

OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

19-01-2026

Total pilgrims: 79,098

Tonsures: 24,083

Hundi kanukalu: 416 CR

Waiting Compartments: 20

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

TO BOOK YOUR ADS CALL

99484 80279, 73307 78889



NATION | NEWS

SIR is 'Software Intensive Rigging', alleges TMC



WORLD | NEWS

DONALD TRUMP SAYS HE WILL '100%' CARRY OUT GREENLAND TARIFFS THREAT, AS EU VOWS TO PROTECT ITS INTERESTS

SPORTS | NEWS

Shreyas Iyer Snubbed, This India Star To Bat At No. 3 In 1st T20I Against New Zealand



IN BRIFS

Delhi govt okays Rs 1,471 Cr 6-lane MB Road project

New Delhi (TSIT): Delhi government's Expenditure Finance Committee(EFC) has approved a major infrastructure project for South Delhi. At an estimated cost of Rs 1,471.14 crore, a six-lane integrated elevated road, along with two underpasses, will be constructed on M.B. Road from Saket G-Block to Pul Prahladpur. The project is targeted for completion by December 2027. The meeting of the EFC was held at the Delhi Secretariat on Tuesday chaired by Delhi CM Rekha Gupta. With a total length of nearly five kilometres, the project will be developed in two phases. The first elevated stretch will run from Saket G-Block to Sangam Vihar, measuring 2.42 kilometres. The second stretch will extend from Maa Anandmayee Marg to Pul Prahladpur, with a length of approximately 2.48 kilometres. The project will be executed by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC). It will be developed along the DMRC corridor alignment to ensure optimal coordination between road and metro infrastructure. The integrated structure will feature a double-decker system, with the metro operating on the upper deck and a six-lane elevated road corridor below.

ED files chargesheet against NCL official in corruption, money laundering case

New Delhi (TSIT): The Enforcement Directorate (ED), Bhopal Zonal Office, stated on Tuesday that it has filed a chargesheet against Shailendra Pasari before a special PMLA court in Jabalpur. A notice for a pre-cognizance hearing has been issued against the accused. The ED initiated its investigation based on two FIRs registered by the CBI's Anti-Corruption Branch in Jabalpur. The first FIR was registered under various sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act. In this case, Shailendra Pasari, then Senior Manager (Civil) at Northern Coalfields Limited's Jayant Project in Singrauli, was caught red-handed while demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 10,000 for clearing pending escalation bills. Subsequently, during searches conducted by the CBI at his premises, unaccounted cash amounting to Rs 72,97,200 was recovered from Pasari's residence, bank lockers, and office. The second FIR was registered under sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act for possessing disproportionate assets. The CBI alleged that Pasari and his family members were in possession of assets worth Rs 1.30 crore (124.12% disproportionate to his known sources of income) during the check period from January 1, 2014, to September 8, 2018.

TN 2026 POLLS: Stalin takes charge of alliance dynamics

In a veiled reference to recent remarks from sections of the Congress, Stalin said that even allies could sometimes create confusion.

CHENNAI (TSIT): Assuring party cadres and functionaries not to worry about alliance dynamics and seat-sharing arrangements, MK Stalin, president of the DMK, on Tuesday said he would personally handle all alliance-related matters.

Chairing a meeting of district secretaries at Anna Arivalayam, the party headquarters here, the Chief Minister said unity among party functionaries and cadres was crucial. "Functionaries and cadres should work together. If there is any lack of coordination, I will take strict action. The party is bigger than any individual," he said.

Unilever to Explore Setting Up Global Capability Centre in Hyderabad



Davos (TSIT): Global consumer goods major Unilever has expressed interest in exploring the establishment of a Global Capability Centre (GCC) in Hyderabad, following a meeting with the Telangana Rising delegation led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy at the World Economic Forum (WEF) 2026 in Davos on Tuesday.

