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PM Modi expresses excitement over address at Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue on Jan 12



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Whatever is written in my destiny, no one can take that from me: Shubman Gill

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IN BRIEF

India, EU reaffirm strong political resolve to address pending issues towards free trade pact

New Delhi: India and the European Union (EU) have reaffirmed the strong political resolve on either side to address pending issues through constructive engagement towards a mutually-beneficial free trade agreement (FTA), an official statement said on Saturday. During the latest ministerial-level discussions, both sides emphasised the strategic importance of concluding a fair, balanced, and ambitious agreement that aligns with their shared values, economic priorities, and commitment to a rules-based trading framework, said Ministry of Commerce and Industry in a statement. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal concluded a significant two-day visit to Brussels, marking a decisive step forward in the India-EU FTA negotiations.

Rapido driver held for sexually harassing woman software professional

Bengaluru, Jan 10 : A Rapido bike taxi rider was arrested on Saturday on the charges of harassing a woman software professional in Bengaluru. The 29-year-old woman, who works with a software company as manager, had booked a Rapido bike taxi to commute from her residence to Manayata Tech Park on Wednesday. During the journey, the rider, identified as Vivek, allegedly misbehaved with her. When the woman objected to his behaviour, the accused touched her inappropriately. When the woman questioned his actions, the accused allegedly abused her verbally and shouted at her. The woman raised an alarm and immediately alerted the local traffic police, who in turn informed Hoysala patrolling squad. The victim later lodged a written complaint with the police. The police have arrested the accused at his residence and launched an investigation. The police stated that the accused confessed to the crime and told investigators that he had touched her inappropriately.

CM Calls for Preventive Cardiac Care at Fellows India Conference in Hyderabad

Hyderabad (TSIT) The Chief Minister expressed happiness over the Fellows India Conference being held in Hyderabad and said the city is rapidly emerging as a major hub for life sciences, pharmaceuticals and healthcare innovation.

Addressing the conference, which saw participation of over 500 cardiologists from across India and neighbouring South-East Asian countries, the Chief Minister welcomed the delegates and lauded their commitment to continuous learning even after achieving professional success.

Stating that constant learning is the key to sustained success, the Chief Minister said doctors hold a special place in society as people entrust their lives to their care. He urged cardiologists to always remember their responsibility towards humanity.

Chief Minister reiterated that healthcare is a top



priority for the Telangana government and said the government is open to working closely with medical professionals to improve healthcare poli-

cies in the larger public interest. He invited doctors to share suggestions and feedback.

Highlighting rapid advancements in technol-

ogy, artificial intelligence and quantum computing, he called upon doctors to stay updated with new technologies while maintaining a strong human touch in patient care.

Expressing concern over rising deaths due to heart diseases, the Chief Minister called for a collective mission to prevent cardiac ailments and save lives. He suggested that initiatives such as doctors volunteering to teach CPR techniques to school students could significantly improve survival outcomes.

Emphasising the importance of preventive medicine and public awareness, the Chief Minister urged doctors to work towards improving the overall quality of healthcare and strive to make India's healthcare system among the best in the world. Concluding his address, the Chief Minister said, "Keep learning, keep serving, keep rising."

Kolkata (TSIT) West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday wrote to Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, alleging that the Special Electoral Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls has been turned into an exercise to exclude voters rather than correct records. In her letter, Banerjee accused the Election Commission of political bias and high-handedness during the exercise.

"The hearing process has become largely mechanical, driven purely by technical data and completely devoid of the application of mind, sensitivity and human touch," she said in the three-page letter. She said the exercise's aim seemed "neither of correction nor of inclusion... but solely of deletion and of exclusion".

Banerjee accuses the Election Commission of political bias & high-handedness during the exercise

Banerjee claimed minor spelling or age discrepancies were leading to coercive hearings, harassment and loss of wages for ordinary people.

She also highlighted the plight of women who changed surnames after marriage, stating that they were being summoned to prove their identity, which she called a grave insult. She also raised concerns over the selective targeting of "logical discrepancies" in certain constituencies, the use of a different portal in West Bengal, and backend changes causing confusion among officials.

BENGAL SIR

ECI reviews claims over I-PAC staff roles



office insiders said, is especially stressing the re-checking of the police verification reports that needed to be done mandatorily for these contractual state government employees before appointing them as the data-entry operators in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in West Bengal after being shown as contractual state government employees.

The Commission had taken the complaints of the I-PAC staff being appointed as data-entry operators seriously, considering the crucial nature of the clerical work done by them in the revision exercise.

The main task of the data-entry operators is to make manual entry of the details of the enumeration forms of the voters collected by the Booth-

Level Officers (BLOs) and submitted to the Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and the Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROS) concerned. Hence, erroneous entries, inadvertent or willful, made at this stage could impact the final decision on the fate of voters in retaining their names in the final voters' list. Already after the enumeration stage, which was the first stage of the three-stage SIR exercise, there had been instances of wrong entries causing inconvenience for a certain section of voters.

Hence, the CEO's office insiders said, the Commission is taking the demand of re-checking the backgrounds of the contractual state government employees appointed as data-entry operators quite seriously. The draft voters' list in West Bengal was published on December 16 last year.

Dhaka, Jan 10 : As violence against minorities continues to mount across Bangladesh, another Hindu man died after consuming poison over a debt of 500 Bangladeshi Taka in Dirai upazila of Sunamganj district, local media reported.

The victim, identified as 19-year-old Joy Mohapatra, died on Friday morning while undergoing treatment at M A G Osmani Medical College Hospital in Sylhet.

Citing the deceased's cousin, Ayan Das, Bangladeshi Bengali media outlet Sylhet View 24 reported that Joy had purchased a mobile phone for 5,500 Taka from grocery shopkeeper Amirul Islam. He paid 2,000 Taka in cash and agreed to pay the balance in weekly installments of 500 Taka.

Although he made the payments regularly, the final installment was delayed.

It is alleged that Joy went to Amirul Islam's shop Thursday to pay the installment but was beaten up, humiliated and had his

mobile phone seized.

Ayan said that Joy admitted to consuming poison on Thursday evening. He was rushed to the Dirai Upazila Health Complex, and when his condition deteriorated, the on-duty doctor referred him to Sylhet.

Moni Rani Talukder, resident Medical Officer of Dirai Upazila Health Complex, said, "I was on duty at the time. As the patient's condition was critical, he was immediately referred to Sylhet."

Recalling the tragic incident, Joy's mother, Shelly Mohapatra, was quoted as saying by Sylhet View 24, "When they asked for money from him in the morning and did not get it, they took my son's mobile phone away. Later, when he

Telangana issues 'stop use' notice for Almont-Kid Syrup after CDSCO alert

HYDERABAD (TSIT): The Telangana Drugs Control Administration on Saturday issued an urgent advisory to immediately stop the use of Almont-Kid Syrup, commonly



prescribed to treat allergies, hay fever, and asthma in children, as it was allegedly found adulterated with Ethylene Glycol (EG), a highly toxic substance. A notification of the DCA said it received an alert from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), East Zone, Kolkata, regarding a laboratory report that has declared the syrup (Levocetirizine Dihydrochloride and Montelukast Sodium Syrup) as adulterated.

This marks the eighth incident in 22 days and the fourth incident this week, highlighting a disturbing surge in violence targeting Hindu communities throughout Bangladesh.

Earlier on Tuesday,

another Hindu man, 25-year-old Mithun Sarkar, died after jumping into a canal in a bid to save his life from a mob that accused him of robbery in Mohadevpur upazila of Naogaon district, Bangladesh's Bengali newspaper Daily Manobkantha reported.

CM Stalin eyes 200+ seats, lauds cadre's poll work



nearly 50 per cent of the preparatory work has already been completed, while the remaining work is in progress. "All political parties, including our ideological opponent, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) envy our preparatory work."

"Earlier, based on the cadres' work, I had predicted that the DMK could win around 200 seats. Now, after evaluating their efforts, I am confident that the party will win more than 200 seats," he said.

Appreciating the DMK cadres for their election-related work, Stalin said

Incredible opportunities ahead for India & US: Sergio Gor



NEW DELHI: US ambassador-designate Sergio Gor, known to be a key member of President Donald Trump's inner circle, has arrived in New Delhi amid an unprecedented estrangement in ties between the two countries.

Gor, 38, was sworn in as the US envoy to India in mid-November.

"Great to be back in India! Incredible opportunities ahead for our two nations!" he said on social media after landing in the national capital on Friday night. His arrival in India came as a fresh row erupted between the two sides following US Commerce

Secretary Howard Lutnick's claim that the proposed trade deal between the two countries couldn't be sealed last year as Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not make a telephone call to President Donald Trump. New Delhi on Friday

rejected the claim and described Lutnick's remarks as "inaccurate".

Gor was serving as the White House personnel director when President Trump named him in August to be the next US envoy to New Delhi. The India-US ties have been

reeling under severe stress after Trump doubled tariffs on Indian goods to a whopping 50 per cent, including a 25 per cent additional duty for India's purchase of Russian crude oil. Apart from tariff, the relations witnessed a downturn on a number of other issues, including Trump's claim of ending the India-Pakistan conflict in May last year and Washington's new immigration policy.

The US Senate confirmed Gor in October to serve as the US' next ambassador to India. "I'm trusting Sergio to help strengthen one of our

country's most important international relationships and that's the strategic partnership with India," Trump had said after Gor's oath ceremony.

Gor had described his new role as "an honour of a lifetime" and said he looks forward to "enhancing" the relationship between the US and India.

He played a major role in the political action committee (PAC) of Trump's campaign in the run-up to the 2024 presidential election, and his influence increased manifold after he was tasked with vetting political appointees in the new administration.

Congress spreading false narrative on G-RAM-G scheme, says Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy

Bengaluru : Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy on Tuesday accused the Congress party of spreading a false narrative about the G-RAM-G (Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission – Rural) scheme and challenged state Congress leaders to an open public debate with documents to expose what he termed as "blatant lies."

