

OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

29-12-2025

Total pilgrims: 59,631

Tonsures: 18,609

Hundi kanukalu: 4.36 CR

Waiting Compartments: 13

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens) - 6-8 H



10-yr B'luru girl enters India Book of Records as youngest author

Bengaluru, 31 Dec 2025: Parinita B., a Class-5 student of NET Public School, Basavanagudi, has become the youngest person listed in the India Book of Records after publishing her illustrated story collection, "Tales by Pari", through Subbu Publications. The 10-year-old wrote the 40-page book during summer vacation, drawing characters from her everyday observations and grandmother's folk tales. "I just wanted to share my stories with friends; I didn't know it could break a record," said Parinita, who received her certificate at a small school ceremony on Monday. Parents K. Balaji and Dr. Anusha R. Gupta, both engineers, say they first noticed her passion when she began narrating bedtime sequels to the Panchatantra at age six. The school's literary club later gave her a dedicated notebook and weekly feedback sessions that helped shape the manuscript. Principal M. Shailaja believes the feat will spur "every child to see writing as a real, reachable goal". The India Book of Records confirmed Parinita's entry under the "youngest published author (female)" category after verifying her age, ISBN and print run of

House distribution on Jan 2

Bengaluru: In the wake of the eviction of illegal houses in Yelahanka Kogilu Layout, the BBMP and Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation are continuing to review the documents regarding providing alternative permanent housing to the eligible victims. The government's intention in this matter is to provide housing only to the eligible ones. Therefore, the Chief Minister has instructed to conduct a comprehensive document review without any haste, and officials of the Revenue, BBMP are busy with that work. In this context, the distribution of houses that was scheduled for January 1 has been postponed to January 2. Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan said in a Press statement.

Set up NIPER in the State: M.B. Patil writes to Minister Nadda

Bengaluru: Stating that Karnataka is at the forefront of science and pharmaceutical research, Minister for Large and Medium Industries M.B. Patil has urged the Union government to establish a unit of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) in the State. In a letter addressed to Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda, Mr. Patil assured that the State government would swiftly provide the necessary land, infrastructure, support, and opportunities for collaboration. In his letter, Mr. Patil recalled that the Union government had earlier considered setting up the institute in Karnataka, though the proposal did not materialise at the time. He urged the Centre to revive the plan, keeping in view the State's strong ecosystem of scientific research institutions and biotechnology (BT) companies.

Blinkhit-Blinkit row turns criminal: trademark transfer stayed, FIR lodged for forgery.

New Delhi / Chennai / Bengaluru: Serious allegations of fraud, forgery, and violations of corporate law have come to light in connection with the illegal transfer of the registered "BLINKHIT" trademark. The matter has escalated into a significant legal dispute involving the original promoters of BLINKHIT and individuals associated with the Blinkit brand. According to Mr. Paramesh Huliyyurudurga Krishnegowda, Co-Founder and Director of BLINKHIT, he and his partner Mr. Harish Srinivasa Shetty legally incorporated the company in 2016 and duly adopted and registered the trademarks "BLINKHIT" and "IBLINKHIT" in the company's name. Since then, the company has been operating in full compliance with applicable laws. Subsequently, Grofers.com, owned by Mr. Albinder Singh Dhindsa, commenced business under the name "BLINKIT", which, according to Mr. Paramesh, is deceptively similar to the registered BLINKHIT and IBLINKHIT trademarks and is likely to cause confusion.

**Protium**

**PROTIUM FINANCE LIMITED**  
(Formerly known as Growth Source Financial Technologies Ltd.)

Registered & Corporate Office Address: 7th Floor, Block B2, Phase - I Nirlon Knowledge Park, Pahadi Village, Off. Western Express Highway, Cama Industrial Estate, Goregaon(E), Mumbai - 400063, Maharashtra.

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Mortgagor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged to the Secured Creditor and the Symbolic Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Protium Finance Ltd. the same shall be referred herein after as **Protium Finance Ltd.** The Secured Assets will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis through E-Auction. It is hereby informed to General public that we are going to conduct public E-Auction through website <https://bankauctoins.in/>.

1. Account Number: 1. GS01SEEL2448566

2. Name of Borrower, Co-Borrower/ Mortgagors: 2. (A) Fortune Facility Management Services, Through its Proprietor Kavya V W/O Narve Kumarachar Prasanna (B) Kavya V. W/o Narve Kumarachar Prasanna (C) Narve Kumarachar Prasanna, S/o Kumarachar All Having Address At No 43 2nd Cross Nandini Layout Saraswathipura Bengaluru Bengaluru Urban Hassan, Karnataka 572113. Also At : D/o Venkatesh, B M Road, Kone Pate, Behind Venkateshwara Kalyana Mantapa, Alur, Hassan, Hassan, Karnataka 572123. Also At : Number 304 3rd Floor C-Block Nethravathi Apartment Nandini Layout Bangalore Near Sg International School Bengaluru Karnataka 560096

3. Date of Demand Notice: 21st July 2025

4. Amount as per Demand Notice U/s 13(2): Rs. 20,82,063.98 (Twenty Lakh Eighty Two Thousand Sixty Three Rupees and Ninety Eight Paise Only) as on 10th day of July, 2025, with further interest, within the statutory period of 60 days from the date of this notice.

5. Date of Symbolic Possession: 13-Nov-2025

6. Amount as on date: Rs. 21,65,795/- (Twenty-One Lakh Sixty-Five Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety-Five) as on date 30th Dec 2025

7. Descriptions Of The Immovable Property/Properties:- All That Piece And Parcel Of The Residential Apartment Bearing Flat No. C-304, In The Third Floor, Nethravathi Block Of Nandini Layout, Constructed And Erected The Property Bearing Site No.01 (Formerly B&B In The Land Bearing Sy.no.1 Of J.B Kaval), Situated At Nandini Layout, Bangalore, With 34.46 Square Meters Of Undivided Share Right, Title And Interest In The Property And Super Built-Up Area Measuring 34.46 Square Meters, And The Entire Flat Is Bounded As Follows: On The East By: Open To Sky, West By: Flat No.303 Of C-Block North By: Open To Sky, South By: Flat No.301 Of C-Block, Together With All Other Rights, Buildings, Improvements, And Easements Appurtenant Thereto.

8. Reserve Price :Rs.21,12,000/- (Twenty-One Lakh Twelve Thousand only)

9. Earnest Money Deposit: Rs. 2,11,200/- (Two Lakh Eleven Thousand Two Hundred Only)

10. Bid Increment Amount (In Rs.): (Bid Incremental Value: Rs. 5,000/-)

11. E-Auction Date and Time: 04-Feb-26 at 11:00 am to 2:00 PM (with unlimited extension of 5 min each).

12. EMD Submission Last Date: 03-Feb-26 up to 5:00 PM

13. Inspection Date: 22-Jan-26 Between 11:00 AM TO 5:00 PM

1. All Interested participants / bidders are requested to visit the website <https://bankauctoins.in> & <https://protium.co.in/> For details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may Contact Mr. Nitesh P Pawar Contact number: 8142000725/ 8142000066.email id: nitesh@bankauctoins.in / info@bankauctoins.in. For further details on terms and conditions please visit <https://bankauctoins.in> & <https://protium.co.in/> to take part in e-auction.

THIS IS ALSO A STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6)/ Rule 9 (1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES,2002

Date: 01.01.2026 Sd/-, For Protium Finance Limited  
Place: BANGALORE, KARNATAKA Authorised Officer

BESCOM launches mobile app to monitor preventive maintenance of TCs

Bengaluru: To ensure quality and uninterrupted power supply to its consumers, BESCOM has developed a mobile application, Distribution Transformer Life Cycle Management System (DTLMS). The app will help monitor and systematically carry out preventive maintenance of more than 5 lakh distribution transformers across 8 districts under BESCOM's jurisdiction. Through the mobile application, officials can continuously monitor the operation, preventive maintenance, repairs, and efficiency of distribution transformers (DTs). Field officers can enter all transformer maintenance details directly

into the app by downloading the same from the Google Play Store for Android phones. Under DTLMS, a Distribution Transformer Centre (DTC) maintenance module has been developed. This module is expected

to play a key role in improving the efficiency, reliability, and continuity of the power distribution system. Using this module, BESCOM field officers will carry out quarterly maintenance of all transformers in their respec-

KSS State President Kannalli Krishnappa urges to provide basic facilities

Bengaluru: KSS State President Kannalli Krishnappa has demanded that the government should immediately provide basic facilities such as drinking water, electricity, sewage system, roads, transportation and many other facilities in Kembhattahalli village of Bangalore South taluk. Speaking after holding a protest in this regard, he said that as a result of the struggle of Karnataka Janandolana Sanghatana, President K. Mariyappa and Siddalingappa, Ratnamma and several

other leaders of the organization, the then BBMP had issued an order to allocate land in the name of the organization, but now some miscreants and vested interests who tolerated this have come here and are threatening the beneficiaries by not allowing them to build houses, and the orga-

nization is opposing this. As a result of the struggle of the last 20 years, today 8 acres 10 guntas of land have been found in Kembhattahalli village of Bangalore South taluk for providing shelter to the poor. The land, which was about 20 to 30 feet deep, has been leveled with a JCB

Ashoka demands citizenship check, NIA probe for Kogilu 'illegal residents'

Bengaluru, 31 Dec 2025: Opposition leader R. Ashoka on Wednesday asked the Karnataka government to verify the citizenship of people who have built huts on 15 acres of government land at Kogilu Cross and, if documents are found dubious, hand the cases to the National Investigation Agency. "Satellite images taken a year ago show only open land; today there are 250-odd concrete sheds with illegal power lines but no meters," Ashoka told reporters after walking through the freshly cleared Fakir Layout. "When I asked residents for ID cards, most produced ration cards issued elsewhere or nothing at all." The BJP leader alleged that a local Congress worker, Waseem, had "parcelled out" plots and that ministers Zameer Ahmed Khan and D.K. Shivakumar were "rush-

ing to protect the encroachers because elections are due". He claimed some occupants admitted they arrived only six months ago, yet BESCOM had laid overhead cables without installing meters—something 400,000 legal city residents still wait for. Ashoka said the mix of undocumented migrants from Andhra

Pradesh, north Karnataka and "possible Bangladesh" made the pocket a potential sleeper-cell hub. "Before we clear other encroachments, the state must prove it can distinguish between genuine slum-dwellers and national-security risks," he argued, demanding a 30-day biometric drive and NIA vetting.