The Telangana delegation met Willem Uijen, Chief Supply Chain & Operations Officer of Unilever, during which discussions focused on Hyderabad's rapid emergence as a global hub for GCCs. Highlighting the city's strong ecosystem, world-class talent pool, and investor-friendly governance, the Chief Minister outlined Telangana's vision for attracting global corporations.

Mr. Uijen stated that Unilever would be happy to explore the possibility of setting up a GCC in Hyderabad, acknowledging the city's growing reputation as a preferred destination for global opera-

tions. Industries & Commerce Minister D. Sridhar Babu said Hyderabad already hosts GCCs of leading FMCG companies such as McDonald's, Heineken, and Costco, underscoring the State's credibility in the sector. "Unilever is a prized partner of Telangana. The State is known for policy continuity and a fast-paced approval and licensing process for businesses," he said.

The delegation, which included Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, also invited Unilever to explore FMCG manufacturing opportunities in Telangana's industrial parks.

Discussions further covered aligning Unilever's commitments on climate action, water positivity, and plastic reduction with Telangana's initiatives in renewable energy, water stewardship, and the circular economy, reinforcing the State's focus on sustainable and responsible industrial growth.

EU on cusp of historic trade deal with India: Ursula von der Leyen

DAVOS: (Jan 20) (GNS) The European Union is on the cusp of signing a historic trade agreement with India that is being called 'the mother of all deals', European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced on Tuesday, asserting it will create a market for 2 billion people or about one-fourth of the global GDP. In a special address here at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, she said the real would crucially provide a first-mover advantage for Europe with one of the world's fastest-growing and most dynamic continents.

"Right after Davos, I will travel to India. There is still work to do. But we are on the cusp of a historic trade agreement. Some call it the mother of all deals," she said.



"Europe wants to do business with the growth centres of today and the economic powerhouses of this century. "From Latin America to the Indo-Pacific and far beyond, Europe will always choose the world. And the world is ready to choose Europe," she said. President of the European Council, Antonio Costa and von der Leyen will be in India from January 25 to 27 to grace the Republic Day celebrations as chief guests and hold summit talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

UAE agrees to partner with Telangana for 'Future City' development

Hyderabad, Jan 20 (TSIT) : The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has agreed to partner with Telangana for the development of Bharat Future City as a top global city, the Telangana government said.

UAE Minister of Economy and Tourism Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri met Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy-led 'Telangana Rising' delegation, at the World Economic Forum in Davos on Tuesday. Touq Al Marri said his national government would be happy to join hands with Telangana. He suggested that the two governments establish a joint task force of officials from both sides for the speedy implementa-



tion of this project, according to a release from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) here. The delegation discussed potential areas of cooperation in the state's large infra-

Nitin Nabin takes over as BJP's 12th president; PM Modi says 'You are my boss'

NEW DELHI (TSIT): Nitin Nabin on Tuesday took over as the BJP's 12th national president, succeeding J P Nadda and beginning a new chapter for the party as it seeks to tighten its grip on the country's politics and further expand its influence in uncharted territories with a generational shift in the organisation.

Addressing a gathering at the BJP headquarters here on the occasion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said when it comes to party matters, he is a worker and "honourable Nitin Nabin ji" is his boss.



After a formal announcement of Nabin's name as the new BJP chief, Prime Minister Modi and other senior leaders took him to his new office at the party headquarters, where he officially assumed the charge of the party's national president.

Telangana aims to increase its GDP contribution to 10 pc

Hyderabad (TSIT) : Telangana has set the goal of raising its contribution to India's GDP to 10 per cent, supported by a clear roadmap to build a USD 3 trillion economy, industry minister D. Sridhar Babu said on Tuesday. He invited global industry leaders to partner in Telangana Rising, a long-term vision built on policy stability, ease of doing business, and innovation-led growth. At the inauguration of the India Pavilion at the World Economic Forum annual meeting in Davos, Minister Sridhar Babu invited the industry leaders to invest in the state.

