Krishnasamy, Transport

Department Principal Secretary Shunconngam Jatak Chiru, Managing Director of the Metropolitan Transport Corporation T. Prabhu Shankar, Tiruvallur District Collector M. Prathap, and Joint Managing Director

Deputy CM Udhayanidhi flags off upgraded Poonamallee e-bus depot, 125 new electric buses



Ram. Sundarapandian attended the event, along with senior officials and representatives of transport unions.

The launch is part of Chennai's phased expansion of electric bus infrastructure. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin had inaugurated the electric bus depot at Vyasarpadi and flagged off 120 non-air-conditioned electric buses on June 30. On August 11, the Deputy Chief Minister launched the upgraded Perumbakkam electric bus depot, developed at a cost of Rs 49.56 crore, and introduced 135 low-floor electric buses, including 55 air-conditioned and 80 deluxe buses, at a cost of Rs 233 crore.

No more Pit Bulls, Rottweilers in Chennai from Dec 20



CHENNAI: From December 20, 2025, applications for new pet licences for Pit Bull and Rottweiler breeds will be prohibited within the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) limits. The ban, initiated by the GCC's Veterinary Department, seeks to stop the issuance of new licences and the renewal of annual licences for the two breeds, which the Corporation has classified as aggressive and posing a risk to public safety. According to the resolution passed, while existing licensed dogs will not be seized, owners of Pit Bull and Rottweiler dogs already holding valid pet licences will be required to use a leash and muzzle whenever the dogs are taken outside their homes. Failure to comply will attract a fine of Rs. 5,000.

The Corporation has also proposed a penalty of Rs.1 lakh for persons who purchase or rear Pit Bull or Rottweiler dogs without a licence after the cut-off date. Officials said the move is aimed at preventing fresh ownership of the breeds within city limits. The proposal characterises Pit Bull and Rottweiler dogs as ferocious and aggressive breeds, linking them to a significant share of recent dog attack complaints and incidents involving harm to the public. It notes that while these dogs may behave normally in familiar surroundings and with known individuals, their conduct can become unpredictable in the presence of unfamiliar people or in new environments, particularly in public spaces and shared residential areas. Citing the fear and safety risks posed

to the general public and the issue as a breed-specific concern, the council proposes stricter controls including licensing restrictions, mandatory leashing and muzzling, and steep penalties are necessary to prevent further incidents.

Social connection linked to improved health and reduced risk of early death



The World Health Organization (WHO) Commission on Social Connection has released its global report revealing that 1 in 6 people worldwide is affected by loneliness, with significant impacts on health and well-being. Loneliness is linked to an estimated 100 deaths every hour—more than 871,000 deaths annually. Strong social connections can lead to better health and longer life, the report says.

"In this Report, we pull back the curtain on loneliness and isolation as a defining challenge of our time. Our Commission lays out a road map for how we can build more connected lives and underscores the profound impact this can have on health, educational, and economic outcomes," said Dr Vivek Murthy, Co-chair of the WHO Commission on Social Connection, and former Surgeon General of the United States of America.

WHO defines social connection as the ways people relate to and interact with others. Loneliness is described as the painful feeling that arises from a gap between desired and actual social connections, while social isolation refers to the objective lack of sufficient social connections. "In this age when the possibilities to connect are endless, more and more people are finding themselves isolated and lonely," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO

Director-General. "Apart from the toll it takes on individuals, families and communities, left unaddressed, loneliness and social isolation will continue to cost society billions in terms of health care, education, and employment. I welcome the Commission's report, which shines a light on the scale and impact of loneliness and isolation, and outlines key areas in which we can help people to reconnect in ways that matter most."

SCALE AND CAUSES OF LONELINESS AND SOCIAL ISOLATION

Loneliness affects people of all ages, especially youth and people living in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC). Between 17-21% of individuals aged 13-29-year-olds reported feeling lonely, with the highest rates among teenagers. About 24% of people in low-income countries reported feeling lonely—twice the rate in high-

income countries (about 11%).

"Even in a digitally connected world, many young people feel alone. As technology reshapes our lives, we must ensure it strengthens—not weakens—human connection. Our report shows that social connection must be integrated into all policies—from digital access to health, education, and employment," said Chido Mpemba, Co-chair of the WHO Commission on Social Connection and Advisor to the African Union Chairperson.

While data on social isolation is more limited, it is estimated to affect up to 1 in 3 older adults and 1 in 4 adolescents. Some groups, such as people with disabilities, refugees or migrants, LGBTQ+ individuals, and indigenous groups and ethnic minorities, may face discrimination or additional barriers that make social connection harder.

Loneliness and social isolation have multiple causes. They include, for instance, poor health, low income and education, living alone, inadequate community infrastructure and public policies, and digital technologies. The report underscores the need for vigilance around the effects of excessive screen time or negative online interactions on the mental health and well-being of young people.

IMPACTS ON HEALTH, QUALITY OF LIFE AND ECONOMIES

Social connection can protect health across the lifespan. It can reduce inflammation, lower the risk of serious health problems, foster mental health, and prevent early death. It can also strengthen the social fabric, contributing to making communities healthier, safer and more prosperous. In contrast, loneliness and social isolation increase the risk of stroke, heart disease, diabetes, cognitive decline, and premature death. It also affects mental health, with people who are lonely twice as likely to get depressed. Loneliness can also lead to anxiety, and thoughts of self-harm or suicide. The impacts extend to learning and employment. Teenagers who felt lonely were 22% more likely to get lower grades or qualifications. Adults who are lonely may find it harder to find or maintain employment and may earn less over time.