Expressing strong displeasure over the misinformation campaign, Kumaraswamy said the era of people blindly believing Congress propaganda is over. He was addressing a joint press conference in Bengaluru along with Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka and BJP State President B.Y. Vijayendra. Kumaraswamy alleged



through fake bills under MGNREGA not enough?" he asked, questioning why the Congress failed to curb fake job cards and bogus bills during its tenure.

Clarifying that MGNREGA has not been discontinued, Kumaraswamy said the Modi government has only corrected long-standing irregularities and introduced reforms to plug loopholes. He rejected claims that the G-RAM-G scheme reduces the powers of Gram Panchayats or state governments. He stated that while funding for the scheme comes from the Centre, state governments are responsible for proper utilisation. "There was no transparency earlier. Fake bills were generated and money was siphoned off. However, he alleged that the Congress government is unable to arrange even its 40

per cent share. Ashoka pointed out that many development projects, including railways and metro works, are implemented through cost-sharing between the Centre and the states. He said the Congress government should either accept the new funding pattern or provide the entire amount on its own.

Congress lacks funds to implement VBG Ram Ji scheme, says Opposition Leader R. Ashoka

Bengaluru : Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka on Monday alleged that the Congress government in Karnataka does not even have sufficient funds to provide its share for the VBG Ram Ji scheme, claiming that the state treasury is virtually empty.

Speaking to reporters, Ashoka said that earlier, under the MGNREGA scheme, Congress governments had indulged in large-scale corruption. He stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced the VBG Ram Ji scheme to bring greater transparency. While earlier the Centre used to bear the full cost, the new scheme follows a 60:40 funding pattern between the Centre and the state. However, he alleged that the Congress government is

arranging its share for centrally sponsored schemes has become extremely difficult

for Congress leaders. Accusing the government of wasting public money, Ashoka said Congress is convening special sessions and holding unnecessary discussions only to oppose good schemes brought by the Centre. He added that experts had earlier warned that the guarantee schemes would become a financial burden, but the Congress went ahead with them regardless. The Opposition Leader also recalled that the previous BJP government had introduced the Vidyanidhi scheme and a bicycle distribution scheme for students, both of which were later scrapped by the Congress government. He alleged that while the Congress opposes beneficial central schemes, it has no hesitation in cancelling welfare programmes introduced by the BJP.

Kia India showcases all-new Seltos in Bengaluru; prices start at Rs.10.99 lakh



Bangalore : Kia India showcased its All-New Kia Seltos at Bangalore, offering customers the opportunity to experience the next-generation mid-SUV. Reinforcing Kia's commitment to design leadership, advanced safety and progressive technology, the All-New Kia Seltos is being launched at a price starting at 10.99 lakhs (ex-showroom).

Built on Kia's global K3 platform, making its India debut, the All-New Kia Seltos represents a clear evolution in scale, sophistication and capability. With segment-leading length at 4,460 mm, enhanced width at 1,830 mm, and longer wheelbase at 2,690 mm, the SUV delivers enhanced road presence, cabin roominess and ride stability, while strengthening its position as a benchmark in the mid-SUV segment. The exterior design reflects Kia's

Education Beyond Marks: A Leadership Vision for India's Future":Padmashri Dr C. N. Manjunath

Bengaluru : At the Radisson Atria Hotel, Bengaluru, the National Education Leadership Conclave – 2026, organised by Big Tree Property Management & Beacon4Minds, featured an inspiring and thought-provoking address by Member of Parliament, Padma Shri Dr. C. N. Manjunath. He spoke in depth about the future of education, leadership, and nation-building, emphasizing that today's education system must not remain confined to marks and degrees alone.

In an era where Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning are advancing rapidly, Dr. Manjunath highlighted the importance of maintaining a balance between technology and human



values. He explained that the direction of learning is more important than its speed, noting that even rapid progress is meaningless if it is not aligned with the right path. Marks, he said, are not the sole measure of success; it is hard work, discipline, attitude, behaviour, and commitment that enable individuals to sustain excellence over the long term. Success, he reminded

the audience, is not a destination but a continuous journey, and teachers are not merely instructors but architects who shape the character and personality of future generations. Expressing concern over the rising mental health challenges among today's youth, Dr. Manjunath warned that excessive use of mobile phones and social media has become a serious

threat to children's well-being and future. He emphasized that true education is reflected not in certificates, but in one's conduct, values, and way of life. Leadership, he said, is not about seeking praise, but about taking greater responsibility for failures while accepting less personal credit for success.

With India being a

5 km Walkaluru footpath walk held in Kammanahalli

Bengaluru : The 9th edition of the "Project Walkaluru" footpath walk was conducted in the Kammanahalli-Kalyan Nagar area to promote clean, safe, and continuous footpaths. The 5 km walk was flagged off by Bengaluru North City Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar, in the presence of Joint Commissioner Mohammed Naem Momin. More than 120 participants, including local residents, corporation officers, and staff, took part in the walk. People of all age groups—from children to senior citizens aged up to 80 years—successfully completed the route. The participation of two citizens from the Netherlands was a special highlight of the event. With this walk, a total of 72 km of footpath walks have been completed across Bengaluru city under the Walkaluru project.

Convincing the Governor on the Hate Speech Prohibition Bill: Opposition Leader R. Ashok

Bengaluru : Opposition Leader R. Ashok said that The Hate Speech Prohibition Bill will snatch away freedom of speech. We will convince the Governor about this.

Speaking to reporters, he said that there should have been an opportunity for discussion on the Hate Speech Prohibition Bill in the session. When bringing such a bill, one must consider its impact on the people. The Constitution drafted by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar provides for discussion on bills. The Legislative Assembly exists for presenting and discussing bills, not for creating chaos. However, the Congress government did not allow discussion on this. When I tried to discuss the bill,

Insult to Kannada Language in Kerala, This is Pre-Planned Match-Fixing



the Congress MLAs and ministers got scared and hurriedly presented the bill. The conduct of Speaker U.T. Khader in

this matter has also disappointed me.

In the BJP, 15 MLAs were supposed to speak on this. After that, we had decided to refer the bill to the House Committee. But suddenly, the bill was passed. Now it has gone to the Governor. On Monday, I, the state president, and other leaders will go to the Governor and convince him about this. This is a bill that snatches the freedom of the people and the media. Just like freedom of speech was snatched during the Emergency, here too, freedom is being snatched through the bill. The government does not give us an opportunity for our complaints. Therefore, we are going to the Governor.

Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy's Push Pays Off: Rs.14 Cr Sanctioned for Mandya Sporting facility



New Delhi / Mandya: In a significant boost to sports infrastructure in Karnataka, the Union Government has sanctioned 14 crore for the construction of a multi-purpose indoor sports facility in Mandya district under the Khelo India Scheme, following the initiative of Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy.

Administrative approval has been granted for the construction of a multipurpose indoor sporting hall at the University of Agricultural Sciences, Mandya, with an approved project cost of 14 crore. The sanction was accorded by Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya after Kumaraswamy personally wrote to him, highlighting the district's sporting potential and the urgent need for modern infrastructure.

In his communication, Kumaraswamy emphasized that the proposed facility would benefit local athletes, sports teams, and the wider community by promoting physical fit-

ness, encouraging sports development, and fostering social interaction. He noted that Mandya has a strong sporting legacy, with several athletes representing the state and the nation at national and international levels, and many currently training at national camps. Kumaraswamy also pointed out that the new facility could host district, state, and even national-level events, thereby boosting tourism and contributing to the local economy. Seeking support under the Khelo India Scheme, he said the project would make a meaningful difference to the sporting ecosystem of the region. Expressing gratitude after the sanction, Kumaraswamy thanked Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya for his prompt and positive response in approving the project for Mandya. He said the approval reflects the Centre's commitment to strengthening grassroots sports infrastructure.

With the project now approved, Mandya is poised to enter a new phase of sports development. The upcoming facility is expected to provide quality training infrastructure for young athletes, host competitions, promote fitness among the public, and firmly place Mandya on the sports map of Karnataka.

In his communication, Kumaraswamy emphasized that the proposed facility would benefit local athletes, sports teams, and the wider community by promoting physical fit-

"Awareness and universal Continental check up is the key for Thalassemia free India":Padmashri Dr. C. N. Manjunath"

Bengaluru : Member of Parliament, Padma Shri Dr. C. N. Manjunath, addressed the Sankalp India Foundation program and spoke in detail about Thalassemia care and bone marrow transplantation.

He explained the meaning of "Sankalp" as Pratigya (a pledge) and appreciated the Foundation's long-term vision, including its goal of educating and supporting patients by 2030. He shared the inspiring journey of how Sankalp India Foundation began, highlighting the generous contribution of nearly 4 crore by a German family, which enabled the establishment of the Foundation and strengthened its humanitarian service. Dr. Manjunath recalled his role as a Director and policymaker in 2019, when the "Jeevana Sarthakata" organ transplantation scheme was introduced in Karnataka. Under this scheme, heart, kidney, pancreas, and bone marrow transplants were made free of cost



for patients below the poverty line, ensuring access to life-saving treatment. He mentioned that efforts are underway to bring bone marrow transplantation under the National Organ Transplantation Programme, which would greatly benefit Thalassemia patients across the country. He emphasized that many Thalassemia patients are asymptomatic carriers, and therefore systematic screening is essential for

early identification and prevention. He underlined the importance of empathy and compassion, stating that compassion is the highest form of kindness.

Appreciating the work of Bhagwan Mahaveer Jain Hospital's pediatric unit and Sankalp India Foundation, he described all the participating doctors and institutions as "Thalassemia Ambassadors" serving humanity selflessly, without commercial motives.