Veteran BHEL engineer Dr R. Jayaram bags Pride of K'taka Award for co-op service.

Bengaluru, 31 Dec 2025: Dr R. Jayaram, who retired as engineer after 39 years with BHEL and has led the Renco House-Building Co-operative Society since 1994, was presented the Pride of Karnataka Award at the Press Club here on Monday. Accepting the trophy from Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Assembly Speaker U.T. Khader and four state ministers, the 69-year-old said the cooperative ideal of "service through cooperation" had guided his three-decade volunteer career. "Members have kept re-electing me—first as president, now vice-president—because we built 1,200 homes without profit

motive," he told the gathering, becoming emotional. Jayaram's mantle already includes the Bharat Jyoti Excellence Award-2025, an honorary doctorate from Cedar Brook University, USA, and the Pride of Nation Award from Sri Lanka.

BENGALURU THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2026

3

info.southindiatimes@gmail.com

Ramalinga Reddy: MEI is a proud PSU, must raise output and profit further.

Bengaluru: Minister for Transport and Muzrai Department, Ramalinga Reddy said that, MEI is a proud government undertaking with long-standing experience in the public sector. He expressed his wish that the organisation should further enhance its production targets in the coming days and move towards achieving higher profits. Speaking after distributing prizes for employees As part of the 70th Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations, a Kannada Rajyotsava programme organised at MEI. He advised the officials that

MEI should grow stronger by manufacturing and supplying a larger number of breakers required by KPTCL, expanding the sale of MEI breakers in the private sector as well, and focusing on the production of high-quality breakers. As MEI has earned a profit of more than Rs.20 crore in the financial year 2024-25, He also stated that celebrating Kannada Rajyotsava in government institutions helps everyone understand and spread the importance of the Kannada language, history, and culture.

**Utkarsh Small Finance Bank**  
*Aapki Ummeed Ka Khaata*  
(A Scheduled Commercial Bank)

**Zonal Office:** Venkat Plaza 2, Greenlands Road, Punjagutta Officers Colony, Punjagutta, Hyderabad - 500082.  
**Registered Office:** Utkarsh Tower, NH - 31 (Airport Road), Sehmalpur, Kazi Sarai, Harhua, Varanasi, UP-221 105.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the following borrowers have defaulted in the repayment of principle and interest of the Loan facility obtained by them from the Utkarsh Small Finance Bank and the loan has been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). The Notices were issued to them under Section 13(2) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement (Security) Interest Act, 2002 on their last known addresses as provided to the bank by them, that in addition thereto for the purposes of information of the said borrowers enumerated below, the said borrowers are being informed by way of this public notice

| Sr. No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Name of the Branch | Name of the Account | Name of the Borrower/Guarantor (Owner of the Property)                                                                                                                                       | N.P.A Date | Amount outstanding as on the date of Demand Notice |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Koradi             | 1173140000 006035   | Mr. Amol Popat Kamble S/o. Popat Kamble (Borrower)<br>Mrs. Joyashri Popat Kamble W/o. Popat Kamble (Co-Borrower & Mortgagor)<br>Mrs. Shruti Amol Kamble W/o. Amol Popat Kamble (Co-borrower) | 29/11/2025 | ₹ 12.61,526.11                                     |
| <b>Description of Property/ies:</b> All that part and partial of town Panchayat GP no. 2053, Basav Nagar, Pattan Panchayat, Kagawad Tal. Belagavi, Karnataka - 591223 Property bounded by - East : Property of Haseena Bagwan West : Road North : Open plot of Dilip Davari South : Road All that part and partial of town Panchayat GP no. 2053, Basav Nagar, Pattan Panchayat, Kagawad Tal. Belagavi, Karnataka - 591223 Property bounded by - East : Property of Haseena Bagwan West : Road North : Open plot of Dilip Davari South: Road                                                          |                    |                     |                                                                                                                                                                                              |            |                                                    |
| 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Mysuru Karnataka   | 1682140000 006022   | Mr. Srinivasaboyi S/o. Dasaboyi (Borrower)<br>Mrs. Nagarathanamma W/o. Srinivasaboyi (Co-Borrower & Mortgagor)<br>Mr.Chandra S/o. Srinivasaboyi(Co-Borrower)                                 | 29/11/2025 | ₹ 15,65,378.36                                     |
| <b>Description of Property/ies:</b> All those Piece and parcel of the plot of land property yearning no 60, PID NO152200531037027906. Measuring East to West 11.43 Mtrs and North to South 12.816 Mtrs in total measuring 146.32 Sq. Metres their on building area 146.32 Sq Mtrs the said property situated at Devirammanahalli Village, Nanjanagud Taluk, Mysore District, Karanataka State 571118. Admeasuring Area-Sit 1208.50 Sqft. On or towards East: House of Kalamma, On or towards West: House of Lakshmi W/o Papanna, On or towards North: Pathway and Galli, On or towards South: Chaneel |                    |                     |                                                                                                                                                                                              |            |                                                    |
| The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (wherever applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding dues within period of 60 days from the date of issuance of notice Under Section 13(2), failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of issuance of notice Under Section 13(2) as per the provisions of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and enforcement (Security) interest Act, 2002.                                                                                                                                     |                    |                     |                                                                                                                                                                                              |            |                                                    |
| Date: 01-01-2026<br>Place: Bangalore<br>Sd/-<br>(Authorized Officer)<br>Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Ltd.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                    |                     |                                                                                                                                                                                              |            |                                                    |

**DCB Bank Ltd.**  
Corporate & Registered Office: 6th Floor, Tower A, Peninsula Business Park, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai - 400 013  
# 650112, BEE EM Avenue, Dr. Raj Kumar Road, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560 010

**DCB BANK**

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE**  
**[Under Rule9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002]**

E-Auction sale notice for sale of immovable Asset under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act,2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule,2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower(s), co-borrowers and the guarantors in particular, by the Authorized Officer, that the under mentioned property is mortgaged to **DCB BANK LTD.**, The Authorized Officer of the Bank has taken the possession under the provision of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act,2002. The property will be sold by tender cum public E-auction as mentioned below for recovery of under mentioned dues and further interest, charges and cost etc. as per the below details. The property will be sold 'as is where is' and 'as is what is' condition.

| Name of Borrower & Co-Borrower(s) : 1. Mr Sunderevelu S (Borrower) 2. Mrs Bhuvaneswari S (Co Borrower)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                     |                             |                     |                            |                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Description of Mortgage Properties : (Schedule As per sale agreement dated 25/02/2024) Site No 207/A formed by Bangalore Development Authority Situated at west of Chord Road, 3rd Stage 2nd Block Layout Bangalore Measuring East to West 63.50 feet and North to South 40 feet in all measuring 235.88 sq.mtrs or 282.22 sq yards and bounded on EAST: Road, WEST: Site No 231 & 232, NORTH : Site No 207, SOUTH : Site No 207/B. |                     |                             |                     |                            |                    |
| Sl. No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Reserve Price (Rs.) | Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.) | Bid Increase Amount | Time and Date of E Auction | Type of Possession |
| 1.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Rs.54,99,91,000/-   | Rs.54,99,100/-              | Rs.1,00,000/-       | 06-02-2026 & 11:30 AM      | Symbolic           |

Inspection Date &amp; Time: of all the properties from 30/01/2026 to 04/02/2026 between 11 AM to 4 PM contact to Mr. Manu S on 8150903052.

Date and time of submission of EMD on or before 05/02/2026 before 5 PM with request letter of particular KYC, Pan Card, proof of EMD to email id – Manu.S1@dcbbank.com

The intending purchasers / bidders are required to deposit the EMD amount through Demand Draft / Pay order in the name of DCB Bank. Ltd.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE E-AUCTION ARE AS UNDER:**

1. E-Auction is being held on "as is where is" and "whatever there is Basis" and will be conducted "Online". The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider M/s Foreclosure India (Contact No Mr. M. Dinesh 8142000735 / 8142000066) at their web portal <https://bankauctoins.in>. E-auction tender document containing online e-auction bid form, Declaration, General Terms and Conditions of online auction sale are available in <https://bankauctoins.in>.

2. To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on the properties/ies. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrance, title of the properties/ies put on auction and claims/ rights/ dues/ affecting the property, prior to submitting their bid. The e-Auction advertisement does not constitute and will be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the bank. The property is being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether know or unknown to the Bank. The authorized Officer/ Secured creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third-party claims/rights/dues.

3. The EMD is refundable without any interest if the bid is not successful. The undersigned reserve the rights to accept or reject any or all the offers or adjourn / postpone the sale without assigning any reason thereof. If the offer is accepted, the purchaser will have to deposit 25% (less EMD Amount) of the sale price immediately on the auction day and if the purchaser fails to deposit the same, the amount deposited towards earnest money shall be forfeited and the property shall forthwith be sold again. The balance amount of purchase price shall be payable on or before the 15th day of confirmation of sale and in default of payment within the stipulated period, the deposit towards earnest money will be forfeited and property will be re-sold. Any other statutory dues /taxes/ stamp duty/ registration fee/ transfer fee have to be borne by the buyer separately.

4. The sale shall be subject to rules/ conditions prescribed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

Date: 01-01-2026  
Place: Bangalore

Sd/-Authorised Officer  
DCB Bank Limited

# EDITORIAL

## Bangladesh To Pak, An Embattled India Steps Into 2026

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

### An Increasingly Pak-Friendly Bangladesh

The interim government, led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, has spent the year trying to balance the revolutionary zeal of student leaders against the institutional vacuum left by the Awami League's collapse. For India, the implications are stark. The "security-first" pillar, where Dhaka actively suppressed anti-India insurgents from the Northeast, is no longer guaranteed; if anything, the opposite, with militants gaining sanctuary in Bangladesh, is a real risk, as is the prospect of Pakistan's ISI fishing in troubled waters around India's "soft underbelly" there. Following the assassination of a student leader, preposterously blamed by some on India (which has no interest whatsoever in promoting instability in Bangladesh), student leaders have increasingly used provocative rhetoric, with some openly threatening to provide refuge to separatist elements in India's "Seven Sisters" states, and one even brashly claiming that his country knows how to separate India from its North-East.

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

### Look Beyond Sentiment

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

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

# Edit

## How The Tripura Student Killing Holds A Tragic Mirror To Society

The brutal stabbing and subsequent death of 24-year-old MBA student Anjel Chakma in Dehradun, after he objected to racial slurs hurled at him and his brother, is more than an isolated crime. When an ordinary life ends in violence over identity in one's own country, while fetching groceries far away from home, it compels the nation to ask tough questions about prejudice, belonging and citizenship in modern India.