Theeyya Vs Thooya war: Vijay adopts MGR's anti-DMK slogan



describe DMK as an evil force," he said, adding: "Both Anna and MGR are Tamil Nadu's assets. No one can either claim ownership or complain about invoking their legacy. The DMK loots under the pretext of following Periyar's principles."

That was not the only invocation of the late AIADMK leaders. Listing out DMK's unfulfilled poll promises, including scrapping NEET, waiving education loans, Rs 100 subsidy on cooking gas, Vijay echoed former chief minister Jayalalithaa's style of asking the crowd, "sonnagale, senchangala? (They promised, but did they do?)."

While all Dravidian outfits collectively claim Periyar's legacy, Vijay's calibrated appropriation of AIADMK founder MGR and his successor Jayalalithaa, whom the party celebrates as its mascot, is unlikely to go unchallenged.

"Why are you in jitters if TVK is not a concern? You trust in looted money, but I firmly believe in the support of people," he said, adding that TVK will oppose only those in power and not those who are not in the contest," he said.

Even MGR and Jayalalithaa used to

Maruti Suzuki WagonR surpasses 35 lakh production milestone

One of the few models to achieve the 35 lakh production figure in India



New Delhi December 2025: Maruti Suzuki India Limited ("Maruti Suzuki") celebrates a historic milestone of 35 lakh units of cumulative production, across three generations, of the iconic WagonR. This milestone marks the extraordinary journey of trust and emotional connect of the brand with millions of customers across India. Launched in December 1999, the WagonR joins the ranks of Alto and Swift in crossing this significant milestone. Maruti Suzuki WagonR is currently manufactured at the Company's facilities in Gurgaon and Manesar, in Haryana. Mr. Hisashi Takeuchi, Managing Director & CEO, Maruti Suzuki India Limited, said, "This achievement is not just a production milestone, but reflects the enduring love and confidence that generations of customers have shown towards brand WagonR. It is rare for a vehicle to receive such acceptance even after 25 years since its launch. The WagonR kept

evolving with the introduction of new technology and features over time, while retaining its original DNA. The WagonR has been highly appreciated for aspects like its iconic tall-boy design, spacious interiors and fuel efficiency, which aptly reflect our customers' needs and expectations. We are deeply grateful for their continued support and remain committed to providing 'Joy of Mobility' for generations to come."

In Japan, Suzuki WagonR was first introduced in September 1993. Developed as a semi-bonnet style mini wagon, it gained immense popularity as a comfortable and easy-to-use car. It is manufactured across Japan, India, Hungary, and Indonesia. At present, WagonR is sold in more than 75 countries and regions across the world, including Japan, India and Europe. In August 2025, the Suzuki WagonR crossed the accumulated sales of 1 crore units.

Murali Manohar Palod Elected Chairman, Govind Narayan Rathi Vice-Chairman of AP Mahesh Co-operative Urban Bank

Hyderabad: Hyderabad District Collector Harichandana Dasari on Friday said that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of AP Mahesh Co-operative Urban Bank Limited were elected unanimously, as all the board members expressed consensus and no objections were raised. The election process was conducted at the Collectorate mini conference hall, where the District Collector participated along with District Revenue Officer E. Venkatachary during the election proceedings for the posts of Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The Collector informed that two nominations were received for the posts of Chairman and Vice-Chairman and, as no member expressed any objection, Murali Manohar Palod was unanimously elected as Chairman, while Govind Narayan Rathi was unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman. She

also directed all the elected Board of Directors of AP Mahesh Co-operative Urban Bank to submit their election expenditure statements within the stipulated time, as per the prescribed rules. Since the Chairman and Vice-Chairman were elected unanimously by the Board members, the District Collector stated that the report would be forwarded to the Co-operative Elections Authority for approval. On the occasion, the newly elected Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Directors expressed their gratitude to the District Returning Officer for conducting the election smoothly.



Samsung Solve for Tomorrow 2025: Young Innovators Drive Tech for Sustainability



Galaxy Z Flip smartphones for the top 20 teams.

5. A Growing, Decentralised Innovation Ecosystem

The 2025 edition saw increasing participation from Tier-II and Tier-III cities, with alumni mentoring newcomers and access to IIT Delhi's FITT Labs for prototype development. This reflects the spread of STEM innovation beyond metropolitan hubs.

6. Empathy-Driven, Responsible Innovation

Students were guided through design-thinking focused on solving real-world problems responsibly, prioritizing societal impact and sustainable AI solutions.

7. Legacy of Changemaking

Since 2010, Samsung Solve for Tomorrow has engaged 2.9 million young innovators in 68 countries, empowering students with mentorship and tools to create impactful STEM solutions. India's diverse and vibrant contribution continues to grow year on year.

Wealth

The standout Samsung Solve for Tomorrow 2025 winner, Prithvi Rakshak, is a modular AI-powered vermicomposting system developed by three teenagers - Abhishek Dhanda, Prabhkirat Singh, and Rachita Chandok. Their innovation automates organic waste conversion into nutrient-rich compost with smart sensors, making it suitable for schools, markets, and communities.