He told them that Telangana today offers a conducive, predictable ecosystem where global companies can scale, invest and participate meaningfully in the state's development journey. He said that life sciences, electronics, semiconductors,



IT, aerospace, renewable energy and green technologies are the priority sectors. The minister stated that with Rs 2.5 lakh crore in investments mobilised over the past two years, the emphasis remains on sustaining growth, creating employment and strengthening Telangana's global standing.

He told the investors that Telangana has become a role model for other states in ease of doing business. Sridhar Babu

said that his government's resolve is not to wait for the future, but to build it. He stated that they have set a target of increasing Telangana's share in the country's GDP to 10 per cent by 2047 and are taking visionary and planned steps accordingly.

He stated that a comprehensive roadmap has been prepared with the participation of experts, industrialists, and the public to propel Telangana's economy to \$3 trillion by 2047.

He added that this vision document gives utmost priority to key sectors that will boost the state's economy. He elaborated on the favourable conditions, opportunities, and the existing ecosystem in Telangana for investments in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, life sciences, biotechnology, healthcare innovation, electronics, semiconductors, hardware manufacturing,

IT, ITES, aerospace, defence, textiles, apparel manufacturing, food processing, agro-based industries, renewable energy, and green technologies.

He affirmed that they are sincerely working to bring new industries to the state and create employment opportunities for the youth. He mentioned that his government has attracted investments worth approximately Rs 2.5 lakh crore in the last two years at the Davos forum. He added that this year too, with the same spirit, they will explain the policies designed to boost industrial development and strive to encourage leading companies to invest in Telangana. The minister announced that the Life Sciences Policy 2.0 and the Telangana AI Innovation Hub (TAIH) will be formally launched at the Davos forum to further enhance the global recognition of the "Telangana brand."

No better investment destination than Andhra Pradesh: CM Chandrababu



Amaravati, Jan 20 (TSIT) : Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said on Tuesday that there is no better investment destination than Andhra Pradesh. He invited industrialists to visit Andhra Pradesh and personally observe the policies implemented by the state government and the favourable conditions for investments. He urged them to make investment decisions only after witnessing the speed of doing business policies. The Chief Minister, who is attending the World Economic Forum annual meeting in Davos, was addressing the CII session on "India at the Centre: The Geography of Growth – The Andhra Pradesh Advantage".

The Chief Minister posted on X that he told the industry leaders that Andhra Pradesh isn't just an investment destination but a strategic advantage.

He showcased Andhra Pradesh's strengths across various sectors. "With nearly a quarter of India's FDI, our speed of doing business makes AP a premier investment hub. I invited the global industry to

partner with us for long-term growth," he wrote.

According to an official release, the Chief Minister said that India will become a global power by 2047, and Andhra Pradesh will be at the forefront of this transformation.

He said that Andhra Pradesh has attracted 25 per cent of the foreign investments that have come into the country. The session discussed the vast investment opportunities in green energy, technology, fuel, digital infrastructure, logistics, and manufacturing sectors. CM Chandrababu Naidu explained the state government's policies and investment opportunities in various sectors. He informed the industrialists about green ammonia, Google investments, and the Andhra Pradesh brand image. He said that they are focusing on aspects such as Space City, ports, airports, and highway connectivity. The Chief Minister said that the coalition government in Andhra Pradesh is providing all-round support to investors, and that drones will be used in the agriculture and medical sectors.

Order for SIR of electoral rolls legislative in nature, lays down guiding principles: EC to SC

Dwivedi referred to legal schemes which govern the preparation and revision of electoral rolls and regulate the conduct of elections.

NEW DELHI (TSIT): The Election Commission on Tuesday told the Supreme Court that its order on special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in various states is legislative in character, lays down guiding principles, and prescribes documents needed.

The submissions were made by senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for the poll panel, before a bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi during the final hearings on a batch of petitions challenging the EC's SIR of electoral rolls undertaken in several states, including Bihar.