### It is a stark reminder of deep-seated inequalities in Indian society.

On December 9, Anjel and his younger brother were shopping in Dehradun's Selaqui area when they were reportedly confronted by a group of men, allegedly intoxicated, who hurled racial slurs such as 'Chinese', 'chinki' and 'momo' - derogatory taunts aimed explicitly at the appearance and ethnic background of Chakma. The confrontation escalated within minutes, culminating in a fatal stabbing that left Anjel fighting for his life for more than two weeks before he succumbed to his injuries.

His haunting last words, "We are not Chinese, we are Indian. What certificate do we need to show?", echo far beyond Dehradun, capturing the heartbreak of many Indians whose belonging is questioned without evidence or justification.

### Violence As A Pattern, Not An Exception

Like people from other states, residents of the northeastern states migrate across India for education and employment. Many pursue professional courses in educational institutions, while others seek opportunities in government services. Thousands of civil services aspirants from the northeast enrol in coaching centres in metros and Tier 2 and 3 cities. Similarly, many move to large cities for jobs in multinational companies, the hospitality sector, and other industries. Yet, the Dehradun tragedy is not an anomaly. For years, people from northeast India have faced discrimination and harassment in other parts of the country. Government-linked surveys and academic studies have repeatedly documented how this manifests in daily life, scar-



ring victims psychologically forever.

A study commissioned by the Indian Council of Social Science Research on racial discrimination and hate crimes against people from the northeastern states, published in 2021, found that "northeast India seamlessly fits (into a mainland) Indian's imagination of a Chinese person". It revealed that around 78% of respondents from the northeast believed physical appearance was the primary reason for prejudice against them in major Indian cities. A significant number reported experiences of offensive language, social exclusion and mistreatment - experiences severe enough to alienate patriotic citizens of northeast India.

Earlier data from the government's M.P. Bezbaruah Committee - constituted after a similar racist killing in 2014 - showed that about 86% of people from the northeastern states living in Delhi had faced some form of racial discrimination. These figures point to a persistent structural problem, not sporadic incidents. Cases of racial taunting, refusal of service, verbal abuse and physical assault have been reported repeatedly across Indian cities.

Yet, despite these documented experiences and recommendations, legal recognition and enforcement of protections against racial discrimination remain limited. The Bezbaruah Committee had recommended legal and institutional reforms, including amendments to

the Indian Penal Code to criminalise racial insults and hate crimes, but progress has been slow.

### The Rot Within

The killing of Anjel Chakma exposes several uncomfortable truths about India's social fabric.

Despite constitutional guarantees of equality, many Indians continue to assign "otherness" based on appearance, language or region. People from the northeast are often stereotyped as 'foreigners' or 'Chinese', even when they are Indian by birth and upbringing. This undermines the very idea of Indian citizenship and unity. Anjel's plea - a simple declaration of national identity - should never have been necessary. Worse, it was met with violence.

A recurring theme in surveys and interviews with migrants from the northeast is the lack of awareness among mainland Indians about the country's cultural, ethnic and linguistic diversity. Misidentifications - from being called 'Chinese' to caricatures about food or language - are not merely insensitive; they reveal ignorance of India's pluralism. From the perspective of a civilised society, killing someone for being perceived as 'Chinese' is equally abhorrent. This incident also highlights the wider landscape of everyday prejudice based on caste, class, religion and regional identity in India. The same social hierarchies and mindsets that fuel discrimination against Dalits, reli-

gious minorities and linguistic groups also enable bias against those who look different. When such prejudice goes unchecked, it can erupt into violence. Daily slurs and insults, if unchallenged, normalise exclusion and can escalate rapidly into deadly encounters.

### The Cost Of Silence

The societal costs of ignoring racial prejudice are immense. They extend beyond individual tragedies to affect national cohesion and India's image as a diverse democracy. When students feel unsafe in institutions far from home, educational mobility suffers. When people face constant discrimination in the cities where they live and work, it erodes their sense of security and belonging. Such incidents also reverberate back to the regions the victims come from, fuelling resentment and alienation, with potential political consequences that deepen regional divides. The killing of a young student in Dehradun demands action. Conversations about race, identity and unity must move beyond social media to the mainstream, incorporating voices from all regions of the country. Alongside implementing laws that explicitly criminalise racial discrimination and violence, schools, colleges, law enforcement agencies, employers and communities must be trained to recognise and respond to racial bias and hate crimes effectively.

## What Is Amit Shah's 'Mission Bengal'?

Union Home Minister Amit Shah arrived in Bengal for a three-day visit. This is not a tour marked by public rallies; instead, the focus is firmly on strategy. What exactly is Amit Shah's 'Mission Bengal'?

### THE KEY FOCUS AREAS OF AMIT SHAH'S VISIT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

#### 1. Organisational Stocktaking

Amit Shah is concentrating on the party's organisational strengths and weaknesses. Taking stock of the BJP's organisational activities in West Bengal is a central objective of this visit. Shah is meeting organisational leaders at multiple levels, listening to opinions and complaints, and directly receiving feedback from district-level units and other entities, in addition to office bearers. He places a high priority on strengthening the party's campaign machinery.

#### 2. The Matuas

Shah is placing particular emphasis on the Matua community. The SIR has created considerable confusion around Matua votes, with the Trinamool Congress running a campaign suggesting that the community feels insecure because of it. At a press conference, Shah sought to



counter this narrative, stating that there is no insecurity or fear among the Matuas. He even mockingly remarked that Mamata Banerjee has failed to win Matua support despite her efforts. This narrative is especially significant given the rivalry between Union Minister Shantanu Thakur and TMC leader Mamata Bala Thakur in Matua-dominated areas, where political competition and internal tensions run high.

#### 3. Core Themes

What will be the BJP's principal campaign focus? Issues such as Hindu identity, alleged Muslim appeasement, the BJP's Hindutva agenda, and Mamata Banerjee's use of religious symbolism and temple-building are likely to dominate this election season.

#### 4. Infiltration and the SIR

Infiltration is a central concern linked to the SIR process, but it also forms part of a broader, ongoing narrative. For the BJP, infiltration is not a new issue. Since the RSS's inception, it has been projected as a major concern. The party hopes to use the SIR to communicate its vision of a West Bengal free of infiltrators. The challenge is how to turn this into a major electoral issue beyond the administrative question of voter lists.

5. Coordination With RSS Amit Shah is also meeting Bengali RSS leaders to improve coordination. He is expected to visit the RSS headquarters in Bengal, Keshab Bhavan, signalling close cooperation between the RSS and the BJP. The aim is to demonstrate that there are no coordination

gaps.

#### 6. Religious and Cultural Outreach

Shah is visiting ISKCON and Sister Nivedita's house, locations that Mamata Banerjee has also visited recently. Banerjee has worked closely with ISKCON, including supporting the Jagannath Temple in Digha. On December 5, she visited Sister Nivedita's house and addressed several site-related issues. Against this backdrop, Shah has prioritised these visits alongside Belur Math and Swamiji's ancestral home.

7. Leadership and Organisational Challenges Amit Shah faces a significant challenge in what can be described as a leadership crisis within the Bengal BJP, alongside broader organisa-

tional weaknesses. Resolving these issues may require deeper public engagement.

#### 8. Solving Internal Friction

The party is also marked by internal splits, miscommunication, and rivalry among leaders and organisational units. Shah has personally stepped in to address these problems, aiming to unify the party so it can move forward collectively.

#### 9. Corruption as a Campaign

Corruption is another major focus. During a detailed press conference in Kolkata, Shah repeatedly raised the issue, naming TMC ministers, MLAs, MPs, and leaders who have been jailed on corruption charges. He urged the state BJP unit to turn corruption into a central campaign issue.

#### 10. Projecting a 'New Bengal'

The BJP seeks to project a vision of a peaceful, development-oriented West Bengal free from corruption. Shah advised state leaders on countering Mamata Banerjee's claims regarding land acquisition and the BSF's role. He argued that border management issues persist because the state government has failed to provide land.

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



The past year was one of the most momentous in recent times, made so by the arrival of a US president who is bent on transforming the world to his own image. The year not only saw a short India-Pakistan aerial war, but also an unexpected dent in the growing strategic ties between India and the US. The geopolitical result of this was a somewhat unexpected revival of the India-Russia friendship, which made a routine Putin-Modi summit stand out. Meanwhile, the Israel-Hamas war has wound down to a shaky ceasefire, even as peace negotiations continue to end the longer war between Ukraine and Russia. This was the year China successfully displayed its strength vis-à-vis the United States, and also the one country where renewables have surpassed coal as a source of electricity worldwide. It will

begin its ambitious 14th Five Year Plan in 2026 to consolidate its technical-industrial might. As for Pakistan, there will be little change in the country, which is living within illusions of its own creation. The year 2025 saw the terrible terrorist strike at the Baisaran meadow in Pahalgam, which led to Op Sindoor and the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty by India. When we look ahead to 2026, we can see the predictable sequence of annual meetings, visits and summits. You can be sure that the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the US will be directed by Trump himself and have his unpredictable trademarks. The G-20 summit, hosted by Donald Trump in Florida, will be a standout. But there will be equally important meetings of BRICS in New Delhi, the G7 summit in France, the ASEAN sum-

mits in the Philippines, the APEC summit in Shenzhen, and the COP 31 summit in Turkey. Note that Trump has already excluded South Africa from the G-20 and has declared that BRICS is an adversary grouping as far as the US is concerned. In terms of bilateral relations, without doubt, the most important will be the planned exchange of visits by Trump and Xi Jinping to each other's country, something that will have major consequences for global geopolitics. As of now, the only confirmed planned visit of Prime Minister Modi is to Italy, though no doubt he will participate in many of the multilateral summits and hold meetings with top leaders on their sidelines. New Delhi also hopes to finish its long-running negotiation with the US on its bilateral trade agreement by March 2026.