1. Innovation Rooted in Urgency and Growth

Students

2. Theme Winner

Prithvi Rakshak:

Transforming Waste into

4. Support for Scaling Impact

Winners

received up to

1 crore incubation support

at IIT Delhi,

with additional awards for top

teams, including 1 lakh

grants, Goodwill Awards

and Young Innovator

Awards and Samsung

using solar atmospheric condensation

Renewable Desalination (Assam): Low-cost & energy efficient desalination system to deliver clean drinking water.

SmalBlu (Gujarat): AI platform to optimize enterprise data

infra & reduce carbon foot

print in cloud infrastructure

VOXMAPS (Madhya Pradesh): LiDAR & HD

imaging sensors mounted

drones to collect pollution

data & create Voxel maps

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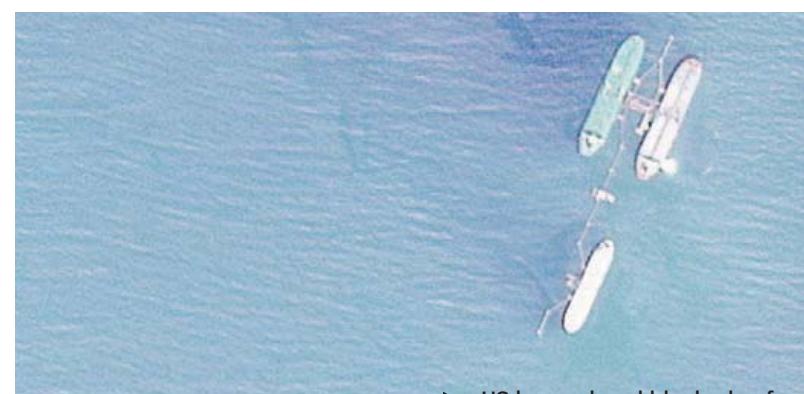
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China backs Venezuela

China voiced political support for Venezuela Thursday after the United States ordered a blockade of sanctioned oil tankers, denouncing what it called 'unilateral bullying' but offering no details on any concrete assistance to its long-time oil supplier



Beijing opposes all forms of unilateral bullying and supports countries in safeguarding their sovereignty and national dignity

elan counterpart Yvan Gil on a phone call Wednesday.

Wang did not name the United States or Trump in the official readout of the call. Wang also did not elaborate on the form or extent of the support that China might or could offer to Venezuela, with which Beijing previously said it had forged an ironclad friendship.

The US is squeezing Venezuela's principal source of revenue in its attempt to target terrorism, drug smuggling and human trafficking, according to Trump. Last week, the US Coast Guard seized an oil tanker off the coast of Venezuela.

President Nicolas Maduro has said the US wants the OPEC nation's crude oil resources, and the military build-up was to overthrow him. In an interview with Politico, Trump said Maduro's days were "num-

- ▶ US has ordered blockade of sanctioned oil tankers moving in and out of Venezuela
- ▶ China says opposed to 'unilateral bullying'
- ▶ China's foreign minister spoke to Venezuelan counterpart on the phone
- ▶ UN and other nations urge de-escalation and dialogue

bered". For years, China has extended credit lines to Venezuela under loans-for-oil deals. In a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Moscow this year, Maduro told Xi that Venezuela was looking forward to expanding cooperation in trade and energy.

At the same time, Beijing has been making an intense effort to co-exist with the US, its most important trading partner. After months of acrimonious dispute over trade and tariffs, Trump and Xi in October managed to hammer out a consensus on how to handle thorny trade issues. China says it opposes any acts that violate the UN Charter or encroach on the sovereignty and security of other countries.

"China believes the international community understands and supports Venezuela's position in defending its legitimate rights and interests," Wang said.

US AGGRESSION

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has urged the de-escalation of tensions, asking the US and Venezuela to honour their obligations under international law, including the UN Charter and any other applicable legal framework to safeguard peace in the region. The presidents of Mexico and Brazil have also urged restraint and dialogue.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, in a phone call to Maduro last week, "reaffirmed his support for the policy of N. Maduro's government, aimed at protecting national interests and sovereignty in the face of growing external pressure."

Venezuela requested the UN Security Council meet to discuss the "ongoing US aggression", according to a letter to the 15-member body seen by Reuters, Wednesday.

China supports Venezuela's request for an urgent meeting of the council, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said Thursday, when asked at a regular news briefing what role China, as a "responsible" major power, would play.

Asked whether what Caracas has described as US "aggression" could put China and the US on a collision course in the region, the spokesperson reiterated Wang Yi's comments and did not say more.

FRESH TENSIONS WITH CHINA

US rolls out \$10bn Taiwan arms deal



Washington, Dec 19: The Trump administration has announced a massive package of arms sales to Taiwan valued at more than \$ 10 billion that includes medium-range missiles, howitzers and drones, drawing an angry response from China.

The State Department announced the sales late Wednesday during a nationally televised address by President Donald Trump, who made scant mention of foreign policy issues and did not speak about China or Taiwan at all. US-Chinese tensions have ebbed and flowed during Trump's second term, largely over trade and tariffs but also over China's increasing aggressiveness toward Taiwan, which Beijing has said must reunify with the mainland. The eight arms sales agreements announced Wednesday cover 82 high-mobility artillery rocket systems, or HIMARS, and 420 Army Tactical Missile Systems, or ATACMS — similar to what the US had been providing Ukraine during the Biden administration to defend itself from Russia — worth more than \$4 billion.