Dr. Manjunath concluded with a powerful message on values, saying: "Dedication is more important than designation, sincerity more than seniority, values more than valuables, mindset more than marks, effort more than results, progress more than perfection, loyalty more than rewards, and meaningful work more than paperwork." The program served as a strong source of motivation for healthcare professionals, donors, and partners, reaffirming the collective commitment to improving the lives of Thalassemia patients.

Niri9 International Film Festival 2025 Inaugurated in Hyderabad; Two-Day Celebration of Cinema Begins



Hyderabad, January 10, 2026: The third edition of the Niri9 International Film Festival was successfully inaugurated today at Raj Bhavan Samskruti Auditorium, Hyderabad by marking the beginning of a vibrant two-day celebration of cinema, creativity, and powerful storytelling. The grand inaugural programme set an inspiring tone for the festival, bringing together filmmakers, artists, cultural icons, and cinema enthusiasts from across the country. The opening ceremony witnessed the gracious presence of several eminent dignitaries including acclaimed national award-winning bollywood actor Seema

Biswas, Telugu Filmmaker S.V. Krishna Reddy, legendary singer and cultural icon Lou Majaw, internationally renowned performer Carlyta Mouhini, former Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court, Shri Ajit Borthakur, LLR Kishor Babu, Executive Director of Telangana Film Development Corporation, along with prominent filmmakers and creative professionals from the Telugu and Assamese film industry, thereby, adding immensce prestige to the festival's opening day.

On the occasion the official souvenir of Niri9 International Film Festival was also unveiled by Hon'ble

Cinematography Minister of Governor K. Venkat Reddy through a video message, the souvenir was edited by Jitu Roymedhi. These festivals are immersive cultural experiences. The inaugural ceremony featured Kuchipudi and Sattriya dance forms followed by spiritual songs both in Telugu and Assamese language by assamese singer Manisha Bordoloi, thereby setting the tone for two days of cinematic celebration of diversity, bringing together films from different parts of India, and beyond. In her Welcome address, Festival Director Dr. Jumani Devi Khaund stated, "Niri9 is a platform born out of the belief that stories have the power to heal, question, and unite. This festival is not just about films, but about voices that deserve to be heard and narratives that need space." Dr. Khaund also expressed heartfelt gratitude to all supporters, collaborators, artists, and partners who made the festival possible, while warmly welcoming all dignitaries, filmmakers, and guests to Hyderabad for this cinematic celebration.

Vanilla Hour by Neer Ya Explores Love, Trauma, and the Courage to Begin Again

Bengaluru, January 10th, 2026 — Author Neer Ya announces the release of her latest novel, Vanilla Hour, a deeply moving, genre-blending work of literary fiction that spans continents and decades, exploring resilience, motherhood, love, and the inescapable pull of the past.

Set between 2008 Delhi and 2025 Tokyo, Vanilla Hour follows Dr. Nandini Yadav, a respected geo-chemist who has painstakingly rebuilt her life after a devastating personal trauma. Now settled in Japan with her sharp-witted teenage daughter Aani, Nandini exists within an unconventional yet nurturing family that includes her ex-husband Karan and his wife Yuki. Despite the

chemistry, regret, and unspoken truths—particularly surrounding Aani's paternity. The situation escalates dangerously with the return of Alan, the man responsible for Nandini's past trauma, and Aano's own dark history resurfaces, revealing years spent trapped in indentured servitude to a Jakarta crime syndicate. As past and present collide, Vanilla Hour becomes a powerful story of survival and second chances. With threats closing in, Nandini and Aano are forced to confront decades of pain and betrayal, leaning on one another—and on an unconventional family—for protection and hope.

The tension reaches a heartbreakingly climax when Aani uncovers the truth about her origins and runs into mortal danger.

IN THE COURT OF HON'BLE CJSD. HON'BLE JUDGE K. R. SINGH PUNE AT PUNE Civil M.A.-2077/2025 Exh.-13 Jayraj Nayak & others ...Applicants Versus Nil ...Respondent Notice hereby given that, above named applicants have made application grant of letter of Administration under section 278 of Indian Succession Act in this Court for granting administration right in respect of property situated at, Survey No. 198, House No. 3-251, Gayatri Nilaya, Opposite R.C. Church, Indira Nagar, Narambali Village, Brahmavara, Udupi, Karnataka-576213 which was in the name of Late Ratnakar Nayak, who died intestate on 15/12/2022. Whoever wants to take objection against it should appear personally or through its advocate in this Court on dated 20/01/2026, on this day morning at 11.00 a.m. Today dated 11/01/2026. Sign and seal. By Order, Superintendent.

EDITORIAL

Why You Should Let Your Child Fail, And Falter, And Learn

Growing up, many of us had the basics: roti, kapda aur makaan. Sometimes, that came with conditions. There were promises we held on to like prizes at the finish line - a new media player if we topped the class, branded sneakers or a festive outfit if we "earned" it. We learned to wait. To work toward something. To defer gratification. Patience was a life skill, not a luxury. It stretched us, sometimes uncomfortably, but it shaped us. Today, that word feels almost alien to many young children. Patience has been replaced by immediacy. Waiting replaced by wanting. Earning replaced by expecting.

From Grit to Gentle Parenting

Cut to now: we listen differently. We respond differently. We show up differently. We sit for hours listening to our children's emotional outbursts - decoding feelings, soothing anxieties, untangling invisible fears. We pause life to help them make sense of their world in a way no one ever did for us. And we find ourselves wondering: would our parents have done this, or simply asked us to "go play in the park" and figure it out? Something has shifted. Dramatically.

Our parents built our strength through exposure: "The world is tough, become tougher." We try to build resilience through conversation: "The world is tough, talk to me about it." Neither is fully right nor fully wrong - but the swing between them is enormous. Those of us raised before the 2000s lived through an unspoken curriculum of resilience. Emotions were private. Fear was swallowed. Pain was not a topic; it was an experience. Childhood wasn't bubble-wrapped; it was rough-edged and unedited. Today, we parent with heightened emotional fluency. We negotiate with tantrums, reason with tears, and offer choices for everything - from food to feelings. We aren't just raising children; we are trying to give them the childhood we wish we had. In doing so, we may be healing ourselves. But are we helping them?

The Survival Gap

Our struggles built internal muscle: discomfort tolerance, resourcefulness, resilience. We fell, and no one rushed to edit the world to be softer. We failed, and no one restructured systems to make success easier. It wasn't perfect, but it built something essential: inner scaffolding.

Today, in protecting our children from struggle, we risk protecting them from strength. We clear the path instead of preparing them to walk it. We soften consequences. We step in before discomfort can harden into resilience.

Are we preparing them for the world, or preparing the world for them? Because the world will not always bend.

The Guilt We Parent With

Another layer sits quietly beneath our overprotection: guilt. We are a generation working longer hours, living under constant performance pressure, juggling homes, commutes, deadlines, and the emotional labour of being "present" even when we are depleted. We rush through evenings, negotiate with time, and parent from the margins of professional ambition-after meetings, between calls, in the car, on borrowed energy. So we compensate. We offer softness where we cannot offer time. We say yes where a boundary should stand. We protect because we cannot always participate. And somewhere, without meaning to, we begin to soothe our guilt more than their needs. Are we comforting our children, or are we comforting ourselves?

The Safety Anxiety Generation

A significant shift in parenting today comes from the weight of safety - not just physical, but emotional and digital. The threats have multiplied and digitised: online predators and manipulated identities, bullying, body shaming, comparison culture, social media filters rewriting self-worth, a world that enters our homes long before our children enter the world outside.

The insulted dignity of university, power and literature



PRIYANKA
SAURABH

The public mistreatment of senior Hindi fiction writer Manoj Roopda during a literary event held at Guru Ghasidas University, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, is not just an unfortunate incident but a clear indication of the deepening crisis in academic and cultural life in our times. Humiliating an invited writer on stage and asking him to leave the event is completely contrary to the tradition in which universities have been seen as centers of free exchange of ideas, respect for dissent, and constructive dialogue. This incident is not limited to an individual; it is a direct attack on literature, freedom of expression, and intellectual dignity. The historical role of universities has not been to be subservient to power. From ancient learning traditions like Nalanda and Takshashila to modern universities, these institutions have always fostered a culture of questioning, reasoning, and challenging established notions. Universities are not merely degree-granting machines; they are centers that guide the consciousness of society. Here, diversity of thought, dissent, and debate are not considered weaknesses but intellectual strengths. Therefore, when scenes of power-mongering, arrogance, and intolerance emerge within a university, it becomes evidence not just of a program's failure but of the erosion of institutional values. Manoj Roopda is a powerful and respected name in contemporary Hindi fiction. His stories and novels boldly expose the complex rela-

tionships between power, society, and the individual. He is among those writers who have considered literature not merely a subject of beauty but a medium of social intervention. Inviting such a writer should have been a symbol of the university's intellectual commitment and openness. However, his treatment demonstrates that discomfort with critical thinking and independent thought has somehow triumphed over prudence. It is natural to ask will universities now be limited to formal events, eulogies, and power-friendly speeches? A position like that of Vice-Chancellor requires not only administrative competence but also ethical leadership and academic sensitivity. This position should symbolize restraint, dialogue, and inclusion. If the head of a university begins to perceive criticism or dissent as a personal challenge, its impact is not limited to a single program. An atmosphere of fear gradually spreads throughout the campus. Teachers become reluctant to speak openly, students fear asking questions, and creativity succumbs to self-censorship. In such a situation, the university deviates from its original purpose and, instead of being a center of knowledge, becomes an instrument of discipline and control. Another worrying aspect of this incident is that the institutional level lacked the sensitivity and firmness required to protect the honor of the invited writer. The success of literary events is not measured solely by stage decorations, posters, and formal speeches, but by how open, respectful, and meaningful the dialogue is. When a writer is insulted and an institution remains silent, that silence becomes a form of acquiescence. This silence encourages further oppressive behavior in the future and undermines the institution's moral credibility. It's important to remind ourselves that universities are not the private fiefdom of any