# Rupee slumps 5pc in 2025, closes at 89.88 as foreign funds exit

**Mumbai:** The rupee slumped 5 per cent in 2025 as persistent capital outflows from foreign investors, alongside heightened dollar demand from importers, making it one of the worst-performing Asian currencies. On the last trading session of 2025, the rupee depreciated 13 paise to close at 89.88 against the US dollar as month-end demand and FPIs' dollar buying kept it lower. The domestic currency has exhibited a negative bias throughout the year, making it Asia's worst-performing currency in 2025, with foreign portfolio investors pulling out USD 16.5 billion from equities this year, further denting investor sentiments, forex traders said. At the inter-bank foreign exchange, the local unit opened at 89.89 against the dollar and touched an intra-day low of 89.95 and a high of 89.84 against the American currency. At the end of Wednesday's trading session, the rupee was quoted at 89.88 against the greenback, registering a fall of 13 paise over its previous close. On Tuesday, the rupee rose 23 paise to close at 89.75 against the greenback. On a year-on-year



basis, the rupee has plunged 4.95 per cent. It was quoted at 85.64 on December 31, 2024. Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities, said, "The rupee resumed its downward trajectory following Tuesday's pause, weighed down by a rebounding US dollar against major currencies. For the year 2025, the rupee emerged as the regional laggard, with spot prices whipped by tightening dollar liquidity, surging trade deficit, relatively high US Tariff and capital flows." "Since the Trump Administration took over, the rupee has been the worst performing currency

in the Asian Region, depreciating by more than 5 per cent during 2025, marking its highest depreciation in the last three years," said Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director, Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP. Meanwhile, the Reserve Bank, in its Financial Stability Report (FSR) on Wednesday, said the rupee had depreciated against the US dollar, reflecting falling terms of trade due to the impact of tariffs and a slowdown in capital flows. The report further noted that the Indian economy is likely to maintain strong growth, underpinned by robust

domestic demand, benign inflation, and prudent macroeconomic policies despite an uncertain and challenging global economic backdrop. "The domestic financial system remains robust and resilient, bolstered by strong balance sheets, easy financial conditions, and low financial market volatility. Nonetheless, there are near-term risks from external uncertainties — geopolitical and trade-related," it said. Bhansali further said that "consistent outflows by FPIs and stake sales by investors, demand from defence, oil and gold have all impacted the rupee as it fell to its lowest at 91.08

before reined in to control it and bring it up to current levels". Parmar added, "We anticipate a period of range-bound consolidation for USDINR, anchored between the 89.40 support and 90.26 resistance levels." Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.10 per cent higher at 98.33. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 0.13 per cent higher at USD 61.41 per barrel in futures trade. Forex traders said the USD/INR pair is trading under pressure due to multiple factors, including a shift toward risk aversion, driven by persistent capital withdrawals from foreign investors ahead of the holiday break, alongside heightened greenback demand from importers. On the domestic equity market front, benchmark-sensitive indices ended 2025 on a high, with the Sensex jumping 545.52 points to settle at 85,220.60, while the Nifty surged 190.75 points to 26,129.60. Foreign institutional investors offloaded equities worth Rs 3,597.38 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

## Economy growing at robust pace, banking sector remains sound: RBI

**Mumbai:** The Indian economy is growing at a robust pace, driven by strong domestic demand, low inflation, and the healthy balance sheets of banks, said a Reserve Bank report released on Wednesday. The domestic financial system remains robust and resilient, bolstered by strong balance sheets, easy financial conditions, and low financial market volatility, said the December 2025 edition of the Financial Stability Report (FSR). "Nonetheless, there are near-term risks from external uncertainties — geopolitical and trade-related," said the report, which reflects the collective assessment of the Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) on the resilience of the Indian financial system and risks to financial stability. It further said the health of the scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) remains sound with strong capital and liquidity buffers, improved asset quality and robust profitability. "Macro stress test results affirm the resilience of SCBs to withstand losses under hypothetical adverse scenarios and maintain capital buffers well above the regulatory minimum.



Stress tests also confirm the resilience of mutual funds and clearing corporations," it added. According to the report, the gross non-performing assets ratio of banks will improve further to 1.9 per cent by March 2027 under a baseline scenario. As of September 2025, the key ratio stood at a multi-decade low of 2.1 per cent, the central bank said in its half-yearly Financial Stability Report. "The aggregate GNPA ratio of the 46 banks may improve from 2.1 per cent in September 2025 to 1.9 per cent in March 2027 under the baseline scenario," the report said. The GNPA ratio may rise to 3.2 per cent and 4.2 per cent under adverse scenarios, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said, pointing to results of its stress tests. From a capital buffers per-

spective, the report said, the capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR) remained strong as of September, with state-owned banks at 16 per cent and private sector banks at 18.1 per cent. Banks will be able to withstand adverse economic shocks, the report said, listing out how the capital buffers will be impacted in adverse events. On the economy, the report noted that the real gross domestic product (GDP) growth surprised on the upside in both Q1 2025-26 and Q2 2025-26 at 7.8 per cent and 8.2 per cent, respectively, supported by strong private consumption and public investment. "Growth outlook remains positive, aided by low inflation, easy financial conditions, above normal monsoon, direct and indirect tax reforms.

## Centre approves 5-year moratorium on Vodafone Idea's AGR dues

**New Delhi:** The Union government on Wednesday, December 31, approved a major relief package for Vodafone Idea, freezing its outstanding dues and approving a five-year moratorium on payments, providing a critical lifeline to the debt-laden telecom operator. The Union Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, agreed to freeze AGR dues of Vodafone-Idea Ltd (VIL) at Rs 87,695 crore, which the struggling company has to start paying from 2031-32 fiscal and clear by 2040-41, sources aware of the decision said. AGR dues refer to payments owed by telecom companies to the government based on Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR). It is the revenue on which telecom operators must pay license fees and spectrum usage charges. It is defined to include all revenues, even non-telecom income (like interest, rent, asset sales). Besides these outstanding, the AGR dues for FY2017-18 and FY 2018-19, which were finalised based



### Highlights

■ The Union Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, agreed to freeze AGR dues of Vodafone-Idea Ltd (VIL) at Rs 87,695 crore, which the struggling company has to start paying from 2031-32 fiscal and clear by 2040-41, sources aware of the decision said. AGR dues refer to payments owed by telecom companies to the government based on Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR). It is the revenue on which telecom operators must pay license fees and spectrum usage charges.

on the Supreme Court order of September 2020, will now have to be paid over 2025-26 to 2030-31 fiscal without any change, they said. Vodafone Idea has been battling a prolonged financial crisis, driven by intense price competi-

tion, high debt, and massive AGR liabilities that arose from a change in the definition of AGR. The company has struggled with persistent losses, a shrinking subscriber base, and limited ability to invest in network

expansion, even as rivals accelerated 4G and 5G roll-outs. Repeated rounds of government relief and equity conversion of dues have kept the company afloat, but its long-term viability continues to hinge on sustained policy support, fresh capital infusion, and a turnaround in operating performance. Some had expected that the Cabinet would waive a part, if not all, of the AGR dues. But instead, it decided to give a moratorium, which would allow the company to recover. The dues that have been frozen will be reassessed by a committee based on audit reports, sources said, adding the outcome shall be binding on both parties. Sources said the decisions taken by the Cabinet were to protect the interests of the government, which now has a 49 per cent stake in VIL. It will also enable orderly payment of dues to the government, ensure competition in the sector and protect the interests of 20 crore consumers of the company.

## E2E Transportation Infrastructure IPO Draws Overwhelming Response, Subscribed 525.25×

**December 2025:** The public issue of E to E Transportation Infrastructure Limited — the rail engineering and system integration specialist — closed on December 30, 2025, after a highly subscribed bidding period that began on December 26, 2025. The IPO, aggregating ₹84.22 crore, attracted strong participation from all categories of investors, underscoring robust market sentiment toward the company's growth prospects in the railway infrastructure segment. Day 3 Subscription Highlights (as of December 30, 2025 | 4:29:58 PM)

QIB (Ex-Anchor): 236.30x  
NII: 871.67x  
Retail (Individual Investors): 541.85x  
Total: 525.25x  
NSE Link: <https://www.nseindia.com/market-data/all-upcoming-issues-ipo>  
Chittorgarh Link: <https://www.chittorgarh.com/ipo/e-to-e-transportation-infrastructure-ipo/2720/>  
The subscription figures reflect significant interest from non-institutional and retail investors, supported by steady participation from institutional buyers.

**About the IPO:**  
Issue Size: ₹84.22 crore (Fresh issue)  
Price Band: ₹164 – ₹174 per share  
Lot Size: 800 shares  
Bidding Period: December 26 –

■ The public issue of E to E Transportation Infrastructure Limited — the rail engineering and system integration specialist — closed on December 30, 2025, after a highly subscribed bidding period that began on December 26, 2025. The IPO, aggregating Rs. 84.22 crore, attracted strong participation from all categories of investors, underscoring robust market sentiment toward the company's growth prospects in the railway infrastructure segment.

December 30, 2025  
Allotment Finalisation: December 31, 2025  
Listing Date: January 2, 2026 (on NSE SME)  
E to E Transportation Infrastructure Limited plans to use the proceeds primarily for working capital requirements and general corporate purposes.  
Company Overview & Business Highlights  
Incorporated in 2010, E2E Transportation Infrastructure Limited is an ISO 9001:2015 certified company engaged as a system integrator of Signalling and Telecommunication (S&T) systems for the railway sector. The Company provides end-to-end solutions, includ-

ing design, engineering, procurement, installation, testing, and commissioning, across mainline railways, metro rail projects, and private sidings. As disclosed in the Red Herring Prospectus, the Company has executed projects aligned with Kavach 4.0, India's indigenous automatic train protection system, reflecting its capabilities in safety-critical signalling infrastructure. The Company has also collaborated with Tata Elxsi on select technology-led initiatives, as detailed in the RHP. The promoter group includes Sourajit Mukherjee and Vinay Rao, associated with Ventureast, and Zephyr Mantra, a US-based fund. The Company's shareholding structure also includes Mukul Mahavir Agarwal, Ashwini Agarwal, and Himanshu Modi, among other investors, in accordance with disclosures made in the RHP. The Company has undertaken projects involving CBTC signalling for metro networks, railway electrification, signalling and telecom modernisation, and integrated infrastructure solutions for industrial and logistics clients. As of September 30, 2025, the Company's order book stood at ₹40,110.37 lakh. For the financial year ended March 31, 2025, the Company reported operating revenue of ₹250.80 crore and net profit after tax of ₹14.37 crore, as disclosed in the offer documents.