"Our SIR order is legislative in character. It lays down a complete set of principles and documents prescribed. It is a general order applicable to the whole country, except the Assam case," the senior lawyer said. The petitions, including the lead one filed by NGO 'Association for Democratic Reforms', raise significant constitutional questions concerning the scope of the poll panel's

powers, the determination of citizenship for electoral purposes, and the fundamental right to vote.

Dwivedi referred to legal schemes which govern the preparation and revision of electoral rolls and regulate the conduct of elections.

Referring to Section 62 of the Representation of Peoples Act, he submitted that voter registration is subject to specific statutory conditions. Dwivedi said Articles 324 to 326 of the Constitution, read with Section 19 of the 1950 Act, impose a constitutional obligation on the EC to ensure that only citizens are enrolled as voters.

SIR is 'Software Intensive Rigging', alleges TMC

The press meet came a day after the Supreme Court directed the EC to display the names of the voters on the "logical discrepancies" list at gram panchayat bhavans and block offices.

NEW DELHI: The Trinamool Congress (TMC) said on Tuesday that the SIR exercise in West Bengal is "Software Intensive Rigging", as the ruling party in the state stressed the need for more "transparency" in the ongoing process for electoral-roll revision. Addressing a press conference here, TMC's leader in the Rajya Sabha Derek O'Brien, deputy leader Sagarika Ghose and MP Saket Gokhale demanded that the Election Commission (EC) release the transcripts of the discussions held at recent meetings between a party delegation and the full bench of the poll panel. The press meet came a day after the Supreme Court directed the EC to display the names of the voters on the "logical discrepancies" list at gram panchayat bhavans and block offices.

"What does SIR actually stand for? Software Intensive Rigging.... The EC is one of the great institutions of our country, which has kept democracy vibrant for so many decades, but what has been happening now is a dismantling of this great institution," O'Brien said at the press conference. "All we seek from the All India Trinamool Congress is transparency.... Our chairperson has said it. Our national general secretary has said it. We are for SIR, but we are for a transparent SIR, a planned SIR.... A humane SIR," he said.

O'Brien said during their meetings with the EC on November 28 and December 31 last year, the TMC leaders made several "constructive



suggestions" for making the SIR process smoother. He challenged the poll panel to come out with the transcripts of the meetings. "Release the transcripts.... It has been 50 days. So do not push our patience. Because if you do not release those transcripts, we will release those transcripts," the TMC MP said. Targeting Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, he pointed out that prior to his appointment to the EC, he retired as the secretary of the Ministry of Cooperation under Home Minister Amit Shah, who is also the minister of cooperation. O'Brien asserted that it is not

"Trinamool versus somebody else", but "the people of Bengal versus those who are trying to make the electoral process burdensome on the electors".Ghose pointed out that the apex court has directed the poll panel to work with transparency and said, "The Election Commission should not work with political interests."It is the constitutional duty of the EC to protect the right of the citizen to vote, she added.

Ghose said the list of discrepancies and the hearings have led people to go through harrowing times, running from pillar to post to protect their right to vote."We are saying

that the EC should not change the Special Intensive Revision to software-intensive rigging. And as the Supreme Court has instructed, the EC should work with transparency," she said. Referring to letters written by West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee to the CEC, O'Brien said, "What did the postscript say?... It said we know that you will not reply to these letters. Who is writing these letters? A three-time chief minister of a state who is about to become a four-time chief minister."

One of Banerjee's letters to the CEC on the SIR issue contained a handwritten note, saying she did not expect a reply from Kumar. "When we say transparency, this is not just a clever term which we have used in the morning. Software-intensive rigging. No. What software is the EC using? Why is it being revised constantly? We asked who makes this software? Come, tell us," O'Brien said. The Supreme Court said on Monday that the SIR process in West Bengal should be transparent and not cause inconvenience to people, and directed the EC to display the names of those on the "logical discrepancies" list at gram panchayat bhavans and block offices, where documents and objections will also be submitted.Logical discrepancies in progeny linking with the 2002 voter list include instances, such as a mismatch in the parent's name and the age difference between a voter and his parent being less than 15 years or more than 50 years.