individual or official. They are governed by public resources, taxpayer funds, and the trust of society. The decisions made and the behavior displayed here serve as a message to society. If power, personal ego, and intolerance dominate universities, a culture of confrontation and fear begins to flourish in society, replacing dialogue. This trend is detrimental not only to literature and education, but also to democratic values, for the very foundation of democracy is the respect for plurality of opinions and dissent. Literature and intellectual discourse have played a vital role in the soul of Indian democracy. From the freedom struggle to social reform movements, writers and thinkers have questioned power and inspired restraint, dialogue, and inclusion. If writers and thinkers are humiliated in universities today, it would be a grave insult to the tradition that has made us a vibrant democratic society. It is ironic that if the institutions expected to provide ideological leadership begin to set examples of intolerance, where will society be headed? It is certainly noteworthy that some university faculty members attempted to manage the situation and find a respectful solution. This demonstrates that discretion and sensitivity have not yet completely vanished within the institution. However, it is also true that when the intoxication of power overrides discretion, individual efforts often prove ineffective. Institutional culture can only change when the leadership itself is willing to engage in dialogue and self-criticism. This incident also forces us to reconsider the role of writers and intellectuals. When injustice is done to a writer and the entire literary community remains silent, this silence itself becomes a political and moral statement. History bears witness that silence has always strengthened power and weakened resistance. If there is no clear and collective response to this incident today, tomorrow it will be repeated by another writer, another idea, and another platform. The fundamental nature of literature is one of questioning and resistance. It was born not to bow down to power, but to hold it up to the mirror. If writers themselves do not stand up to defend their dignity and freedom, literature will gradually be reduced to mere careers and awards. Then it will become a decorative tool of the system, not the soul of society. Today, it is essential that university administrations, faculty, students, and literary societies learn a lesson from this incident. Universities must introspect about the kind of academic environment they are fostering. Are they encouraging dialogue and debate, or fear and obedience? Literary events must be viewed not as mere formalities, but as vibrant ideological platforms where even dissent can be expressed with respect. This incident is shameful and warrants strong condemnation, but beyond condemnation, we need to engage in substantial introspection and reform. Universities must ensure that no invited author or speaker is treated this way in the future. Academic freedom and dignity are protected not by mere paper policies, but by behavior and culture. Ultimately, the question isn't just about Manoj Roopda or any one program. The question is what kind of university and what kind of society we want to build. If we fear thought, are afraid of questions, and try to suppress dissent with insults, we will move from a vibrant democracy to a society of fear. Universities must remember that they exist not by the grace of power, but by knowledge, dialogue, and independent consciousness. If this consciousness is crushed, universities will become mere buildings—monuments not of knowledge, but of silence.

Stalin And Vijay : Tactical Support vs Tactical Silence



Street-smart, thinking, three steps ahead, reading the mind of the opponent, speaking your mind. Almost every reel adult character played by Thalapathy Vijay in the last 33 years in Tamil cinema has embodied these attributes. In his political avatar, however, Vijay has been conspicuous by his silence. Even when the Censor Board went out of its way to ensure his farewell movie Jana Nayagan did not get the Pongal release it wanted, there was not a word from Vijay. Intriguing to say the least, more so when assembly elections are three months away, the movie is his campaign vehicle and he claims his party, the TVK, would win the election. It is a political opportunity missed. On the other hand, the developments over the past 48 hours have been a win-win for the DMK. With Jana Nayagan out of the way till January 21, unless the Supreme Court grants a reprieve next week, Parasakthi, the period drama based on the anti-Hindi agitation of the mid-1960s, will have a free run at 1000-odd screens across Tamil Nadu. Pongal 2026 was touted as the Jana Nayagan vs Parasakthi clash. But now the latter has emerged as the solo big release this festival season. The DMK has literally 'owned' Parasakthi. The title has a clear Karunanidhi connection as the former

chief minister wrote the screenplay and dialogues for the original Parasakthi in 1952, the subject is part of the DMK ideology and it has backed the film financially, with the DMK's first family-run Red Giant movies as distributor. Unlike Vijay, who embraced silence, Tamil Nadu chief minister MK Stalin struck when the iron was hot. Proving he is the 'Thalapathy' of realpolitik. He condemned the moves by the Censor Board calling it a "political tool" of the Union government, thereby wielding the tactical stick to beat the BJP with. Ideally it should have been Vijay who should have gone to town, screaming subterfuge and pressure tactics used by the BJP to weaponise the Censor Board. But by staying silent, he has allowed the Congress

- and now the DMK - to hijack the issue. TVK, the political start-up, badly needs a team of strategists. If Vijay thinks scripted dialogues on the big screen alone would be good enough to win over the politically aware electorate of Tamil Nadu in 2026, he is mistaken. By indirectly supporting Vijay, Stalin also effectively took the sting out of the Congress leaders' support for the actor-turned-politician.

To be fair to the makers, they have stayed true to history because the anti-Hindi agitation was mounted against the Congress party's central government at that time. So while in the present context, an anti-Hindi stance is interpreted as anti-BJP, in the world of the 1960s Parasakthi, it is the Congress that is on target.

Manumukt 'Manav' Trust organized World Hindi Day celebrations



Narnaul. The Manumukt 'Manav' Memorial Trust organized a grand virtual celebration to mark World Hindi Day, in which one and a half dozen literary figures and scholars from six continents and ten countries, including India, Nepal, Australia, Singapore, Qatar, Ghana, Bulgaria, Sweden, Trinidad, and the United States, participated. Narayan Kumar, Honorary Director of the International Hindi Centre at Rabindranath Tagore University, Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), was the chief guest. Dr. Shweta Deepthi, Professor and Chairperson of the Hindi Department at Central Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu (Nepal), was the special guest, and Dr. S. Anukriti, Senior Economist at the World Bank, Washington, DC (USA), was the welcome speaker. Following a prayer song presented by Industry Extension Officer Dr. Sunil Bhardwaj, the ceremony, which was held under the inspiring guidance of Trustee Dr. Kanta Bharti and the able stewardship of Dr. Pankaj Gaur, commenced with Chief Trustee Dr. Ramniwas 'Manav' introducing the topic and highlighting the global expansion of Hindi through a couplet: "China, Russia, Britain to all, across the seven seas. Hindi has expanded throughout the world." In his inaugural address, Chief Guest Narayan Kumar described Hindi as a language of communication and harmony, stating that due to Indians spread across the globe, Hindi has now become a global language. Special Guest Dr. Shweta Deepthi advocated linking Hindi with employment, while Dr. Jawahar Karnavat, in his presidential address, highlighted the crucial role of Indian diaspora in the development of Hindi through a couplet: "China, Russia, Britain to all, across the seven seas. Hindi has expanded throughout the world." 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Trump seeks \$100bn for Venezuela oil, but Exxon boss says country 'uninvestable'

US President Donald Trump has asked for at least \$100bn (£75bn) in oil industry spending for Venezuela, but received a lukewarm response at the White House as one executive warned the South American country was currently "uninvestable". Bosses of the biggest US oil firms who attended the meeting acknowledged that Venezuela, sitting on vast energy reserves, represented an enticing opportunity. But they said significant changes would be needed to make the region an attractive investment. No major financial commitments were immediately forthcoming. Trump has said he will unleash the South American nation's oil after US forces seized its leader Nicolas Maduro in a 3 January raid on its capital. "One of the things the United States gets out of this will be even lower energy prices," Trump said in Friday's meeting at the White House. But the oil bosses present expressed caution. Exxon's chief executive Darren Woods said: "We have had our assets seized there twice and so you can imagine to re-enter a third time would require some pretty significant changes from what we've



historically seen and what is currently the state." "Today it's uninvestable." Venezuela has had a complicated relationship with international oil firms since oil was discovered in its territory more than 100 years ago. Chevron is the last remaining major American oil firm still operating in the country. A handful of companies from other countries, including Spain's Repsol and Italy's Eni, both of which were represented

at the White House meeting, are also active. Trump said his administration would decide which firms would be allowed to operate. "You're dealing with us directly. You're not dealing with Venezuela at all. We don't want you to deal with Venezuela," he said. The White House has said it is working to "selectively" roll back US sanctions that have restricted sales of Venezuelan oil. Officials say they have been coordinat-

ing with interim authorities in the country, which is currently led by Maduro's former second-in-command, Vice-President Delcy Rodríguez. But they have also made clear they intend to exert control over the sales, as a way to maintain leverage over Rodríguez's government. The US this week has seized several oil tankers carrying sanctioned crude. American officials have said they are working to set up a sales process, which would deposit money raised into US-controlled accounts. "We are open for business," Trump said. Venezuela's oil production has been hit in recent decades by disinvestment and mismanagement as well as US sanctions. At roughly one million barrels per day, the country accounts for less than 1% of global supply. Chevron, which accounts for about a fifth of the country's output, said it expected to bolster its production, building on its current presence, while Exxon said it was working to send in a technical team to assess the situation in the coming weeks. Repsol, which currently boasts output of about 45,000 barrels per day, said it saw a path to triple its production in Venezuela over the next few

years under the right conditions. Executives at other firms also said Trump's promises of change would encourage investment and they were hoping to seize the moment. "We are ready to go to Venezuela," said Bill Armstrong, who leads an independent oil and gas driller. "In real estate terms, it is prime real estate." But analysts say meaningfully increasing production would take significant effort. "They are being as polite as humanly possible, and being as supportive as they can, without committing actual dollars," said David Goldwyn, president of the energy consultancy Goldwyn Global Strategies and former US state department special envoy for international energy affairs. Exxon and Shell are "not going to invest single-digit billions of dollars, much less tens of billions of dollars", without physical security, legal certainty and a competitive fiscal framework, Goldwyn said. "It's not really welcome from an industry point of view," he said. "The conditions are just not right." While smaller companies might be more eager to jump in and help boost Venezuela's oil production over the next year.