They also include 60 self-propelled howitzer systems and related equipment worth more than \$4 billion and drones valued at more than \$1 billion. Other sales in the package include military software valued at

more than \$1 billion, Javelin and TOW missiles worth more than \$700 million, helicopter spare parts worth \$96 million and refurbishment kits for Harpoon missiles worth \$91 million. China's Foreign Ministry attacked the move, saying it would violate diplomatic agreements between China and the US; gravely harm China's sovereignty, security and territorial integrity; and undermine regional stability.

"The Taiwan independence forces on the island seek independence through force and resist reunification through force, squandering the hard-earned money of the people to purchase weapons at the cost of turning Taiwan into a powder keg," said Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun.

"This cannot save the doomed fate of Taiwan independence but will only accelerate the push of the Taiwan Strait toward a dangerous situation of military confrontation and war. The US support for Taiwan Independence through arms will only end up backfiring. Using Taiwan to contain China will not succeed," he added.

India resumes visa services in Dhaka



when a brief clash occurred as the protesters tried to break through the security barricades. The protesters raised anti-India slogans, according to the videos on social media.

In Khulna, the protesters under a banner called 'Unity Against Indian Hegemony' tried to march towards the Assistant High Commission of India but army soldiers and navy sailors joined hands with police to thwart the marchers. "We had enforced a stringent vigil preventing them (protestors) from proceeding towards the mission. They left the scene after staging a 'peaceful' rally," Khulna's deputy commissioner of police Tajul Islam said.

The reports said in both the rallies the protestors accused India of sheltering deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and demanded her immediate return to be exposed to gallows.

Trump lists administration's successes in year-end address



ed. This is the worst thing that frankly, in my opinion, the worst thing that the Biden administration did to our country is the invasion at the border," he said.

Trump said the Biden administration and its allies in Congress brought in "millions and millions" of migrants and gave them taxpayer-funded housing, while the rent and housing costs for Americans skyrocketed. He claimed that over 60 per cent of growth in the rental market came from foreign migrants.

"At the same time, illegal aliens stole American jobs and flooded emergency rooms, getting free health care and education paid for by you, the American taxpayer," Trump said.

He claimed that for the first time in 50 years, the US is now seeing "reverse migration", as migrants go back home, leaving more housing and more jobs for Americans."

In the year before his election, all net creation of jobs was going to foreign migrants. "Since I took office, 100 per cent of all net job creation has gone to American-born citizens. Hundred per cent," he said.

"We have never been invad-

Deposed PM Oli re-elected party chair

Kathmandu, Dec 19: Ousted Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli was Thursday elected as the CPN-UML's chairman for the third consecutive term with a two-thirds majority.

Oli was elected the Communist Party of Nepal- Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) chairman in a contest held three months after his government was forced to resign following a student-led protest.

During the 11th general convention of the party that concluded Thursday, Oli secured 1,663 votes against his opponent Ishwor Pokharel, who received 584 votes, according to party sources.

Pokharel, 71, had received the backing of former President Bidya Devi Bhandari, his rival in the presidential election.

The convention started with a public meeting in the Bhaktapur district and concluded with the election of Oli and other office bearers and central committee members of the party.

Shankar Pokharel, from Oli's panel, was elected to the post of General Secretary of the party for the second term. He defeated Surendra Pandey, former finance minister, who contested the election from Pokharel's panel.

Among 19 office bearers of the party, 17 were elected from Oli's panel, while two were from Pokharel's panel.

Prithvi Subba Gurung, Bishnu Paudel, Raghujit Panta, Ram Bahadur Thapa and Gokarna Bisht have been elected to the post of Vice President. Among them, only Gokarna Bisht is from Oli's rival team.

Similarly, among three deputy general secretaries, Lekh Raj Bhatta, Yogesh Bhattarai and Raghbir Mahaseth, Bhattarai is from Pokharel's team. All nine secretaries were elected from Oli's team.

Hundreds of cadres belonging to Oli took out a victory procession in Kathmandu's Bhrikutimandap, where the general convention was held, soon after the election results were out.



CEPA SIGNED

India and Oman formalised a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), that aims to boost trade, investment, and cooperation across key sectors

India, Oman sign historic trade deal



Today, we are taking a historic step forward in India-Oman relations, whose positive impact will be felt for decades to come. The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) will energise our ties in the 21st century-

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER, INDIA

their commitment to further enhancing the defence and security collaboration, including in the maritime domain.

The CEPA - signed by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Oman's Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef - is expected to enhance market access, promote investments, and strengthen cooperation across key sectors.

The pact will increase trade between the two countries by reducing trade barriers and

Muscat, Dec 19: India and Oman Thursday signed a free trade agreement, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and explored ways to further add greater depth to the bilateral Strategic Partnership.

Modi, who arrived in Oman Wednesday on the last leg of his three-nation tour, was welcomed by Sultan Haitham at Al Baraka Palace in Muscat before their one-on-one talks and the

opportunities across different sectors, and greatly benefit the youth of both nations.