Indian Navy to display 'combat-ready, aatmanirbhar' might at Republic Day Parade 2026

New Delhi (TSIT) : The Indian Navy will present a powerful blend of tradition, self-reliance and future readiness during the upcoming Republic Day Parade (RDP) 2026, with its marching contingent, tableau and band reflecting the Service's vision of being a 'Combat Ready, Cohesive and Aatmanirbhar Force, safeguarding the seas for a Viksit and Samridhdha Bharat', Contingent Commander Lt Karan Nagyal said on Tuesday.

Briefing the media ahead of the Navy's Republic Day Parade press preview, Lt Nagyal said the RDP remains a grand spectacle of national unity, showcasing India's cultural diversity, military prowess and technological advancements, with all participating elements demonstrating an unwavering commitment to national security.

The Indian Navy's marching contingent this year will comprise 144 young personnel who will march shoulder to shoulder along the historic Kartavya Path, symbolising the Navy as a progressive and strong maritime force capable of defending India's maritime interests.

Representing a 'mini-India', the contingent includes sailors from different States and union Territories, with an average



age of 25 years. Carefully selected from across all branches of the Navy, the personnel have undergone over two months of specialised training to withstand the rigours of the parade. The contingent will be led by Lt Karan Nagyal, with Lt Pawan Kumar Gandhi, Lt Priti Kumari and Lt Varun Dreveriya serving as Platoon Commanders.

The Indian Navy's tableau for 2026 will vividly depict the theme of a 'Strong Navy for a Strong Nation', highlighting the Service's multi-dimensional capabilities and its resolve to safeguard maritime interests anytime, anywhere and anyhow.The tableau traces India's rich maritime heritage to its modern, indigenous combat strength. It features a stitched ship dating back to the 5th century CE, now named INSV Kaundinya, Maratha Navy 'Gurab' class ships, and

frontline indigenous assets including aircraft carrier INS Vikrant, P-17A Nilgiri-class stealth frigates INS Himgiri and INS Udayagiri, a Kalvari-class submarine and the GSAT-7R (Project Rohini) communication satellite.The tableau will also showcase the circumnavigation route followed by the crew of INSV Tarini during the Navika Sagar Parikrama-II expedition. The tableau has been conceived and designed by Cdr Zubair Siddiqui and Lt Lekshmi K Ravi of the Navy's Warship Design Bureau.

Adding a special dimension, young girl cadets from the Sea Cadet Corps (SCC), a non-governmental organisation imparting basic nautical skills to youth in Mumbai, will march alongside the tableau, marking their return to the Republic Day Parade after several decades.

Kharge pays tribute to Frontier Gandhi on death anniversary

New Delhi, Jan 20(UNI) Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday paid tribute to Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, popularly known as the Frontier Gandhi on his death anniversary.

In a post on X, the Congress chief described Badshah Khan as a "beacon of peace" and noted that his life and work continue to inspire millions across India and South Asia. Khan, a towering figure of India's freedom struggle, was remembered as a lifelong champion for peace and nonviolence. Kharge recalled his immense contributions to India's Independence and his unwavering commitment to human dignity and harmony.The Congress chief highlighted that Ghaffar Khan, a recipient of the Bharat Ratna, endured repeated imprisonment for his principles during the freedom struggle.

He also underscored the Pashtun leader's long association with the Indian National Congress, noting that he served for several years on the Congress Working Committee and was elected to the Constituent Assembly.

SC Questions CBI on Necessity of Further Probe in YS Viveka Murder Case

New Delhi: In a significant development regarding the murder case of former minister YS Vivekananda Reddy, the Supreme Court on Tuesday questioned the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on the necessity of further investigation. The apex court directed the agency to provide specific details on who they intend to take into custody and which particular aspects of the case require deeper scrutiny.