EU reaches South America trade deal after 25 years of talks



The EU has reached a free trade agreement with South American countries, 25 years after talks began and despite opposition from farmers in several European countries. The deal with the Mercosur trading bloc - which includes Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay - will require the approval of the European parliament within the next few months. Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva hailed it as a "historic day for multilateralism" after the four South American countries put the final touches to the deal in Brussels. It comes against the backdrop of US President Donald Trump's

tariffs on countries around the world and his recent military intervention in Venezuela. The EU heralded what will be its largest free trade accord to date as a "win-win", although critics have argued that cheap imports may undercut European farmers in products including beef, poultry and sugar. "In an international scenario of growing protectionism and unilateralism, the agreement is a signal in favour of international trade as a driver of economic growth, with benefits for both blocs," President Lula posted on X. EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the deal will "bring meaningful benefits to consumers and businesses, on both sides". Farmers in several countries in Europe held last-ditch protests against the deal, with marches and demonstrations using tractors in France and Belgium. "There is a lot of pain," Judy Peeters, a representative for a Belgian young farmers' group, told AFP at a protest on a motorway south of Brussels. "There is a lot of anger." Von der Leyen said the Commission had listened to the concerns of farmers, and had acted on them including through introducing "robust safeguards" to protect their livelihoods in the agreement.

Shifting away from Russian oil imports currently won't hurt India fiscally

The prevailing low global oil prices mean that, if India chooses to shift away from importing Russian oil and switches to more oil from the U.S., the financial impact of this would be limited, according to experts as well as an analysis of India's import data. An analysis by The Hindu of the volume and value of India's oil imports show that in November 2025, the latest month for which there is data, India imported oil from Russia at the rate of \$482.7 per tonne. That month, oil imports from the U.S. cost \$523.3 per tonne. On average, India paid \$498.8 per tonne for its oil imports in November 2025. Declining discount Data shows that, while the premium paid on oil from the U.S. has remained largely the same as three years ago, the discount received from Russia has shrunk considerably. Three years earlier, in November 2022, India received a discount of \$40.3 a tonne on its oil imports from Russia. The premium paid on



American oil stood at \$21.2 per tonne. "India was very keen to keep importing from Russia at a discounted rate while a discount existed," Vibhuti Garg, Director for South Asia at the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, said. "But that discount has now gone and global oil prices have fallen significantly. They are at about \$60 a barrel and could fall further. So, if India does cut down on its Russian oil imports significantly, this won't currently be damaging fiscally. However, she added that, if in the future prices go back up to \$80-90 a barrel, then the lack of this Russian dis-

count could start pinching the Indian government. A previous report by The Hindu shows how India's oil imports from Russia touched a six-month high in November 2025. However, since then, Reliance Industries, one of the biggest oil importers in India, said that it had not received any oil shipments from Russia in the last three weeks of December 2025 and did not expect any in January 2026. Limited impact According to Ajay Srivastava, founder of think-tank Global Trade Research Initiative and former Director General of Foreign Trade in the Government of India.

'Out of stock': What went wrong at luxury retailer Saks?

On a recent January morning, tourists admired the rows of Balenciaga and Burberry handbags on display at Saks Fifth Avenue's flagship midtown Manhattan location. But a conversation on the second floor hinted at financial troubles at one of America's most iconic luxury department stores. Penelope Nam-Stephen, a longtime customer, approached the Diptyque counter in search of a home fragrance that she had typically bought at Saks. Nam-Stephen, who splits her time between New York City and Boston, had been surprised to find the product unavailable at the Boston store just after Christmas. She hoped the New York location would have better inventory. "Do you have anything in the Berries fragrance?" she asked an employee. His response: "Everything is out of stock - candles, diffusers." Saks Global, which owns Saks Fifth Avenue and Neiman Marcus, is expected to file for bankruptcy protection

imminently as it struggles to shore up its finances, leaving big questions among shoppers, vendors and investors about the retailer's future. Saks has been plagued by worsening financial woes since Saks Fifth Avenue's parent company acquired Neiman Marcus in 2024 to create the luxury retail giant. Executives had argued the \$2.7bn deal would cut costs and bolster the brands. The department stores had already been under strain amid growing debt burdens and shifting shopping habits that benefited e-commerce rivals. Saks Fifth Avenue began

reporting double-digit quarterly sales declines in early 2023. But the touted benefits of the acquisition did not materialise. Saks failed to make a \$100m interest payment to creditors due in late December, tied to roughly \$2.2bn of debt that it took on to fund the merger. The missed deadline comes as Saks continues to draw frustration from its vendors, who have bemoaned months-long payment delays and many of whom have halted shipments of their products. Saks did not respond to requests for comment on inventory shortages and its plan to pay vendors.

Avenue Supermarts Q3 result: Profit rises 18.28% to Rs. 855.78 crore



Avenue Supermarts Ltd on Saturday reported an 18.28 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 855.78 crore in the third quarter ended December 2025, on the back of higher revenue. The company, which runs a supermarket chain under the brand DMart, registered a consolidated net profit of Rs 723.54 crore in the same quarter last fiscal, Avenue Supermarts Ltd said in a regulatory filing. Consolidated revenue from operations in the latest third quarter stood at Rs 18,100.88 crore as against Rs 15,972.55 crore in the year-ago period, it added. Total expenses in

the third quarter were higher at Rs 16,942.62 crore as compared to Rs 15,001.64 crore in the corresponding period last fiscal. The company said its board has approved the appointment of Anshul Asawa, presently the CEO Designate, as Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, for a term of three years with effect from April 1, 2026, subject to the approval of shareholders. He will succeed Ignatius Navil Noronha, who will cease to hold office as Managing Director & CEO from January 31, 2026, on completion of his tenure, it added.

Sebi set to clear way for NSE to launch its initial public offering



Highlights

■ India's markets regulator will this month issue an approval needed for the country's biggest bourse, the National Stock Exchange, to launch its stock market offering, it said on Saturday. NSE, also the world's most active derivatives exchange, has been in litigation with the Indian market regulator Sebi since 2019 when it was fined 11 billion rupees (\$122.04 million) for failing to provide equitable access to all its trading members.

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Makar Sankranti 2026: Adding Nourishment to Harvest Celebrations with California Almonds



said, "Festive foods are central to Makar Sankranti celebrations, but making small, thoughtful ingredient choices can go a long way in supporting health. Almonds are nutrient-dense, naturally satiating, and help manage blood sugar levels when paired with carbohydrate-rich foods. Whether added to ladoos, savoury dishes, or eaten whole, a handful of California Almonds daily helps families celebrate

without compromising on nutrition." From an Ayurvedic perspective, almonds are considered balya, meaning strength-enhancing, and are known to build ojas, which supports vitality and immunity. Particularly beneficial during winter and early spring, their warming nature helps balance Vata, supports digestion, and builds resilience. Dr. Madhumitha Krishnan, Ayurveda Expert, shared,

val while making meals more balanced and nourishing." Sharing her personal connection with festive traditions, Bollywood actress Soha Ali Khan said, "Makar Sankranti has always been about warmth, family, and wholesome food for me. I believe celebrations feel more meaningful when they also support well-being." California Almonds have been a part of my family's kitchen for years, making it easier to strike a balance between indulgence and nutrition." As families celebrate the harvest and welcome longer days ahead, California Almonds offer a simple yet powerful way to add nourishment to festive traditions. Blending modern nutrition science with ancient wisdom, almonds support heart health, immunity, sustained energy, and overall vitality, making them a natural companion for a healthier, happier Makar Sankranti.

Trump says US needs to 'own' Greenland to prevent Russia and China from taking it

President Donald Trump says the US needs to "own" Greenland to prevent Russia and China from doing so. "Countries have to have ownership and you defend ownership, you don't defend leases. And we'll have to defend Greenland," Trump told reporters on Friday, in response to a question from the BBC. We will do it "the easy way" or "the hard way", he added. The White House said recently the administration is considering buying the semi-autonomous territory of fellow Nato member Denmark, but it would not rule out the option of annexing it by force. Denmark and Greenland say the territory is not for sale. Denmark has said military action would spell the end of the trans-Atlantic defence alliance. In a joint statement on Friday night, Greenland's party leaders, including



the opposition, reiterated their call for the "US's disregard for our country to end". "We do not want to be Americans, we do not want to be Danes, we want to be Greenlanders," they said. "The future of Greenland must be decided by the Greenlandic people." Despite being the most sparsely populated territory, Greenland's location

between North America and the Arctic makes it well placed for early warning systems in the event of missile attacks, and for monitoring vessels in the region. The US president has repeatedly said that Greenland is vital to US national security, claiming without evidence that it was "covered with Russian and Chinese ships

all over the place". The US already has more than 100 military personnel permanently stationed at its Pituffik base in Greenland's north-western tip - a facility that has been operated by the US since World War Two. Under existing agreements with Denmark, the US has the power to bring as many troops as it wants to

Greenland. But speaking to reporters in Washington, Trump said a lease agreement was not good enough. "Countries can't make nine-year deals or even 100-year deals," he said, adding that they had to have ownership. "I love the people of China. I love the people of Russia," Trump said. "But I don't want them as a neighbour in Greenland, not going to happen." "And by the way Nato's got to understand that," the US president added. Denmark's Nato allies - major European countries as well as Canada - have rallied to its support this week with statements reaffirming that "only Denmark and Greenland can decide on matters concerning their relations". Stressing they were as keen as the US on Arctic security, they have said this must be achieved by allies, including the US, "collectively". They also

called for "upholding the principles of the UN Charter, including sovereignty, territorial integrity and the inviolability of borders". Concerns over the future of the territory resurfaced after Trump's use of military force against Venezuela on Saturday to seize its president, Nicolás Maduro. Trump previously made an offer to buy the island in 2019, during his first presidential term, only to be told it was not for sale. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio is to hold talks with Denmark next week. In recent years, there has also been increased interest in Greenland's natural resources - including rare earth minerals, uranium and iron - which are becoming easier to access as its ice melts due to climate change. Scientists think it could also have significant oil and gas reserves.