Modi thanked the Sultan for his efforts in finalising the historic CEPA, as he described it as "a new and golden chapter" of bilateral cooperation.

They also exchanged views on regional and global developments and reaffirmed their commitment to regional peace and stability. They reaffirmed

creating a stable framework. It will unlock opportunities in all major sectors of the economy, enhance economic growth, create jobs and boost investment flows between both countries.

This is Oman's second FTA with an individual country and the first FTA they have done in about 20 years.

Modi said he also discussed with Sultan Haitham ways to further boost trade and investment linkages. "Financial services also offer great scope for working together. We talked about how sectors like energy, critical minerals, agriculture, fertilisers and healthcare have rich potential for closer ties," he said.

"We discussed how cultural and people-to-people linkages can be enhanced. This includes student exchange programmes and other such ways to ensure our youth connect regularly," Modi said.



India Beat SF, Win T20I Series 3-1



Team India players celebrate with the trophy after winning the series against South Africa at the end of the fifth Twenty20 international cricket match at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad....

AHMEDABAD: Hard-hitting India batters Tilak Varma and Hardik Pandya hammered fine half-centuries while spinner Varun Chakravarthy snared four wickets as India defeated South Africa by 30 runs to clinch the five-match T20I series 3-1 here on Saturday. With Varma (73 off 42 balls) and Pandya (63 off 25 balls) in full flow, India scored a competitive 231 for 5 and then restricted the visitors to 201 for 8. The Proteas were in the match till opener Quinton de Kock (65 off 35 balls) and Dewald Brevis (31 off 17) were at the crease, but the visitors lost wickets quickly once the two departed in successive overs.

Chakravarthy (4/53) removed the dangerous Aiden Markram and Donovan Ferreira off consecutive deliveries in the 13th over to take the fight out of the South Africans by reducing them to 135 for 5 from 118 for 1 in 10 overs. Earlier, skipper Suryakumar Yadav's poor run with the bat continued as he scored just five runs but India still put up a big total with Varma and Pandya sharing a 115-

run stand for the fourth wicket.

Brief scores.
India 231 for 5 in 20 overs (Abhishek Sharma 34, Sanju Samson 37, Tilak Varma 73, Hardik Pandya 63; Corbin Bosch 2/44).

South Africa 201 for 8 in 20 overs (Quinton de Kock 65, Dewald Brevis 31; Varun Chakravarthy 4/53, Jasprit Bumrah 2/17).

Team India produced a stunning all-round performance to defeat South Africa by 30 runs in the fifth T20 match, clinching the series in style. Brilliant half-centuries from Tilak Varma and Hardik Pandya, followed by a magical bowling spell from Varun Chakravarthy, powered India to a memorable victory at the Narendra Modi Stadium, where fans witnessed a run-fest.

After winning the toss, South Africa captain Aiden Markram opted to field first. India got off to a solid start with openers Abhishek Sharma (34) and Sanju Samson (37) laying a strong foundation. Captain

With Varma (73 off 42 balls) and Pandya (63 off 25 balls) in full flow, India scored a competitive 231 for 5 and then restricted the visitors to 201 for 8.

Suryakumar Yadav had a brief stay at the crease, but the innings truly came alive when Tilak Varma and Hardik Pandya joined forces.

The duo launched a fierce counter-attack, dismantling the South African bowling with a flurry of boundaries and sixes. Hardik Pandya played a breathtaking knock, smashing 63 runs off just 25 balls, including five fours and five sixes. Tilak Varma anchored the innings beautifully, scoring 73 runs off 42 balls with ten fours and a six. Their

explosive partnership propelled India to a massive total of 231 for 5 in 20 overs. Chasing a daunting target of 232, South Africa responded positively. Opener Quinton de Kock played a superb innings, scoring 65 off 35 balls, while Dewald Brevis contributed a quick 31, keeping the visitors in the hunt. At one stage, South Africa looked capable of pulling off a remarkable chase.

However, India's bowlers rose to the occasion at crucial moments. Jasprit Bumrah broke the momentum by dismissing the dangerous de Kock, while Varun Chakravarthy turned the game on its head with a brilliant spell. The mystery spinner picked up four wickets, including two in a single over, ripping through South Africa's middle order. Bumrah was equally impressive, finishing with figures of 2 for 17 and applying the brakes with disciplined bowling.

In the end, South Africa were restricted to 201 for 8 in their 20 overs, falling short by 30 runs. India's comprehensive victory sealed.

Inter-CIL Volleyball Tournament 2025-26 hosted

Ranchi, Dec 19: The three-day Inter-CIL Volleyball Tournament 2025-26 was inaugurated Tuesday at the CMPDI Sports Ground, Ranchi, and will continue till December 19.

The tournament was formally opened by Director (Technical/CRD) Shankar Nagachari, Director (Technical/ES) Rajiv Kumar Sinha, Director (Technical/RT&T) Nripendra Nath, and Chief Vigilance Officer Pankaj Kumar, who interacted with the players and inaugurated the event by serving the ball.

Several senior officials, sports enthusiasts, and mem-



bers of the CMPDI fraternity were present on the occasion. Addressing the gathering, the dignitaries underlined the importance of sports in fostering teamwork, discipline, physical

fitness, and camaraderie among employees. All participating players took an oath to uphold sportsmanship and fair play.