## PNB Secunderabad Circle Opens 69th Branch at Pragathinagar



Punjab national Bank 2 nd largest Bank has opened its 69th Branch in Pragathinagar under Circle Office Secunderabad. Branch Inaugurated by  
1. Smt.Vandana Pandey, Zonal Manager, Hyderabad  
2. Sh.Sujeet Kumar Jha, Circle Head, Secunderabad  
3. Sh.Aravind Kalra, Circle Head, Hyderabad  
4. Sh.SureshManduva, Branch Manager, Pragathinagar  
And other officials ,union leaders from Hyderabad, and Secunderabad Circlce attended

## Big Bullion Theory: Gold, silver retain sparkle in shaky geopolitical sands

**New Delhi:** Outsmarting all asset classes globally in 2025, gold and silver with massive returns and repeated record-breaking rallies redefined the precious metal market dynamics amid intensifying global political challenges, unstable tariff policies and persistent supply-chain disruptions. Marking one of the strongest performances for bullion in decades, silver prices surged more than 169 per cent during the year, while gold rallied over 76 per cent, reaffirming the role of precious metals as an anchor investment class in an extremely volatile world. In the domestic market, gold touched a lifetime high of Rs 1,42,300 per 10 grams on December 26, while silver scaled a record of Rs 2,41,000 per kg on December 30. Globally, spot gold began the year at around USD 2,657.16 per ounce and rallied to a peak of USD 4,550.11 per ounce on December 26, registering gains of up to 71.24 per cent. Spot silver, meanwhile, started the year at about USD 29.57 per ounce and soared to a peak of USD 83.63 per ounce on December 29, clocking robust returns of 182.82 per cent. The rally was initially triggered by the Fed's policy easing, but it gathered pace as President Donald Trump's return to the White House, with tariff rhetoric,



fuels uncertainty, central banks doubled down on bullion reserves, and supply constraints across metal markets. "Gold and silver surged over the past year on the back of a powerful mix of macro factors, such as structural demand and physical supply tightness, Naveent Damani, Head of Research, Commodities, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd (MOFSL), told PTL. US Federal Reserve's Pivot Marks Inflection Point: The early momentum in bullion's remarkable rally in 2025 came from the US Federal Reserve's (Fed) policy easing, with the central bank delivering three cautious 25-

basis-point rate cuts amid signs of cooling inflation, putting pressure on the US dollar, lending support for the bullion prices. "2025 marked a clear inflection point for the Fed, with three cautious 25-basis-point cuts delivered amid divided voting and visible political pressure. "...with Chair Jerome Powell's term ending in May 2026 and a potentially more dovish successor in the wings. Bullion is likely to react ahead of policy, keeping the bias constructive despite brief corrective phases," Damani said. Silver outshines due to the supply crunch: Silver has emerged

as an all-out performer of 2025, driven by strong industrial demand, amid constrained mine supply, and rising production costs. Silver has been facing shortages for five years due to mine shutdowns and China-led supply constraints, with a sixth straight shortfall likely in 2026 amid rising costs and firm demand. "Silver is entering 2026 with a fundamentally tighter setup than gold. With recent mine shutdowns and fresh supply constraints from China and elsewhere, next year is likely to mark a sixth straight deficit. This is no longer just a demand story; it is a structural supply squeeze," Damani of MOFSL said. Trump's tariff rhetoric fuels uncertainty, lifts safe-haven assets: The demand for safe-haven assets increased after Trump returned to power, a resurgence of trade uncertainties and tariff-related tremors globally. "Supply chains remain fragile, with tariffs and trade re-shoring creating hidden inflation pockets even as growth slows," Damani said, adding that "In this tug of war between inflation and growth, gold benefits as a balance-sheet hedge, while silver sits at the crossroads of industrial demand and physical scarcity, making both metals strategic rather than speculative assets in 2026."

# New year celebration seen across the world



## Heavy police presence in Sydney for New Year's celebrations after Bondi attack



Thousands of heavily armed police officers are patrolling the streets of Sydney as people mark the new year - a rare and stark sight in Australia, following the Bondi Beach mass shooting. Some officers were authorised to carry high-grade weapons as part of heightened security measures. The attack on 14 December targeted Australia's Jewish community and killed 15 people at a Hanukkah festival. New South Wales (NSW) Police said more than 2,500 officers would be on duty across the city. Official New Year's Eve parties were paused at 23:00 local time (12:00 GMT) for a minute's silence to commemorate the victims of the attack, while the Sydney Harbour Bridge was lit up by a white light to symbolise peace. Pictures from Sydney Harbour - where huge crowds gather every year to watch the city's famous fireworks display - show officers patrolling the crowds with longarm weapons. In the lead up to the event, Premier Chris Minns had warned that some people may find the sight "confronting", with police "carrying firearms and weapons that you haven't seen before".

## Mali and Burkina Faso impose travel ban on US citizens in tit-for-tat move



Mali and Burkina Faso say they will bar US citizens from entering their countries in response to a similar move by the Trump administration. The two West African states were recently placed under full entry restrictions under US President Donald Trump's expanded travel ban. In separate statements, they said they would apply the same measures on US nationals. Burkina Faso's foreign affairs minister Karamoko Jean-Marie Traoré said his government was acting on the "principle of reciprocity", while Mali's foreign ministry called for "mutual respect and sovereign equality". The latter said it regretted the US's move, adding that "such an important decision was made without any prior consultation". Mali and Burkina Faso's decision comes days after Niger's state news agency reported that Niger had imposed a similar travel ban on US citizens, though no official statement has been issued by its foreign ministry to confirm this. The three countries are ruled by mil-

itary juntas which seized power in coups. They have formed their own regional bloc, and have pivoted towards Russia after relations with other West African states and Western powers became strained. Earlier this month, the White House said that full-entry restrictions would be imposed on people from the three countries, as well as South Sudan, Syria and Palestinian Authority passport holders. The decision would come into effect on 1 January, and was intended to "protect the security" of the US, it said. The administration also moved Laos and Sierra Leone, which were previously subject to partial restrictions, to the full ban list, and put partial restrictions on 15 other countries, including Nigeria, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. The White House said the restrictions would remain in place until affected countries show "credible improvements" in identity management, information-sharing and cooperation with US immigration authorities.

## Jailed HK tycoon's 'teeth rotting and fingernails falling off', daughter tells

The daughter of Jimmy Lai, the pro-democracy tycoon jailed in Hong Kong, has expressed concerns about her father's deteriorating health in prison, saying that his fingernails "sometimes fall off" and his teeth are rotting. Lai, 78, has been detained since December 2020 and faces life in prison. Earlier this month he was convicted of colluding with foreign forces under the city's controversial national security law (NSL). Hong Kong and Chinese authorities have denied that Lai has been mistreated in prison, saying he is in "good health". The BBC has seen a letter written by Lai's family urging UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer to call for Lai's release when he meets Chinese President



Xi Jinping next month. His daughter Claire Lai, who is in exile in London, told the BBC that she fears she "may never see him again". "Of course I worry that my father is going to be a martyr, and I don't want him to be a martyr. But I would not be here today, I would not be speaking out if I didn't think this was his best chance of reuniting with our family." She described her father as an "extremely robust and strong man" when he went to prison.

## Russian claims of Ukrainian attack on government sites 'unfounded', EU's top diplomat says

The EU's top diplomat has called Moscow's claims that Ukraine targeted Russian government sites a "deliberate distraction" and an attempt to derail the peace process. Kaja Kallas' comments on social media appear to be a reference to the Kremlin's allegation that Ukraine attempted a drone strike on one of Vladimir Putin's residences. "No one should accept unfounded claims from the aggressor who has indiscriminately targeted Ukraine's infrastructure and civilians," Kallas wrote on social media. Earlier this week Moscow accused Ukraine of targeting Putin's private home on Lake Valdai in north-west Russia. Russia would review its position in the ongoing peace negotiations as a result, the Kremlin said.



Since Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov first shared the claims, Russian state media and politicians have discussed the alleged attack in increasingly incendiary tones. "The attack is a strike on the heart of Russia," said Andrei Kartapolov, head of the Russian parliament's defence committee. "After what [Ukraine] has done, there can be no forgiveness." Although the Kremlin ini-

tially said it saw no point in sharing proof of the alleged attack, on Wednesday the Russian army released what it said was evidence of the attempted strike. It included a map allegedly showing that the drones were launched from the Sumy and Chernihiv regions of Ukraine and a video of a downed drone lying in snowy woodland. The BBC hasn't been able to verify the

footage, and it is not possible to locate where it was taken. The profile of the wrecked UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) bears similarities to Ukrainian-produced Chakluns - but because the components of the drone pictured are inexpensive and widely available online, they cannot be conclusively traced to the Ukrainian military. Russia's defence ministry also released a video of what it said was a local resident who described hearing noises like a rocket at the time of the alleged attack. However, one Russian investigative media outlet said it had spoken to more than a dozen residents of the area around Putin's residence and none had heard anything that could indicate 91 drones had approached or been shot down by air defences.

## MACHU PICCHU TRAIN CRASH LEAVES ONE DEAD AND DOZENS INJURED

A train driver has died and at least 40 people have been injured in a head-on rail collision near Peru's most popular tourist attraction, Machu Picchu. Two trains collided on the single track leading to the ancient Inca town on Tuesday, according to a statement from the local government. It said that 20 ambulances had attended the scene and that injured people had been transferred to medical facilities in the nearby city of Cusco. The US embassy in Peru said that US citizens were injured in the crash, while the UK Foreign Office said it was "supporting a number of British nationals involved". Local media outlet Peru21



reports that hundreds of tourists remain at the scene awaiting evacuation, which has been hampered by difficult terrain around the crash site. At least 20 of the injured are in a serious condition, a health official told the Reuters news agency. The collision occurred on

the track linking Ollantaytambo Station and Aguas Calientes, the closest town to Machu Picchu. The journey between the two stations usually takes around 90 minutes. The two trains involved in the accident were operated by PeruRail and Inca Rail respectively.

"We deeply regret what has happened," PeruRail said in a statement, adding that its staff had "immediately" provided first aid to the train driver, the train conductor and the passengers involved in the incident. The cause of the accident has not yet been made clear. The crash comes amid an ongoing dispute between providers of transport to the Unesco world heritage site, with local communities unhappy with what they say is an insufficiently open bidding process. The trains and buses that take tourists to the ancient town have steep ticket prices and can be highly lucrative due to its limited accessibility.