Rescuers race to find dozens missing after deadly landfill collapse in Philippines



Rescue workers are racing to find dozens of people still missing following a landslide at a landfill site in the central Philippines earlier this week, an official has said. Mayor Nestor Archival said on Saturday that signs of life had been detected at the site in Cebu City, two days after the incident. Four people have been confirmed dead so far, Archival said, while 12 others have been taken to hospital. Conditions for emergency services working at the site are challenging, the mayor added, with hazards such as unstable debris and crew waiting for better equipment to arrive. The privately-owned Binaliw landfill collapsed on Thursday while 110 workers were on site, officials said. In a Facebook post on Saturday morning local time, Archival said: "Authorities confirmed the presence of detected signs of life in specific areas, requiring continued careful excavation and the deployment of a

Romance and parenthood feel remote in Ukraine: 'I haven't had a date since before the war'



Sitting in a wine bar in Kyiv on a Saturday night, Daria, 34, opens a dating app, scrolls, then puts her phone away. After spending more than a decade in committed relationships she's been single for a long time. "I haven't had a proper date since before the war," she says. Four years of war have forced Ukrainians to rethink

nearly every aspect of daily life. Increasingly that includes decisions about relationships and parenthood - and these choices are, in turn, shaping the future of a country in which both marriage and birth rates are falling. Millions of Ukrainian women who left at the start of the 2022 full-scale invasion have now built lives and relationships abroad. Hundreds of thousands of men are absent too, either deployed in the army or living outside the country. For those women who stayed, the prospect of meeting somebody to start a family feels increasingly remote. Khrystyna, 28, says it's noticeable that there are fewer men around.

Iran medics describe overwhelmed hospitals as protests continue



As protests in Iran continue and Iranian authorities issued coordinated warnings to protesters, a doctor and medic at two hospitals told the BBC their facilities were overwhelmed with injuries. One doctor said a Tehran eye hospital had gone into crisis mode, while the BBC also obtained a message from a medic in another hospital saying it did not have enough surgeons to cope with the influx of patients. On Friday, US President Donald Trump said Iran was in "big trouble" and warned "you better not start shooting because we'll start shooting too". Iran in a letter to the UN Security Council blamed

the US for turning the protests into what it called "violent subversive acts and widespread vandalism". Anti-government protests, which continued on Friday, have taken place in dozens of locations, with two human rights groups reporting at least 50 protesters have been killed. The BBC and

most other international news organisations are barred from reporting inside Iran, and the country has been under a near-total internet blackout since Thursday evening, making obtaining and verifying information difficult. A doctor from Iran, who contacted the BBC via Starlink satellite inter-

Video emerges of Minneapolis shooting filmed by ICE agent who opened fire



A video filmed by the US immigration agent who fatally shot a woman in Minneapolis on Wednesday has emerged, showing the moments before gunfire rang out. The 47-second footage, obtained by conservative news outlet Alpha News, which is based in Minnesota, shows Renee Nicole Good sitting behind the wheel of her car and speaking to the officer. US Vice-President JD Vance shared the clip on social media, commenting that the agent had acted in self-defence. Local officials have insisted the woman posed no danger. Good's wife has paid tribute to the 37-year-old, saying the pair were trying

to support their neighbours when she was shot. Her death has sparked protests across the US. President Donald Trump's administration says Good tried to run over the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officer in an act of "domestic terrorism" after

blocking the road and impeding the agency's work. Democratic Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey has described that account as "garbage" based on the video footage. The BBC has asked the homeland security department and the White House for comment on the

new video that emerged on Friday. The footage starts with the officer getting out of his car and filming Good's vehicle and registration plate while he walks around the Honda SUV. A dog is in the backseat. Good says: "That's fine dude. I'm not mad at you." Her wife, Becca Good, is standing on the street filming the interaction with her mobile phone. She tells the ICE agent: "That's OK, we don't change our plates every morning just so you know. It will be the same plate when you come talk to us later." She adds: "You want to come at us? You want to come at us? I say go and get yourself some lunch, big boy."

Swiss search souls and question government after ski resort fire



In the wake of the devastating fire at a bar in Crans-Montana, many Swiss citizens are asking themselves if their political system is fit for purpose. Switzerland, often praised for its efficiency, has a very devolved system of government, in which villages and towns are run by local officials elected from and by the community. It is a system the Swiss cherish, because they believe it ensures accountability. But there are inherent weaknesses: hypothetically, the official approving a bar licence or passing a fire-safety check is the friend, neighbour, or maybe even cousin of the bar owner. When the news of the fire emerged on New Year's Eve, first there was shock. Such devastating fires are not, people thought, supposed to happen in Switzerland. Then there was grief - 40 young people lost their lives, 116 were injured, many of them very seriously. Questions followed - what caused such a catastrophe? And finally, this

week - fury when Crans-Montana's Mayor, Nicolas Feraud, revealed that Le Constellation bar had not been inspected since 2019. Crans-Montana is in the Swiss canton of Valais, where fire-safety inspections are the responsibility of Mayor Feraud and his colleagues, and they are supposed to happen every 12 months. Not only had the checks not taken place, the mayor said, he had only become aware of this after the fire. And, he revealed, of 128 bars and restaurants in Crans-Montana, only 40 had been inspected in 2025. Asked why,

Feraud had no answer, though he did suggest Crans-Montana had too few inspectors for the number of properties that needed checking. This was echoed by Romy Biner, the mayor of neighbouring upmarket resort Zermatt, who told local media that many communities in the canton of Valais did not have the required resources to inspect so many premises.

GREENLANDERS FEAR FOR FUTURE AS ISLAND EMBROILED IN GEOPOLITICAL STORM



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio will meet Danish and Greenlandic officials next week to discuss the fate of Greenland - a semi-autonomous territory of Denmark that President Donald Trump says he needs for national security. The vast island finds itself in the eye of a geopolitical storm with Trump's name on it and people here are clearly unnerved. Yet when you fly in, it looks so peaceful. Ice and snow-capped mountains stretch as far as the eye can see, interrupted here and there by glittering fjords - all between the Arctic and the Atlantic Oceans. It is said to sit on top of the world; much of it

above the Arctic Circle. Greenland is nine times the size of the UK but it only has 57,000 inhabitants, most of them indigenous Inuit. You find the biggest cluster of Greenlanders on the south-western coast in the capital, Nuuk. We arrived there as a frozen twilight was creeping across snow-covered pedestrian streets. Parents dragged their children home from school on sledges, and students munched their way in and out of brightly-lit malls. Few wanted to talk to us about the Trump-related angst here. Those who did sounded very gloomy. One pensioner banged his walking stick on the ground in

want to be left alone." Never mind opposing a takeover by the US, which 85% of Greenlanders say they do, most also say they favour independence from Denmark - although many tell me they appreciate the Danish subsidies that help prop up their welfare state. While rich in untapped natural resources, poverty is a real issue here in Inuit communities. Overall, Greenlanders want a bigger, louder say, not only in their domestic policies, but in foreign affairs too. I went to the island's modest-looking parliament, the body of it built in a Scandinavian style with wooden slats and painted the same bur-

nished red as the Greenic flags fluttering by the entrance. No security checks. All pretty relaxed. Except for the roaring polar bear emblem - a symbol of Greenland, etched onto every sliding glass doors we pass. I was there to meet Pipaluk Lyng-Rasmussen, co-chair of the foreign affairs committee in parliament. She is an MP with the pro-independence Inuit Ataqatigiit party that is part of the coalition government here. "I think it's very important for us to speak out about what we want as a people," she told me. "We have always worked towards independence when we got home rule in 1979 and more independence in 2009.

US film stars Meagan Good and Jonathan Majors become Guinea citizens after DNA tests



Husband and wife movie stars Meagan Good and Jonathan Majors have travelled to Guinea, where they have been granted citizenship after tracing their ancestry to the West African nation through DNA testing. Majors, a star of Creed and Ant-Man, said becoming citizens would allow the couple to "bridge the gap" and bring together their stories as entertainers and members of the African diaspora. "We just want to say thank you so much," added Good, best known for the film Think Like a Man, who said it was her first visit to Guinea. Their citizenship ceremony was similar to

other initiatives in the region to encourage people of African descent to reclaim their heritage and invest in the continent. The event - a private cultural ceremony organised by the ministry of culture - took place at a tourist and cultural centre, Gbassi Kolo, on Friday. Djiba Diakité, minister and chief of staff of the presidency, presented the passports to the two actors on behalf of President Mamadi Doumbouya, saying: "We both believe that you are among the worthy sons and daughters of Guinea to represent our country and the red and green flag throughout the world."