The tournament aims to strengthen inter-organisation-

al relations and promote unity, health, and team spirit within the Coal India family.

In the opening match, MCL-Sambalpur defeated CCL-Ranchi by 25-18, 25-18, 25-19. In the second encounter, NCL-Singrauli registered a win over WCL-Nagpur by 25-20, 27-25, 25-12. The third match saw SECL-Bilaspur defeating CMPDI-Ranchi by 25-18, 26-24, 25-20.

Teams from all Coal India Limited subsidiaries are participating in the tournament, including host CMPDI (Headquarters)-Ranchi and SCCL-Kothagudem, highlighting a spirit of healthy competition and unity across the organisation.

Sat-Chi get closer to knockouts



now lead the group and have built a considerable advantage in points difference.

Third seeds Satwik and Chirag will face second seeds Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik in their last group match Friday.

Facing a pair known for their exceptional front-court skills, the onus was on Chirag, but he was ably supported by Satwik, who was simply flawless in the evening.

NAT'L SHOOTING C'SHIP

Ketan wins women's 10m air pistol gold

New Delhi, Dec 19: Haryana's Ketan Malik overcame a strong field comprising Paris Olympic double medallist Manu Bhaker and was crowned the women's 10m air pistol national champion here Thursday. Ketan struck the gold with 240.0, ahead of Meenu Pathak of Delhi, who took silver with 238.4, and Surbhi Rao, who claimed bronze with 219.5. In the junior women's category, Vanshika Chaudhary from Uttarakhand emerged on top, edging out Anjali Shekhar with 0.2 for gold, while Asian Games champion Palash Gulia secured bronze, and Army Marksmanship Unit's Lakshita Bishnoi claimed the youth title after a narrow 0.6 victory over Rashmika Sahgal, with Sanskriti Bana completing the podium. The final followed an extensive qualification phase that saw over 900 shooters compete across 39 relays. Gulia topped the qualification with 582.24x. She was joined at the top by Bhaker, who also shot 582, finishing second on inner-10 count with 19x. In the final, Bhaker finished seventh with 137.2, followed by Anjali Choudhary on 110.1, while Mohini Singh ended fourth with 197.9 and Anjali Shekhar placed sixth with 157.5.



The wrestling body makes presence at national camp must; bars wrestlers from training independently

New Delhi, Dec 19: The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has unveiled a new selection policy that makes attendance at national camps mandatory to be eligible for national selection, bars wrestlers from training independently and mandates Olympic Games quota-winning athletes to appear in a final one-bout selection trial.

The policy was discussed and cleared at WFI's recent General Council meeting during the Na-

It was also presented to the Sports Authority of India (SAI) for feedback and a review.

No Nat'l camp, no India jersey

"Participation in the National Coaching Camp is mandatory for all wrestlers, including elite and iconic athletes. To be eligible for the camp, a wrestler must have won a medal in the National Championship of the concerned year," the policy under the sub-head National Coaching Camps, stated.

"Once selected, wrestlers are required to train exclusively at the designated national camp. No athlete is permitted to train independently at any other venue," it added.

It means that Vinesh Phogat, who recently announced her comeback from retirement, will have to prove herself at the domestic level before being reckoned for a spot in the



national team. The policy made it clear that a failure to attend the camp will make the wrestler "ineligible to participate in the selection trials." "We are not going to give trials exemption to anyone. No athlete can sit on past achievements. In the past, few athletes had asked for exemption which is not fair to up and coming wrestlers, WFI will give equal opportunity to all," a WFI official told PTI.

The policy mentions, that "to be eligible, a wrestler must

have won a medal in at least one of the following competitions of the concerned year: National Championship, Federation Cup and any other WFI-recognised competition."

Selection trials must for international competitions

The policy also states that trials are mandatory for teams representing India in major international competitions such as Olympic Games, Asian Games, Continental Championships and World Championships.

The objective of the trials is to provide fair opportunity, assessment of form and fitness, transparency, accountability and merit-based representation.

The WFI asserted that Olympic quotas are awarded to the nation and not to individual athletes, and it reserves the right to conduct trials for Olympic participation.

Eng's Ashes hopes hanging by a thread



Australia lead series 2-0, need only a draw to retain urn

Lyon moves to second on Australia's all-time bowling list

bilitated back into his work, removing Zab Crawley (9) caught behind in a partnership-breaking dismissal before Lyon struck with two wickets in four balls.

Lyon's second dismissal was a peach, bowling Ben Duckett for 29 with a ball that gripped, turned and beat the outside edge.

It put the wily off spinner second on Australia's all-time test wickets list on 564, one ahead of great Glenn McGrath and behind only Shane Warne.

It's the biggest wicket that we are organizing in the Milano Organizing Committee.

Lyon's first wicket was a gift, though, as under-fire number three Ollie Pope surrendered it for three with a flick off his pads caught at midwicket.

SNICKO IN THE SPOTLIGHT

A Snicko controversy had engulfed day one and a new one flared late on day two.

England wicketkeeper Jamie Smith was at the centre of the confusion, first surviving a caught-behind appeal when on 16 then being given out caught behind for 22 when he appeared to completely miss a Cummins ball.

With third umpire Chris Gaffaney having to rule on both decisions, Snicko only appeared to muddy the waters rather than clear up matters.