## Eurostar services return to normal after major Channel Tunnel disruption



Eurostar and Le Shuttle services between the UK and France have resumed through the Channel Tunnel after major travel disruption on Tuesday. Thousands of passengers faced hours of delays after Eurostar cancelled most of its London to Europe services due to overhead power supply problem and a failed Le Shuttle train which blocked all routes. Repair work took place overnight and rail services through the tunnel in both directions resumed on Wednesday morning. But Eurostar urged passengers to check before travelling as it warned for possible knock-on delays and last-minute cancellations. Most of Eurostar's Wednesday morning services in and out of London St Pancras have departed. Only three - one towards Paris Gare du Nord; another destined for Brussels Midi and the other bound for Amsterdam Centraal - have been cancelled, according to Eurostar's

website. The high-speed rail firm apologised for any inconvenience caused to passengers. Eurostar said: "We plan to run all of our services today, however due to knock on impacts there may still be some delays and possible last-minute cancellations. "Customers are advised to check for live updates on the status of their train on the Eurostar website." Eurostar said one extra London to Paris service will run on Wednesday and that passengers are entitled to "enhanced compensation" which includes 100% refund of their ticket and 150% of their ticket price as an e-voucher. Le Shuttle services from Folkestone are running normally following earlier delays on Wednesday morning. However, there are still delays of an hour at Calais - although down from the earlier reported six hours. The Channel Tunnel accommodates Eurostar services as well as Le Shuttle vehicle-carrying trains between the UK and France.

# HUGE CROWDS MOURN BANGLADESH'S FIRST FEMALE PM AT STATE FUNERAL

Hundreds of thousands of people travelled from across Bangladesh to the capital Dhaka on Wednesday to pay their final respects to former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. Zia, who was the country's first female prime minister, died on Tuesday from a prolonged illness. She was 80. The mourners held out their hands in prayer and carried flags printed with her photographs as a motorcade carrying Zia's body - including the hearse wrapped with the national flag - drove on streets near the parliament house. Flags were flown at half-mast and thousands of security officers were deployed. "I have come this far just to say goodbye. I know I won't be able to see

her face, but at least I could see the [vehicle] carrying her for the last rites," Setara Sultana, an activist from Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), told the BBC. Sharmina Siraj, a mother of two, called Zia "an inspiration", noting that stipends introduced by the former leader to improve women's education made a "huge impact" on her daughters. "It is difficult to imagine women in leadership positions anytime soon," she told AFP news agency. India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, the Speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Bhutan's Foreign Minister Lyonpo DN Dhungyel were among those



who attended the funeral. Earlier in the day, Zia's body was taken to the house of her son Tarique Rahman, who was seen reciting the Quran beside his mother's office. The state funeral marks the end of Zia's extraordinary journey, from a homemaker to the first female prime minister of Bangladesh. Zia

was buried next to her husband Ziaur Rahman, who was assassinated in 1981 while serving as president - an incident that thrust Zia into the political limelight. She went on to lead the BNP in the country's first elections in 20 years. She was dubbed an "uncompromising leader"

after refusing to participate in a controversial election under military ruler General Hussain Muhammad Ershad in the 1980s. For several years, along with her bitter political rival Sheikh Hasina, she fought for democracy and against military dictatorship, enduring arrests. There was talk among Bangladesh's rulers at the time to keep the two "battling begums" - Zia and Hasina - out of politics in what was then known as the "minus two formula". But Zia eventually became prime minister, first in 1991 then again in 2001. During the time of the military-backed caretaker government in 2007, she was kept

under detention. In the last 16 years, under Hasina's Awami League government, Zia emerged as the most prominent symbol of resistance to Hasina's rule which many saw as increasingly autocratic. Zia's resilience drew admiration from her supporters, who say that despite various personal and political setbacks, years in opposition and convictions under Hasina's government, Zia never gave up, refused to compromise on her principles and stood her ground. The fact that hundreds of thousands of people, including those who didn't vote for her party, turned up for the funeral would be seen as a reflection of her popularity among the masses.

# Not Rehman Dakait, Pakistan Star Called 'Chacha Dakait' After Celebrating Win With Dhurandhar's FA9LA Dance

Akshaye Khanna's dance steps on the track 'FA9LA' from the movie Dhurandhar have slowly reached iconic status. From Instagram Reels to YouTube Shorts, the song has become a viral pop-culture favourite. FA9LA is originally a Bahraini hip-hop song written and performed by Flipperachi and Daffy, with DJ Outlaw composing the music. The song already existed before the makers of Dhurandhar discovered it. Now, Pakistani cricketer Iftikhar Ahmed, whose nickname is Chacha, danced to the track after Khan Research Laboratories (KRL) clinched the President's Cup Grade-I.

In the movie Dhurandhar, the character of Rehman Dakait, played by Akshaye Khanna, dances to the track. After the dance, Iftikhar is now being called 'Chacha Dakait'. Rehman Dakait, born Abdul Rehman in 1976, grew up in Lyari, one of



Karachi's oldest and poorest neighbourhoods-an area long synonymous with crime, gang wars, and a deep-rooted crime-police nexus. According to a report, he was the son of Dad Mohammad and his second wife, Khadija. His family was already entrenched in the

underworld. Rehman Dakait's descent into crime began shockingly early. At just 13, he stabbed and injured a man who stopped him from bursting crackers in Lyari. Two years later, he escalated from violence to murder, killing two rival drug peddlers after a dispute.

The most disturbing chapter of his life unfolded in 1995. Months after escaping police custody, Rehman shot dead his own mother, Khadija, inside their home. He told the police that he killed her because "she became a police informant." However, it is widely

believed that he suspected her of having a relationship with a rival gang member-a detail that Dhurandhar does not shy away from depicting. In 1995, Rehman was arrested for possession of weapons and drugs. He spent around two and a half years in jail before pulling off a dramatic escape while being transported from Karachi jail to court. He fled to Balochistan, where he began rebuilding his criminal empire with renewed ferocity. By the early 2000s, Rehman Dakait had emerged as one of Lyari's most powerful ganglords.

By 2006, he had amassed immense wealth, properties, and political influence. He married three times and fathered 13 children. Reports also claimed that he owned property not just in Karachi and Balochistan, but even in Iran. Rehman Dakait's reign continued until 2009, when the Lyari Task Force tracked him using phone data.

## Rishabh Pant Sent Blunt Message After T20 World Cup Snub: "Is He A Top 3 Batter?"

Rishabh Pant was not included in India's T20 World Cup 2026 squad and media reports claimed that he will not be included in the ODI series squad as well. It has been a tough period for the wicket-keeper batter who had his struggles with injury and has seen KL Rahul emerge as the top-choice wicket-keeper in ODIs. On the other hand, Dhruv Jurel and Ishan Kishan have also made their intentions clear with brilliant performances in domestic cricket. Former India cricketer Deep Dasgupta believes that Pant needs to understand his role in T20 cricket and even wondered whether he sees himself as a top-order hitter, a middle-order option, or a finisher in the format. "In T20 cricket, is he a top-three batter? Or is he a middle-order batter or is he a finisher? What's he? He needs to answer these questions," Dasgupta told India Today. "As far as I am concerned, he



is a top-three batter in T20I cricket. In ODIs, he is a good No.4 or No.5," he added. Dasgupta added that Pant needs to concentrate on his batting and keep scoring runs in the ongoing Vijay Hazare Trophy in order to make his case for a return to the national team. "I think he just needs to bat, and bat. He got a excellent 70-odd for Delhi. He just needs to keep scoring runs, playing white-ball cricket wherever he gets the opportunity - domestic or otherwise - and learn his trade, learn what suits him," he added. Rishabh Pant is

likely to be left out of the squad for the upcoming ODI series against New Zealand, according to a report by India Today. The report claimed that sources close to the selection committee have confirmed that the team management may opt for a different direction while choosing the squad for the three-match series. Pant's exclusion could pave the way for Ishan Kishan's return to the ODI setup after the Jharkhand cricketer impressed with stellar performances in domestic cricket.

## Sara Tendulkar, Daughter Of Sachin Tendulkar, Targetted Over Video With Friends In Goa. Gets Support

Sara Tendulkar, who is an entrepreneur and the daughter of cricket great Sachin Tendulkar, is facing intense trolling on social media. The reason: a video of her with friends on the streets of Goa. While it cannot be confirmed when the video was shot, some social media users claimed it was filmed close to New Year's Eve. In the video, Sara can be seen strolling on the road along with her friends. Some social media users, however, made unsavoury comments as she was holding a bottle, which they claimed was a beer bottle. Some social media users even name-dropped Sachin Tendulkar in their comments. Sara, however, received support from a section of social media too. "What kind of



brain-dead mentality is this? How is Sara having a beer equivalent to Tendulkar promoting alcohol? And can't a daughter have a drink?" wrote one user. "There is nothing worth trolling here," wrote another user. In August, Sara revealed the reason behind not pursuing a career in cricket. Sara's brother, Arjun, is also a

cricketer and plays at the domestic level for Goa as an all-rounder. However, Sara said that while she has countless favourite memories of her father's iconic knocks, the 27-year-old never thought about following in his footsteps. "Never. It's been my brother's forte. I have played gully cricket, but never thought about it,"

Sara told India Today in an interview. On the professional front, Sara officially stepped into India's wellness landscape with the launch of Pilates Academy X Sara Tendulkar in Andheri, Mumbai. The studio, which opened its doors to the public on August 21, 2025, is the fourth branch of the popular Dubai-based Pilates Academy franchise. In an exclusive interview with NDTV, Sara Tendulkar shared: "Pilates has played a huge role in my fitness journey. My background in clinical nutrition and public health makes me view wellness as much more than just workouts or diets. It's about balance - the kind that lets you care for your health while still enjoying the little things you love.

## New Zealand Star Glenn Phillips Turns To Left-Handed Batting Mid-Match, Result Stuns All

A video of New Zealand wicketkeeper-batter Glenn Phillips from a Super Smash 2025-26 match is going viral on social media. Right-handed batter Phillips, who represents Otago in the tournament, turned left-handed mid-match against Central Districts spinner Jayden Lennox during the action on December 30. The left-arm orthodox Lennox tried to go with a fuller ball away from Phillips. He bowled it around the tramline, but the batter still smashed it away for a six over extra cover, surprising the fans as well as the commentators. Phillips ended up



scoring an unbeaten 90 off 48 balls, with the help of seven fours and four sixes. His innings had a strike rate of 187.50. He eventually earned the Player of the Match award as Otago won the game by 41 runs. Reacting to the switch in his batting stance,

Phillips told TVNZ, "I have done it for a little while in the nets, but never quite brought it out. Obviously it is a little bit of an interesting thing, the switch-around in a game of professional cricket... the other day I was stroking it better in the nets when I was left-

handed than when I was right-handed. So it sort of made sense to at least try and bring it out when there was nothing left to lose." In the Indian Premier League (IPL), Phillips is part of the Gujarat Titans squad. He played three matches for Rajasthan Royals in 2021, which happened to be his first season in the tournament. Two years later, Phillips represented Sunrisers Hyderabad in five matches. The player was then picked by GT for Rs 2 crore ahead of IPL 2025, and got retained by the franchise for the upcoming season.