Sunil Gavaskar Fulfils Promise To Jemimah Rodrigues. Their Musical Duet Wins Internet

Legendary Indian cricket team skipper Sunil Gavaskar shared a stunning moment with women's cricket team star Jemimah Rodrigues as he gifted her a bat-shaped guitar. Gavaskar also fulfilled his promise of singing a song with her in a heartwarming moment for fans. The legendary cricketer had previously promised that he would jam with Jemimah if she wins the Women's ODI World Cup and he kept his promise. In a video going viral on social media, Gavaskar was seen greeting Jemimah and gifting her a customised guitar that was shaped like a cricket bat. Gavaskar even joked that he was not the "opening bat" on the day. The highlight of the meeting came when the duo sang Yeh Dosti - the famous song from the film 'Sholay' sung by Kishore Kumar and Manna Dey. "Sunil sir kept his promise and we ended up jamming with the coolest Bat-ar ever. This was a special



one," Jemimah posted on Instagram. Earlier, former India captain Anjum Chopra believes Jemimah Rodrigues will discover 'another side of herself' when she leads Delhi Capitals (DC) in the upcoming Women's Premier League (WPL) season, starting in Navi Mumbai on Friday. Jemimah was the vice-captain to Australia's multiple-time World Cup-

winning captain Meg Lanning when DC finished as runners-up in three successive WPL seasons - 2023, 2024, and 2025. But with Meg becoming the skipper of UP Warriorz (UPW), Jemimah steps into the leadership role for DC for the first time. "See, expectations will be there with the franchise also. But for me, it's about when you entrust a player with a role,

they start understanding themselves in a different light altogether. So, she's captained Mumbai and been there at the helm. But now leading a franchise team is a different ballgame altogether. Now she will also explore another side of herself, not only as a batter or a fielder, but also as a captain," Anjum told IANS in an exclusive conversation on the eve of

the competition's commencement. "Captaincy does not happen only on the ground; it happens off the ground as well. So, you learn more about yourself, like how you're handling yourself in a situation, what you could do, and what you've done better in various manners in which you think as a batter, and a fielder, trying to be ahead of the competition, and sometimes winning a battle or not winning a battle. "So, I feel it's going to be a nice growth for Jemimah Rodrigues as a cricketer because now she will be handling players like Marizanne Kapp in the lineup, who are already established cricketers, and also players who share the dressing room with her, like Shafali Verma, and Niki Prasad, who is coming through the ranks very quickly. So, it's always a nice responsibility, but what a player makes of it, and how they travel that part of the journey, is what matters," she added.

Shubman Gill Asked About Indian Dressing Room Atmosphere Chatter Over Seniors' Relationship With Coaches

Shubman Gill makes a comeback in international cricket after a gap with the India vs New Zealand ODI series. This is India's last ODI series before the focus shifts to T20Is. Shubman Gill is not currently part of the T20I team but is the captain of the ODI and Test teams. Under his leadership in the ODIs, the focus has been on senior players like Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli. They are still going strong in the 50-over format, but there has been chatter about their relationship with the coaching staff, led by Gautam Gambhir. Gill was directly asked about this in the pre-match press conference. "A lot of things are being said and written about the relationship between senior players and the coaching staff. How are things on that



front?" a reporter asked Shubman Gill. "I think the team atmosphere is amazing. The players that you named have been in this atmosphere for decades, and they are the people who always try to push Indian cricket forward. And I think even in the last series, you saw how well they performed. So I think the atmosphere in the team is

great right now," Shubman Gill replied. Replying to a separate question, Gill added that having Rohit and Kohli in the side makes a captain's life much easier, because whenever there is a challenging situation, you can go to them for decision-making, which is valuable for any captain. "Among the two players you

have named, one is one of the greatest openers (Rohit) of all time in ODIs, and Virat bhai is one of the greatest ODI batsmen ever. So definitely, having these two people in your team makes your life a lot easier, and whenever you are in a challenging situation, you can go to them for input. Because they have often been in those situations, you can go to them to see how they think or what they would do. That piece of information is very valuable for any captain," Gill said. Gill also stressed the importance of finding the best combination and playing at full strength, irrespective of the opposition. "We don't look at any opposition, since they aren't at their full strength. We want to play at full strength and find the best combinations."

'Unacceptable to the badge' - Dyche fumes at FA Cup exit



Sean Dyche has called for some of his Nottingham Forest players to "have a look in the mirror" after an "unacceptable" first-half performance in their FA Cup loss at Wrexham. Forest were the first Premier League side in third-round action and the first casualty at the hands of lower league opposition. Having made eight changes from Tuesday's Premier League win at West Ham, Dyche watched in fury as his side trailed their Championship opponents 2-0 at the break. They fought back to make it 3-3 and force extra-time at Stok Cae Ras, but were beaten 4-3 in the penalty shootout after Igor Jesus and Omari Hutchinson had their spot-kicks saved by home keeper Arthur Okonkwo. "The first half was completely unacceptable," Dyche told TNT Sports. "I let the players know and there are cer-

tain individuals that certainly know and they have to look in the mirror. "But the strangeness of football, some players that came on in the second half were a credit and we went on and looked like a Premier League side. "You can't do that in the first half, it's completely unacceptable. It's unacceptable to me, but I said you have to look in the mirror because that's unacceptable to the badge as well. "They all knock on the door and say, 'why aren't I playing'.

Well the evidence is quite honestly there for some, not for all." While Dyche praised those who came off the bench - including two-goal Callum Hudson-Odoi - for acting as a "catalyst" for their second-half comeback, he continued to berate his side's efforts in a poor first 45 minutes. "I could have taken all of them off [at half-time]," he added.



Suryavanshi slammed a 50-ball 96 at a strike rate of 192. His innings included nine fours and seven sixes. He reached the half-century mark in just 27 balls. The recent performance of the Rajasthan Royals star has left former India all-rounder Ravichandran Ashwin utterly impressed, and he took to X (formerly Twitter) to congratulate

Suryavanshi. "171(95), 50(26), 190(84), 68(24), 108*(61), 46(25) & 127(74) today. These are just some of Vaibhav Suryavanshi's scores in the last 30 days across domestic & U-19 cricket. Enna thambi, indha adi podhuma, illa innum konjam venuva? Translation (What's all this, brother? Is this sample enough or are you

going to raise the bar further?)" wrote Ashwin after Suryavanshi's ton against South Africa. Ashwin further stated that with the upcoming U-19 World Cup and IPL 2026 in March, Suryavanshi's performance as an opener will be a great spectacle for all the fans. "You can't explain in words what this kid is doing at 14. With the U-19 WC around the corner, where he's expected to be the showstopper, followed immediately by the leap to the IPL for his first full season as an opener stepping into the big shoes of Sanju, the next four months of #VaibhavWatch are going to be exciting, telling us everything about his temperament, hunger & character," Ashwin added.

Scottish Premiership: O'Neill makes Celtic return in one of four matches



Newcastle. He makes the bench. Scott Bain has also committed to an additional two years as John McGlynn plans for the future as well as the here and now, which has been going very well this season. No signs of the nerves you'd expect a base-

Martindale is his usual calm, pre-match self. Let's see if their respective demeanours are different at the end of this enormous match... Livingston manager David Martindale tells BBC Scotland: "Scott Arfield and Alex Tamm, their registrations only came through late after training yesterday so we kind of kept the bench open for them but it was hard to actually do any preparation in terms of the match. Hopefully, we can get them on the park. "Big game. I'm not going to try and hide behind that. There's a lot of games left in the season but I think this game, there's a lot of importance in this game.

"Couple Of Beers Now And Again": Brendon McCullum's Stunning Defence Of England Team After Ashes Drinking Row



Duckett seemingly drunk and unable to find his way back home made matters worse, with managing director Rob Key stating that an investigation on the drinking reports would take place within the team. England's only victory of the series coincidentally came in the fourth Test in Melbourne, in the immediate aftermath of the reported drinking scandal. Meanwhile, former England cricketer Kevin Pietersen called for changes in the national coaching setup and backed former

head coach Andy Flower as a potential successor to Brendon McCullum. The 41-year-old England star made a post on X to support his ex-coach. Pietersen said that his wild thought was bringing Flower back into the fold, adding that the Zimbabwe legend has evolved, understands the modern-day player, and gets Test cricket. "This is a WILD thought. I reckon one of my wildest. Can England bring back Andy Flower now that he's changed and in line with the modern-day player?"

SA20: DSG And Sunrisers Share Points After Match Is Abandoned Without A Toss



notwithstanding their three losses putting them on the back foot for the second half of the group stage. Sunrisers meanwhile, who hold a nine point advantage over DSG, now only need one more win

from their remaining four group matches to seal their place in the Playoffs. The two teams will be hoping for better luck on Sunday when they're set to meet in the at St George's Park in the reverse fixture.

Durant passes legend Chamberlain on all-time list



Kevin Durant moved past the great Wilt Chamberlain on the NBA all-time scoring list but his 30 points could not guide the Houston Rockets to a win against the Portland Trail Blazers. Durant, 37, has 31,435 points in his career and is now seventh on the all-time list. LeBron James of the Los Angeles Lakers leads the way with 42,601. The Trail Blazers triumphed 111-105 at Moda Center in Portland. Chamberlain, who died in 1999, is the only player to score 100 points in an NBA game and was a two-time champion with the Philadelphia 76ers and the Lakers. In 1962 he averaged a record 50.4 points a game, and was the leading NBA scorer when he retired in 1973. "You see the numbers. You just can't comprehend some-

Vishnu Manchu Announces 100% Sports Scholarships at MBU & SVIS: A Big Step Toward Building India's Future Olympians

In a major push to nurture sporting talent in India, Dynamic Star Vishnu Manchu who is serving as MAA President today announced a groundbreaking initiative- 100% sports scholarships at Mohan Babu University (MBU) and Sree Vidyaniketan International School (SVIS). The program, starting from the 2026-27 academic year, aims to provide complete support for young athletes with exceptional potential. This ambitious scholarship program begins with two major sports disciplines- Cricket, Basketball, and Badminton. Under this initiative, selected students will receive full support, covering academics, professional coaching, nutrition, training facilities, and accommodation. The institutions will collaborate with top-tier coaches from India and abroad, ensuring world-class guidance for the athletes. Vishnu Manchu revealed that this mission stems from a deeply personal dream — contributing to India's sporting future in a significant way. With India preparing



and aspiring to host the 2036 Olympics, Vishnu Manchu envisions that MBU should produce Olympians by then. This long-term roadmap reflects his commitment to developing grassroots sports and offering deserving youngsters a platform to shine globally.