Australia paceman Mitchell Starc said Snicko needed to be "sacked" after Smith's earlier reprieve, while Smith left the field furious when he was eventually dismissed.

When focus shifted back to the cricket, England ended up losing 3-9 to fall to 168 for eight courtesy of a two-wicket burst from pacer Scott Boland before Archer joined Stokes to push England past 200.

NAT'L SHOOTING C'SHIP

Ketan wins women's 10m air pistol gold

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MISSTERIOUS MOVIE REVIEW:

A Suspense Thriller with a Hint of Horror

Missterious is one of the small-budget films in recent times that generated positive buzz ahead of its release. The promotional content clearly hinted at a suspense thriller, and the presence of comedy legend Brahmanandam at the pre-release event further boosted audience curiosity. The film has now hit theatres, and here is a balanced review.

Story

Kondapur Sub-Inspector Ramkhi alias Ram Kumar (Abid Bhushan) goes missing under mysterious circumstances. To crack the case, ACP Anand Sai (Balaraj Wadi) steps in. During the investigation, he questions architect Virat (Rohit Sahni) and his wife Shilpa (Meghna Rajput). What is the connection between Virat and Shilpa and SI Ramkhi's disappearance? Why did Ramkhi visit the villa purchased by Virat? How does Missira (Riya Kapoor) enter the story? And most impor-

tantly, who killed SI Ramkhi? These questions unfold through a series of twists, suspenseful turns, and surprises.

Analysis

While watching Missterious, viewers may be reminded of familiar triangle love stories seen in everyday life. However, the director gives this routine setup a fresh spin by blending it with suspense, thriller elements, and a subtle horror layer. It is evident that the story has been written with care, keeping the genre's demands in mind.

Being a suspense thriller, the director avoids unnecessary delays in character introductions and quickly moves into the core plot. Characters are introduced while the story progresses, ensuring that twists arrive at regular intervals. The identity of the killer remains a question mark until the climax, which helps keep the audience engaged. In this aspect, the director



succeeds to a fair extent. The interval block delivers an un-

expected twist, pushing the story to the next level. In the second half, the

addition of horror elements intensifies the suspense further. A major twist in the climax changes the course of the narrative and is likely to shock viewers who think they have already figured out the killer.

Performances

Director Mahi Komatireddy has included three songs, all placed appropriately within the narrative, which works in the film's favour. Music director ML Raja provides suitable background score and songs that complement the thriller mood.

In terms of performances, most actors deliver solid work. Rohit Sahni, Riya Kapoor, Meghna Rajput, and Abid Bhushan perform convincingly in the lead roles. Balaraj Wadi stands out as the senior police officer with his trademark performance. Jabardasth fame Rajamouli gets a meaningful role and does justice to it, while Gaddam Naveen, though appearing briefly, performs within his

scope. One drawback is that most of the cast are relatively unfamiliar faces, which slightly affects the film's overall impact. With more attention to casting, the film could have benefited further.

Technical Aspects

ML Raja's music enhances the suspense-thriller atmosphere effectively. Cinematographer Parvathu Devendra Suri deserves praise for his visuals. However, since he also handled editing, tighter editing in certain portions would have improved the pace. Production values are decent and suit the scale of the film.

Verdict

Missterious is a suspense thriller that goes beyond the genre by adding a horror touch. Despite a few shortcomings, it manages to keep viewers hooked with its twists and climax. It is a film worth watching at least once for fans of suspense and thriller movies.



Teaser of S/O Launched; Vinod Kumar Praises Film

The teaser of S/O (Son of), produced by Sai Simhadri under the banner Sai Simhadri Sainma and directed by Bathala Satish, was released on Friday, generating excitement among audiences. The film features senior actor Vinod Kumar in a pivotal role and promises a unique father-son narrative.

Director Bathala Satish described the film as a comeback for Vinod Kumar, stating that the actor embraced every scene with strong performances. He added that lead actor Sai Simhadri, who returned from America for this project, trusted the team and contributed to bringing the story to life. "We have shown strongly why the son filed a case against his father," Satish remarked.

Speaking at the event, Sai Simhadri expressed a personal connection to the story. "This

story resonates with my real-life experiences with my father. It is exciting, emotional, and every son should show it to his father. Senior actor Vinod Kumar supported the film wholeheartedly," he said.

Senior actor Vinod Kumar praised the screenplay, noting, "S/O is not a regular format movie. It tells a real-life father-son story with honesty. Director Satish narrated the story extraordinarily, and I am confident everyone will like it. This film is a great achievement by Sai Simhadri."

The event also saw the participation of Chitra Seenu, Rishi, and other prominent personalities. S/O (Son of) is shaping up as a heartfelt, screenplay-driven film that explores the dynamics between fathers and sons with strong performances and commitment from the team.

'Bad Girlz' teaser released; christmas release set

Bad Girlz' is an entertainer directed by Phani Pradeep Dhulipudi, who has previously directed the successful '30 Rojullo Premichadam Ela'. The film is being produced under the banners of Prashitha Entertainment, Neeli Neeli Aakasam Creations, and NVL Creations. Anchal Gowda, Payal Chengappa, Roshini, Yashna, Rohan Surya, Moin and Rohan Surya are the main actors in 'Bad Girlz'. The tagline for the film, 'Kani Chala Manchodu', contradicts with the title in an interesting way. Sasiidhar Nalla, Emmadi Soma Narsaiah, Ramisetti Rambabu, and Ravula Ramesh are producing this film. The film is slated for release as a Christmas gift on December 25. Today, the teaser of this film was released by Buchi Babu Sana, director of Ram Charan's upcoming pan-India film Peddi.