The bench, led by Justice M.M. Sundresh, was hearing a petition filed by the



victim's daughter, Dr. Sunitha Reddy, challenging the trial court's orders regarding the investigation. Senior Advocate Sidharth Luthra, representing the petitioner, argued that

although they approached the trial court following the Supreme Court's earlier directions, the lower court failed to fully consider the key issues raised in their plea. Luthra contended that the trial court permitted only a partial investigation based on aspects that were not originally included in the petition, arguing that such a limitation was not legally sound.

Responding to these arguments, the Supreme Court sought a clear stance from the CBI on whether the probe needs to continue.

SC directs Delhi HC to decide in 4 months plea of MLA Raja Bhaiya's wife alleging domestic violence

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan refused to entertain Bhanvi Singh's plea after noting that the matter is pending before the high court.

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court directed the Delhi High Court on Monday to decide within four months a plea filed by the wife of Uttar Pradesh MLA Raghuraj Pratap Singh alias Raja Bhaiya against her husband under the Domestic Violence Act.A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan refused to entertain Bhanvi Singh's plea after noting that the matter is pending before the high court. The top court noted that the next hearing in the matter is scheduled before the high court on February



12. "On that day, the petitioner is at liberty to press for early disposal of this case. It is needless to observe that the same shall be con-

sidered having regard to the facts of the case as alleged by the petitioner's wife," the bench said.The apex court clarified that it was giving a

timeframe of four months as the high court has stayed the summons issued to the Kunda MLA by the trial court. Raja Bhaiya has been booked for alleged domestic violence following a complaint from his wife.An FIR in this regard has been registered at Delhi's Safdarjung Enclave police station. In her complaint, Bhanvi Singh has accused the politician of years of physical and mental abuse, according to police. Police have also informed that the couple has been living separately for years.

Top Indian CEOs to join Donald Trump at WEF Davos meet

New Delhi, Jan 20 : Some prominent Indian CEOs from India are likely to join a select group of 146 global corporate leaders for a meeting with US President Donald Trump at the World Economic Forum (WEF) meeting in Davos on Wednesday.

India's tech and industrial leaders, including Tata Sons Chairman N. Chandrasekaran, Wipro CEO Srinu Pallia, Bharti Enterprises Founder Sunil Bharti Mittal and Infosys CEO Salil Parekh, are set to attend the high-level session during the WEF, according to a report in NDTV Profit.

The meeting occurs amid the US-India trade deal negotiations which are expected to lift market sentiments.



Recent developments have indicated that relations between the two countries about the trade deal negotiations have softened, and an announcement could be just around the corner.

Trump is among the marquee attendees of the World Economic Forum in Davos this year, alongside the likes of

JP Morgan CEO Jamie Dimon, Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Meanwhile, Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy, Pralhad Joshi, had made a strong pitch for global investors towards opportunities in India's clean and green energy sector at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos. The minister highlighted India's proven ability to scale solar, wind, green hydrogen and energy storage in a focused discussion with Charles Emond, President and CEO, and COO Sarah Bouchard of Canada-based La Caisse, on strengthening long-term climate and clean energy investments in India.

AI guides to smart parking: Tech-driven traffic plan to steer Republic Day crowd to Kartavya Path

NEW DELHI: From AI-generated informational videos to car-calling systems, Delhi Traffic Police has rolled out a slew of technology-driven measures to ensure smooth traffic flow and a hassle-free commute for people heading to Kartavya Path for the Republic Day parade and the Beating Retreat ceremony. In a first, the traffic police has prepared detailed animated videos with the help of Artificial Intelligence (AI), depicting the arrival, alighting, departure and parking plans for invitees. Officials said the videos are aimed at familiarising visitors with the movement and parking arrangements well in advance.