Speaking about the initiative, he emphasized that many talented children lose opportunities due to financial barriers, lack of mentorship, or inadequate infrastructure.

This scholarship program is designed to eliminate all such hurdles and create a structured ecosystem where young athletes can thrive.

Speaking about the initiative



Mahesh Babu Unveils Nephew Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni's Intense First Look from Srinivasa Mangapuram

Superstar Mahesh Babu Unveiled Powerful First Look Of Ashwini Dutt Presents, Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni, Rasha Thadani, Ajay Bhupathi, P Kiran, Chandamama Kathalu's Srinivasa Mangapuram A fresh star from the Ghattamaneni family is ready to make his mark. Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni, belonging to the illustrious family of Superstar Krishna, steps into cinema with a debut that already carries immense promise. His first film Srinivasa Mangapuram is directed by Ajay Bhupathi, known for crafting intense, rooted, and unforgettable worlds in RX 100 and Mangalavaram. The film is backed by Ashwini Dutt of Vyjayanthi Movies and produced by P. Kiran of Chandamama Kathalu, ensuring a powerful and high-quality launchpad. The team previously unveiled the film's title and compelling pre-look poster that grabbed attention. Today, Superstar Mahesh Babu unveiled the powerful first look of his nephew Jaya Krishna's debut film. The young actor is seen riding a motorcycle at high speed through a dusty, rugged ter-



rain. The motion blur surrounding him amplifies the sense of danger. He leans forward aggressively, gripping the bike with one hand while aiming a handgun with fierce determination in the other. His sharp focus and tense posture clearly indicate that he is caught in a high-stakes pursuit. The team brands this launchpad as the "Debut of the Year 2026". Overall, the first look promises a gripping, high-octane action drama—setting the stage for a debut packed with power, intensi-

Anil Ravipudi: Chiranjeevi–Venkatesh Combo in Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu Will Make Everyone Say 'Wow'

Mana Shankara Vara Prasad garu is a perfect family entertainer that everyone can connect with. Everyone who admires Chiranjeevi garu will be like 'wow'. The combination of Chiranjeevi garu and Venkatesh garu will be remembered forever: Director Anil Ravipudi Megastar Chiranjeevi and hit machine Anil Ravipudi are going to entertain the audience with the wholesome family entertainment 'Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu'. Adding to the excitement, Victory Venkatesh is playing a key role. Produced by Sahu Garapati and Sushmita Konidela under the banners of Shine Screens and Gold Box Entertainments, this film has Nayanthara playing the female lead, while Smt. Archana is presenting the film. The film promotions are going on wonderfully. The trailer and songs have greatly increased the expectations on the film. 'Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu' will be released worldwide on January 12 as a Sankranthi gift. On this occasion, director Anil Ravipudi shared the features of the film at a press conference.

You said you were nervous about the release time last year. How do you feel about this year?

I am a little relaxed this time. The nervous percentage has decreased a little. The reason for that is Chiranjeevi garu. We released the Hook Step song at the pre-release event. Chiranjeevi garu's dance to that song, and the mischief that Venkatesh garu and I did in front of him at that event, all of this brought a positive vibe without me knowing it. I am very relaxed with this.

The hook step went viral, didn't it?

There is a story behind that song. Actually, we thought it would be a melodious mass tune in that place. Both the songs Meesala Pilla and Shasirekha are also melody songs. I thought how about Chiranjeevi's introduction song also being a melody again. I told Chiranjeevi that the song was not that satisfactory. It rained while we were shooting the song and the shooting stopped. Chiranjeevi said that nature had given the signal. He had given the signal, right? Then we started



derful choreography. It was Ramajogayya who gave the word hook step.

When it comes to music, they mostly work with local technicians. Why?

Bheems mostly encourages new, local talent. Local singers also sang the blockbuster Pongal song in Sankranthi. Udit garu and Hook Step Baba Sahel garu sang the song Meesala Pilla in this film.

- Among the choreographers, Bhanu Master, Vijay, and Sandeep have proven their acting skills wonderfully. All our local technicians are also coming into the limelight. I am very happy.

If you come to Sankranti, you have a track record of not turning back, right?

It is not good to make too much of an impression. The pressure increases. It is enough if there is a feeling that Sankranti Kochi is giving good entertainment. Whoever comes with good content, all those films will play. In my case, the genres I choose are mostly about human relationships, something that every family can relate to. That is a plus for me.

What is the emotional touch you took in this film?

There is an emotional point in this movie that needs to be revealed somewhere in the teaser and trailer so far. You have to see it on screen. Along with the comedy, there will be a strong emotional ride. The scenes between Chiranjeevi, Nayanthara and the children are very heartwarming.

- The way a husband and wife handle a problem is shown in a very new light in this movie. It will definitely connect with everyone. When you see that emotion on the screen, everyone will feel that is the right thing to do.

It takes a lot of effort to make a story for Chiranjeevi and Venkatesh. Tell us about the journey of this story?

Luckily, I get hooked on the first idea. Venky garu has a very good sync with me. Chiranjeevi garu really liked the idea I told him. He also liked the characterization a lot. I haven't done a story that runs along with characterization in the recent past. Taking a story from the hero's point of view felt new to me.

I have played a good character with scope for performance in 'Nari Nari Naduma Murari'. It is a fun family entertainer that everyone will enjoy: Heroine Samyukta

Charming Star Sharva and Ram Abbaraju are starring in the wholesome family entertainer 'Nari Nari Nadu Murari' directed by Ram Abbaraju. Produced by Anil Sunkara and Ramabrahmam Sunkara in association with Adventures International Pvt. Ltd. under the banner of AK Entertainments, the film stars Samyukta and Sakshi Vaidya as the female leads. The promotional content has already created a good buzz. The film will hit the theatres on January 14. On this occasion, the film's features were shared at a joint press conference.

How does it feel to arrive

at Sankranti?

It is a great pleasure to be here for Sankranti. Sankranti is a big festival. Every film that comes during Sankranti is well received. This is a very clean comedy entertainer. A perfect movie for the festival.

I really liked it when the director told me this story. Very beautiful story. I really like doing comedy films. Shooting is also very fun.

What will your character be like in this?

My character has a lot of importance in this. When there are two heroines, the audience naturally thinks it is a love triangle story.

But this is not the case. The director has written this story with a very unique point. You should see that on the screen.

The director gave me a very good character. It has a very good situation comedy. I dubbed for this movie myself. I enjoyed it a lot.

I was so excited when I signed this film, and I was still so excited after it was completed. I watched the movie in dubbing. It was amazing.

How did it feel to act with Sharwa?

Sharwanand garu is a hero with excellent timing. He is very supportive and

helpful. Working with him is a very good experience.

The roles of Naresh and Satya will also entertain everyone.

About director Ram Abbaraju?

The director is very cool. He doesn't feel any pressure when the film is coming out in such a competitive environment. He is always very confident. I have never seen him angry. He is a very clear director.

How did it feel working on Anil's production?

Anil garu is very passionate about cinema. He is the main pillar of cinema. He supports everyone. I wish

him a huge success.

Witness about medical?

We have good combination scenes. I have a lot of respect for him. The way he prepares for every scene is very good. He works very hard.

What kind of roles would you like to play?

I have done a variety of roles so far. Each of my films has a variety. I want to do all kinds of roles. I also want to do biopics. I also want to do comedy characters.

How is the Sankranti festival celebrated?

It is my habit to celebrate every festival wherever I go. I wish everyone would send good flour dishes to my house (laughs).

When will black gold arrive?

The shooting may be completed in February. The film is coming along very well.

Shahid Kapoor goes dark, violent in first look of Vishal Bhardwaj's 'O' Romeo'



Mumbai: The makers of Vishal Bhardwaj's "O' Romeo" on Friday unveiled the first look of Bollywood star Shahid Kapoor from the upcoming movie, set to be released in theatres on February 13. Also featuring Tripti Dimri, the film marks the fourth collaboration for Kapoor and Bhardwaj. The duo has previously worked on "Kaminey", "Haider", and "Rangoon". The upcoming action thriller is produced by Sajid Nadiadwala under his production banner Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment. The production house shared the first look of Shahid's titular character on its official social media handles. The poster presents a darkly and violent image with Shahid shown bloodied, roaring in rage,

and marked with tattoos. The official plotline of the movie has been kept under wraps by the filmmaker, best known for masterfully adapting Shakespeare's "Macbeth", "Othello" and "Hamlet" for the big screen with his critically-acclaimed movies "Magbool" (2003), "Omkara" (2006) and "Haider" (2014). The cast of "O'Romeo" also includes veteran actors Nana Patekar and Farida Jalal as well as Avinash Tiwary, Vikrant Massey, Disha Patani and Tamannaah Bhatia. Shahid was last seen in Rossan Andrews' "Deva", where he shared the screen with Pooja Hegde. He will be starring alongside Kriti Sanon and Rashmika Mandanna in an upcoming sequel of "Cocktail".

Kamal Haasan demands 'principled relook' at film certification process

Chennai: Actor-Politician Kamal Haasan on Saturday called for an overhaul of the country's film certification process, citing the need for greater transparency and accountability. His comments come at a critical juncture for the Tamil film industry, following the stalled release of Vijay's upcoming flick 'Jana Nayagan'. In a statement, he said, "What is required now is a principled relook at the certification processes with defined timelines for certification, transparent evaluation, and written, reasoned justification for every suggested cut or edit." He emphasised that now is the time for the film fraternity to unite and engage in a meaningful, constructive dialogue with our government institutions to protect artistic freedom.

affirming trust in its artists and its people," Haasan, also a member of the Parliament in the Rajya Sabha, added. "He emphasised that now is the time for the film fraternity to unite and engage in a meaningful, constructive dialogue with our government institutions to protect artistic freedom. Such reform will safeguard creative freedom, uphold constitutional values, and strengthen India's democratic institutions by