Speaking on the occasion, the talented filmmaker said that he knows the story of Bad Girlz and that it's quite interesting. "The climax is highly emotional. When I was working as an assistant director under Sukumar garu, Munna used to come to him, narrate the stories he had written, and get them approved. Back then, I

used to think that Munna would surely become a director, and that I should become one too. Just like how the song 'Nee Kallu Neeli Samudram' from my film Uppena became a chartbuster, the song 'Neeli Neeli Aakasham' is an even bigger hit. Music director Anup Rubens has given wonderful songs for this film as well. I am a big fan of the songs from the film Manam. In this movie, Renu Desai garu plays an important role. The fact that she agreed to do this film itself shows how good the story is. The movie releases on December 25—do watch it without fail." Director Phani Pradeep Dhulipudi said, "Our Bad Girlz is a complete entertainer. If hilarious films like Jathi Ratnalu and MAD were made with girls in the lead, they would have been like Bad Girlz. It's a refreshing movie. We released the teaser today to give an idea of what our movie is like. I am very happy that the teaser is out at the hands of my well-wisher, Buchi Babu Sana garu. Whether I am facing difficulties or experiencing happiness, the first person I share it with is him. When I narrated the story of this film to him, he appreciated its content.



Ram Gopal Varma: 'Dhurandhar' changes future of Indian cinema



Filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma claimed that Aditya Dhar has single-handedly changed the future of Indian cinema with his latest release "Dhurandhar". Calling the movie a "QUANTUM LEAP IN INDIAN CINEMA", he shared on social media, "I believe that @AdityaDharFilms has completely and single handedly changed the future of Indian cinema, be it north or south. That's because Duradhar is not just a film.. it is a quantum leap. What Dhurandhar achieves is not just scale, but a never before experienced vision not just in sight but in the mind. Aditya Dhar doesn't direct scenes here... he engineers the states of minds of both the characters and us audience (sic)".

RGV shared his opinion about Ranveer Singh and Akshaye Khanna starrer using the following words, "The film doesn't ask for your attention.. it commands it. From the very first shot, there's a sense that something irreversible has been set in motion, and the audience is no longer a spectator but an accomplice to the happenings on screen. This is a film that refuses to be polite. The writing cuts with intent, the staging breathes menace, and the silences are as weaponized as the thunderous sound effects." Ram Gopal Varma added that Dhar, as a filmmaker, understands that the power of storytelling does not lie in the volume, but in pressure building. He further went on to praise the performances in the film, which, according to him, have been designed to linger long after the audience leaves the theatre.

"Characters walk in carrying history on their shoulders, and the film trusts the audience enough to read their scars rather than spoon feed their backstories. This confidence which could be easily mistaken for arrogance is precisely what marks Dhurandhar as a turning point for Indian cinema," added the director. Ram Gopal Varma pointed out that during the time when most filmmakers believe in dumbing down their films, Dhar is someone who assumes that the audience is intelligent, "the highest respect a director can pay to an audience". The 'Satya' makers said that "Dhurandhar" is not a film chasing trends or validation.



Uday Bhaskar Prepares for Career Milestone with Upcoming Film 2nd Innings

Actor Uday Bhaskar, known for his grounded performances and emotional authenticity, has completed shooting for his upcoming film "2nd Innings", which is currently in the post-production phase. With a career spanning 16 years, Uday Bhaskar continues to evolve as a performer who prioritizes depth, realism, and sincerity over spectacle.

Over the years, Uday Bhaskar has built a reputation for immersing himself fully into every role he takes on. His acting journey, shaped by consistent learning and dedication, reflects a strong foundation in per-

formance-driven storytelling. Industry observers often describe him as an actor who communicates emotions through silence, restraint, and subtle expressions rather than exaggerated dramatics.

In 2nd Innings, Uday Bhaskar's performance is already being spoken about positively within industry circles. While the makers are maintaining complete secrecy around the film's narrative, they emphasize that the emotional intensity of the film rests heavily on the strength of performances. According to the unit, Uday Bhaskar's portrayal stands out as one of the film's key strengths, with

many calling it a potential career-defining moment.

His on-screen chemistry with co-star Nakshatra has also been highlighted as a major asset. The interactions between the two actors are said to feel organic and emotionally honest, adding weight to the film's overall impact without relying on overt dramatization.

Currently, 2nd Innings is undergoing post-production, with editing, background score, and sound design in progress. Special care is being taken to ensure that the technical elements enhance the emotional layers of the performances. The makers have stated that the film's soundscape and music

are being designed to complement Uday Bhaskar's performance rather than overpower it.

Despite being 16 years into his career, Uday Bhaskar remains selective and purposeful in choosing projects. He is known for favoring emotionally rooted roles that allow him to explore human complexity and inner conflict. 2nd Innings reflects this approach and aligns closely with the artistic path he has been carving over the years. As the film moves closer to completion, expectations are steadily building within the industry. Many believe that Uday Bhaskar's work in 2nd Innings will resonate