## Sarfaraz Khan Slams 157 Off 75 Balls In Vijay Hazare Trophy, Sends Big Message To BCCI Selectors



Vijay Hazare Trophy 2025: Sarfaraz Khan sent a stark reminder to the selectors ahead of the New Zealand ODI series, slamming 157 off just 75 deliveries during Mumbai's Vijay Hazare Trophy encounter against Goa on Wednesday. The 28-year-old was in blistering form, clearing the ropes 14 times and hitting 9 fours during his stay at the crease. After Goa opted to bowl first, Vasuki Koushik gave them an early breakthrough by dismissing Angkrish Raghuvanshi. However, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Musheer Khan steadied the ship before Sarfaraz dismantled the opposition with his explosive hitting. Having enjoyed a sensational run in domestic cricket, this knock came at the perfect time to stake his claim for the ODI series against New Zealand, which begins on January 11. In their last match, Shardul Thakur ticked all the boxes, right from winning the toss to blowing the Chattisgarh top order with a match win-

ning four-wicket burst, as Mumbai cruised to nine wicket victory to complete a group stage hat trick in the Vijay Hazare Trophy on Monday. At the Jaipuria Vidyalaya ground, Shardul won the toss and used the early morning nip to good effect to reduce Chattisgarh to 10 for 4 inside first five overs. Chattisgarh never recovered from the blow and were skittled out for 142 in 38.1 overs. While Shardul wreaked havoc in first half an hour, it was left-arm spinner Shams Mulani (5/31) who demolished the latter half of the Chattisgarh batting by bowling quick and stump-to-stump line. The last six wickets tumbled for 27 runs. The chase was a cakewalk as Angkrish Raghuvanshi (68 no off 66 balls) along with veteran Siddhesh Lad (48 no off 42 balls) added 102 runs for the unbroken second wicket to wrap it off in just 24 overs. Mumbai with 12 points consolidated their position on top of group C.

## England Will Win Ashes In Four Years In Australia With This Bowler Being The 'Player Of The Series'

Former England cricketer Phil Tufnell has made a bold prediction about pacer Josh Tongue and the England Test team ahead of the fifth and final Ashes Test, set to get underway on January 4. Appearing on the Stick to Cricket podcast, the former England cricketer said that England will win the Ashes the next time they tour Australia, which is expected to take place in 2028-29. He also noted that pacer Josh Tongue will be the man of the series in the Australia vs England series. "Four years' time, Josh Tongue, man of the series, England winning the Ashes. Four years. Write that down," Tufnell said on the podcast.



Tufnell's comments come after Josh Tongue produced a man-of-the-match performance in the recently concluded Australia vs England Boxing Day Test of the ongoing Ashes series, helping the Three

Lions win their first match on the tour Down Under. Coming into the match 3-0, the Ben Stokes-led England defeated Australia by four wickets at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) to rule out the

possibility of a clean sweep. Josh Tongue claimed a five-wicket haul in the first innings of the Boxing Day Test and followed it up with a two-wicket haul in the second innings, taking seven wickets in the match. He became the first England bowler to be named Player of the Match in an Ashes Test in Australia since Dean Headley in 1998. Tongue also earned a surprise call-up, as the Three Lions have included him in their T20 World Cup 2026 squad despite him never having played a limited-overs match for England. Along with the T20 World Cup squad, Tongue has also been included in Sri Lanka's tour squad.

## Uganda Forced To Use 3 Goalkeepers During AFCON Match. This Is The Reason

The Africa Cup of Nations match between Uganda and Nigeria saw a bizarre incident as Uganda ended up using three different goalkeepers in the same game. With Uganda trailing in the second half, their 40-year-old first-choice goalkeeper Denis Onyango was forced to leave the pitch after suffering an ankle injury. He was replaced by Salim Jamal Magoola, but just 11 minutes later he was sent off for handling the ball outside the penalty area in an attempt to stop a shot from Victor Osimhen. As a result, Uganda had to introduce their third-choice goalkeeper, Nafian Alionzi. He played the remainder of the match, but Nigeria went on to win 3-1. Meanwhile, Senegal and Congo served notice of their intent with convincing wins at the



Africa Cup of Nations on Tuesday, when Tanzania and Tunisia grabbed the last places in the knockout stage. Senegal, the 2021 champion, survived Kalidou Koulibaly's sending off on his 100th appearance for the team by routing Benin 3-0 in Group D in Tangier. Congo finished second in the group on goal difference with a 3-0 win

over already eliminated Botswana in Rabat. Senegal, Congo and Benin were already assured of their places in the last 16. But Tanzania and Tunisia were not. They progressed from Group C by playing out a 1-1 draw that eliminated Angola. Feisal Salum's goal for Tanzania, which canceled out Ismael Gharbi's penalty, sent the

Taifa Stars to the last 16 as one of the six groups' best third-place finishers. Angola, which finished third in Group B, had been hoping for a favor from Tunisia to beat Tanzania and another from Nigeria, which complied by defeating Uganda 3-1. But Tanzania's goal proved the difference. Both Tanzania and Angola finished with two points and a goal difference of minus 1. Salum's goal meant the Taifa Stars had scored more in the group stage (Tanzania's three goals vs. Angola's two), meaning they go through to the next round. "I hope this will be a reminder to these players and the next generation of players on the potential of Tanzanian football," Taifa Stars coach Miguel Gamondi said.

## ANDERSON BEATS VAN GERWEN TO REACH QUARTER-FINALS



Scotland's Gary Anderson got the better of long-standing rival Michael van Gerwen to reach the PDC World Championship quarter-finals. Having been part of the sport's elite for more than a decade, the pair's fourth-round tie was much anticipated and both players averaged more than 99 overall. Anderson, who lifted back-to-back world titles in 2015 and 2016, won the first two sets against 36-year-old Dutchman Van Gerwen - himself a three-time former champion and the third seed at this year's event. Although last year's runner-up pulled a set back, 55-year-old Anderson recovered to seal a 4-1 success and move into the last eight of the World Championship for the first time in four years. He will next face popular English debutant Justin Hood, who produced a finishing masterclass at eliminating 11th seed Josh Rock 4-0 during

the afternoon session. Meanwhile, world number two Luke Humphries and Dutch 10th seed Gian van Veen set up a blockbuster quarter-final on Thursday by winning their respective last-16 matches by a 4-1 scoreline. Unseeded Dutchman Kevin Doets averaged more than 111 to win the first set against England's Humphries, but was unable to maintain his exceptional start. The 2024 champion won 12 of the next 14 legs as he coasted to a comfortable victory with an overall average of 103.07. Humphries told Sky Sports: "I've felt like I've played well but I feel like that there's another level in me, which is important. If you're going to win this tournament, you have to have another level in you because that won't win you the World Championship. "Gian is a classy player. He's changed a lot, he's worked on his game and now he's a top player.

# Anaganaga Oka Raju is a Complete Festival Feast - Naveen Polishetty

Star entertainer Naveen Polishetty, who has earned a special place in the hearts of Telugu audiences with three consecutive blockbusters, is set to entertain once again with his upcoming film Anaganaga Oka Raju for Sankranthi 2026. Produced by Suryadevara Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya under the banners of Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas, the film is presented by Sri Kara Studios. Directed by debutant Maari, the film stars Meenakshi Chaudhary as the female lead with music by Mickey J. Meyer. Set to hit theaters on January 14th as a true festive treat, expectations for the film are sky-high. The team has already grabbed attention with their innovative promotional material. Recently, they hosted a unique event—"Raju Gari Pelli Reception" (Raju's Wedding Reception)—at the Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel in Hyderabad on Tuesday evening. Attended by members of the press, the event was filled with creativity at every turn. Lead pair Naveen Polishetty and Meenakshi Chaudhary energized the crowd by dancing to the songs Bhimavaram Balma and Raju Gari Pelli ro, from the film. Following the performance, they welcomed guests just like a real wedding reception. Appearing on stage as a "newlywed couple," the duo was the center of



attraction. In a fun twist, journalists approached the stage like relatives to bless the couple, handing over "gift covers" and asking questions in return. Naveen Polishetty began his speech with New Year wishes to everyone, "I wish for this New Year 2026 to bring light into everyone's lives. 2024 was a difficult year for me. After three consecutive hits, I

wanted to bring you another amazing film immediately, but an accident kept me away from shooting. It took a lot of time to recover mentally and physically. During that recovery, I sat with our team to write the story for Anaganaga Oka Raju." Later, he explained the timeline of the film, "We started filming this February. Many people mes-

saged me asking, 'Brother, when is the movie coming?' It is because of your love and support that I recovered quickly. I thank each one of you. With your love, we completed this film happily in six months. The output is excellent. When discussing the release, our producers felt Sankranthi would be perfect," shared Naveen. Talking about the film's vibe and his connect with audiences, he further said, "I came from the audiences. It makes me happy that my film is releasing alongside the stars whose movies I used to watch as a fan. I want to thank the audience for bringing me to this level. We are bringing this entertainer for the festival because Sankranthi means entertainment, it has a specific vibe. I, Meenakshi, and the whole team worked with our hearts. We look forward to you watching Anaganaga Oka Raju with your families on Jan 14. I also wish success to Chiranjeevi Garu's Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu and Prabhas Garu's The Raja Saab. This Sankranthi will be a true cinematic feast for Telugu audiences." Talking about the film, Meenakshi Chaudhary said, "This is my third Sankranthi film. I am very happy to be a part of Anaganaga Oka Raju. I am confident you will like it because it is a great family entertainer. I am eagerly waiting for the love you will show this film.

## Honest Films Will Always Win: Audience Proves It Again with 'Eesha' – Producer Suresh Babu

Following the blockbuster Success of Little Hearts and Raju Weds Rambai, the successful duo Bunny Vas and Vamsi Nandipati has delivered yet another hit with the horror thriller 'Eesha', produced under the banners Nandipati Entertainments and Bunny Vas Works. Released on December 25 as a Christmas special, Eesha emerged as a Christmas winner, giving the duo a hat-trick of successes. Presented by KL Damodar Prasad and produced by Pothula Hema Venkateswara Rao under the HVR Productions banner, Eesha features Trigun, Hebba Patel, Akhil Raj, Siri Hanumanth, and Prithviraj in key roles. The film was jointly released by Bunny Vas and Vamsi Nandipati and is currently running successfully in theatres. On this occasion, the film unit organized a grand success meet, graced by eminent producer Suresh Babu as the chief guest. Speaking at the event, Suresh Babu congratulated Bunny Vas and Vamsi Nandipati for delivering yet another hit and stated that the audi-



ence has once again proved that honest filmmaking will always be rewarded with success. He emphasized that there is no distinction between small and big films—content is the only deciding factor. He encouraged filmmakers to remain positive, not to be discouraged by rejections, and to trust that everything happens at the right time. Presenter KL Damodar Prasad praised Bunny Vas and Vamsi Nandipati for their consistent success and thanked his friends Suresh Babu and Ashok for

attending the event. He stated that in cinema there is no concept of small or big films—a successful film automatically becomes a big film. He spoke highly of director Srinivas Manne's long journey and dedication, expressing confidence that this success would mark a new phase in his career. Producer Bunny Vas expressed happiness over Damodar Prasad's success with Eesha and appreciated director Srinivas Manne for connecting strongly with the audience.

## Grand Trailer & Song Launch of “RK Deeksha” - Panel Members Clarify Their Stand on Film Chamber Elections



The trailer and songs of the upcoming film “RK Deeksha” were launched in a grand and festive manner. The film is being produced under the banners RK Films and Sigdha Creations, with Dr. Pitani Ramakrishna Goud serving as both producer and director, and BS Reddy as the presenter. The film features Kiran in the lead role, with Dhee fame Aqsa Khan and Alekhya Reddy as the female leads. Tulasi, Anusha, Keerthana, Pravallika, and Rohit Sharma play key supporting roles. The music has been composed by Raju Kiran, while Meghana Srinu has worked as the editor. With the release

approaching, the trailer and songs were officially unveiled by prominent guests. The event was attended by producer Chadalavada Srinivasa Rao, Telugu Film Producers Council Secretary Tummala Prasanna Kumar, and several other industry personalities. Speaking at the event, producer-director Dr. Pitani Ramakrishna Goud thanked the chief guest Chadalavada Srinivasa Rao, other dignitaries, and the media for their support. He announced that RK Deeksha is planned for a February release. As a devoted fan of NTR, he said it was an honor to make a film inspired by an iconic title

associated with the legendary actor. He revealed that the film includes a special song dedicated to martyr Murali Naik, who sacrificed his life for the nation. Expressing confidence in his cast, he said audiences would surely support the film and make it a success. Heroine Aqsa Khan greeted everyone and sought the blessings of the audience for the film's success. She expressed happiness over the positive response to the trailer and songs and thanked director Ramakrishna Goud for giving her the opportunity. She shared that the entire cast and technical team worked hard

on the project and mentioned that she also contributed as a choreographer in the film. She requested audiences to encourage her further as both a dancer and an actress. Producer Tummala Rama Satyanarayana wished the entire RK Deeksha team great success and conveyed his best wishes to the unit. Telugu Film Producers Council Secretary Tummala Prasanna Kumar expressed hope that RK Deeksha would achieve good success and be well received by audiences. Mohan Vadlapati said that the trailer and songs are very impressive and wished the

film a grand success. Palli Keshava Rao extended his best wishes to director Ramakrishna Goud and hoped the film would turn out to be a successful venture. Padmini stated that dedicating a song to martyr Murali Naik is a proud moment and wished heroine Aks Khan all the best, expressing confidence that the film would become a big hit. Ajay praised the film's title and song lyrics and wished the film great success and prosperity for the producers. Presenter DS Reddy thanked everyone who attended the event and explained that the film portrays the life of a jawaan.

## GRAND LAUNCH OF "SIDHU GAADI LOVE STORY" FIRST LOOK POSTER

"Sidhu Gaadi Love Story," starring Mahan, Shruthi, and Mohana Sidhi in the lead roles, is being produced by Savithramma C under Shiva Brahmendra Creations, presented by Balabrahmachari. The film is directed by Ramesh C, with Venugopala Chari as co-producer. The first look poster was launched today at the Hyderabad Film Chamber. Renowned director VN Aditya attended the event as the Chief Guest and unveiled the poster. Director VN Aditya said: "Savithramma garu has fulfilled her son Ramesh's dream of becoming a director through this film. I met Ramesh in the US—he is someone who carries pure passion for cinema. Even while con-



tinuing his professional career there, he came back to India and completed this film. Just like we made 'Khushi' a hit by showcasing Sidhu-Siddharth Roy's love story, I hope the audience will also make 'Sidhu Gaadi Love Story' a success. Mahan, Shruthi, and Mohana Sidhi have already

worked in a few films, and I hope this one earns them great appreciation. Samba Shiva Rao, the executive producer, is also a good friend of mine. The songs in the film are excellent. I wish the entire team a grand success." Hero Mahan said: "Our film 'Sidhu Gaadi Love Story' has

beautiful songs and action sequences. Along with a love story, the film also carries a meaningful message. Shruthi will appeal more to the class audience while Mohana Sidhi will connect well with the mass crowd. I'm confident everyone will love my character." Heroine Mohana Sidhi said: "Opportunities are comparatively limited for Telugu girls. I am thankful to director Ramesh garu for giving me this role. I have a solo song in the film based on nature. I'm sure this movie will give me a remarkable identity as a heroine." Heroine Shruthi said: "We thank VN Aditya garu for launching our first look poster.

## Meher Ramesh Wishes Marathi Audience in Hyderabad to Watch and Make ‘Magic’ Movie a Hit

'Magic' is a Marathi film produced by Raju Satyam under the banner of TwoThree Ventures. The movie stars Jitendra Joshi and is directed by Ravindra Vijay Karmarkar. This film is set to be released on January 1st. On this occasion, the film unit met with the media. The event was graced by the President of the Maharashtra Mandal, Geeta, MLC Arun Kumar, and director Meher Ramesh, who attended as chief guests. Subsequently, during the media interaction: Meher Ramesh said... "Raju Satyam is a very good friend of mine. Raju acted in my film 'Veera Kannadiga' which I did with the late Puneeth Rajkumar Garu. Since then, our friendship has continued. He has now produced



the movie 'Magic'. I saw the trailer. I found it very gripping. Raju acted in Puri Garu's films. Now he has become a passionate producer. All of Bollywood has come forward to support this

film. The Marathi audience in Hyderabad also have screens. I urge everyone here to watch the 'Magic' movie and make it a success." Geeta, President of the Maharashtra Mandal, said...

"You must have understood what 'Magic' is going to be like by watching the teaser and trailer. Raju Satyam Garu took a great step forward by producing this movie in Marathi. I wish for this film to come with Telugu subtitles. You would have never seen a film like this." MLC Arun Kumar said... "All the best to the producer of 'Magic,' Raju Satyam. The Marathi industry holds a special place in Indian cinema. Wonderful artists have emerged from there. The film 'Magic' is coming directly from such an industry. Even before its release, it has already won 9 international awards worldwide. The entire Hindi industry genuinely rallied together for this movie. It is a good film.

2026

Happy New Year

మీకు, మీ కుటుంబసభ్యులకు నూతన సంవత్సర శుభాకాంక్షలు



**డా॥ విజ్ఞేష్ వేల్పుల**  
జిల్లా సర్క్యూలార్‌కారి  
భిమ్మం జిల్లా & జిల్లా మహిళా ప్రాంగణాధికారి  
ఉమ్మడి భిమ్మం జిల్లా

నూతన సంవత్సర మరెయ్య సంక్రాంతి శుభాకాంక్షలు... ఈ శుభ సందర్భంగా యావత్ ప్రజలు... సుఖ సంతోషాలతో వర్ధిల్లాలని ఆకాంక్షిస్తూ...

**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026**



**డాక్టర్ శీలం పాపారావు**  
భారతీయ జనతా పార్టీ రాష్ట్ర అధ్యక్షులు

నూతన సంవత్సర శుభాకాంక్షలు 2026

**డా॥ ప్రదీప్ చనుమోలు**  
M.B.B.S., M.S., M.Ch (Neuro)  
Brain and Spine Surgeon Gold Medalist  
మౌంట్ సెంట్రల్ వైద్య నిపుణులు

**డా॥ కేసరిణి భరత్ బాబు**  
MBBS, MD, Gen.  
జనరల్ మెడిసిన్

**డా॥ డి. బసవయ్య చౌదరి**  
MBBS (Gold Medalist)  
MS (General Surgery) MCh  
సర్జికల్ గ్యాంగ్రిస్ట్

**డా॥ రాజ్ కుమార్ చింతపల్లి**  
MBBS, MS, Ortho (Diploma)  
FACS, FRCR Fellowship in  
Rheumatology Transplants Insures  
Key West, Singapore, Korea and elsewhere  
(Ex. Senior Registrar/ Yashoda Hospital, Hyd).

**డా॥ కృష్ణ ప్రసాద్**  
MD DM (Nephrology) (NIMS)  
నెఫ్రాలజిస్ట్

**డా॥ పాటిబండ హేమంత్**  
MBBS, MS, Gen  
Laparoscopic Surgeon  
జనరల్ & లాపరోస్కోపిక్ సర్జన్

**డా॥ పార్ ప్రదీప్ రాయని**  
MS, M.Ch.  
Urology & Renal Transplant Manipal.  
ఉర్లో, సంబంధిత వైద్య నిపుణులు

**డా॥ పర్యవృత్తల కిషోర్ కుమార్**  
MBBS, DA, Anaesthesia  
డా॥ పాపారావు, MD, Radiologist

నెహ్రూ నగర్, భిమ్మం. సెల్ : 9000432663

Happy New Year 2026

www.kurapathospital.com

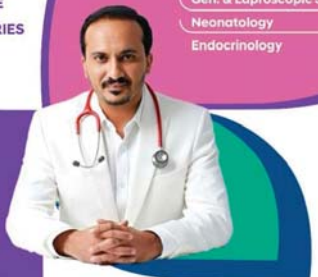


**When it's about YOUR HEALTHCARE YOU DESERVE THE BEST**

EXPERIENCED DOCTORS & SPECIALISTS  
ETHICAL HEALTHCARE  
AFFORDABLE SURGERIES & TREATMENT

**OUR DEPARTMENTS**  
General Physician  
Paediatrics  
Paediatric Surgery  
Gen. & Laparoscopic Surgery  
Neonatology  
Endocrinology

**OUR SERVICES**  
In-House Pharmacy  
Emergency & Critical Care  
Ambulance Facility  
Personalised Care  
Lab Testing  
24/7 Vaccination Centre



**Dr. Pradeep Kumar Kurapati**  
MBBS, MD (Paediatrics)