The videos are available on the Ministry of Defence website and can also be accessed through the QR code-based parking system issued to invitees. They explain in detail how

arrival, alighting and parking will be managed on the day of the event, a senior police officer told PTI.

The parking management system covers 22 designated parking lots and has been designed to accommodate around 8,000 vehicles. Every year, nearly 77,000 passes are issued to spectators for the Republic Day parade, of which about 8,000 are earmarked for those arriving by private vehicles, the police said.

Another first this year is the introduction of shuttle services for security personnel deployed for Republic Day arrangements. Shuttles will operate from four locations—Khan Market, Amrita Sher-Gil Marg, Patel Chowk Metro Station and HC Mathur Lane—to ferry personnel to their respective destinations. The shuttles will run at a frequency of 10 minutes, he said.



To assist commuters in reaching their designated park-

ing areas on Republic Day, invited guests and ticket hold-

ers can use Google Maps or Mappls for real-time naviga-

tion support. A senior police officer said the platforms will provide details of appropriate routes to Kartavya Path and the exact location of allotted parking spots.On Mappls, a dedicated Republic Day tab has been created, while Google Maps will display specially marked parking locations along with entry and exit routes to help visitors reach their destinations without confusion, he said.Apart from digital assistance, the traffic police has significantly expanded on-ground support by setting up 12 help desks at key locations—up from just two in previous years. Personnel deployed at these help desks will guide commuters on parking facilities, pedestrian movement routes and security arrangements, the officer said.

The help desks will be located at Moti Lal Nehru Place roundabout, Sunehri Masjid

roundabout, Man Singh roundabout, Jaswant Singh roundabout, GPO roundabout, Windsor Place roundabout, Mandi House roundabout, Q-point, Teen Murti roundabout, Crossing Janpath/Dr Rajendra Prasad Road, Gate number 14 of Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium and Palika Parking, they added.

Car-calling systems have also been introduced this year to avoid crowding after the conclusion of the programme and to ensure smooth dispersal of invitees. Under the system, invitees can inform an officer stationed at the exit gate, following which announcements mentioning the car number or the driver's name will be made. The traffic police has advised people to follow official advisories, use public transport as far as possible and rely on digital navigation tools for a smoother commute to Kartavya Path.

Siddaramaiah warns of Lok Sabha seat cut for southern states

Bengaluru, Jan 20 (UNI) Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday expressed concerns over a possible reduction in the number of Lok Sabha seats for southern states under the proposed delimitation of parliamentary constituencies, warning that it could undermine federal principles and democratic equity.

Speaking at a conference organised by the Centre for Socialist Studies and Samajwadi Sangama here, the Chief Minister said the proposed delimitation exercise posed a grave risk to southern states that had successfully implemented population control measures.

"The southern states controlled their population, invested in education and empowered women because the nation asked us to. Now we are told that success will be punished with reduced representation," he said.

Siddaramaiah reiterated that if delimitation was carried out strictly on the basis of the latest



census figures, southern states including Karnataka could either lose seats or see no increase, while northern states would gain more representation.

He recalled that earlier estimates suggested Karnataka's Lok Sabha seats could fall from 28 to 26 if the exercise was based on the 2021 or 2031 census. Undivided Andhra Pradesh could see a drop from 42 to 34 seats, Kerala from 20 to 12, and Tamil Nadu from

39 to 31.

The Chief Minister urged the union government to either use the 1971 census as the base for delimitation or expand the total number of Lok Sabha seats in a manner that does not rely solely on population figures.

At the event, Siddaramaiah said democracy could not reward failure and penalise progress. "If this injustice continues, South India will be politi-

cally marginalised in its own country. Federalism is not charity. It is a constitutional right," he asserted.

He also alleged that Karnataka was facing fiscal injustice despite being a major contributor to the national economy. "We contribute nearly Rs 5 lakh crore annually to union taxes and about 8.4 per cent of India's GDP with just around 5 per cent of the population, yet receive barely 13 paise for every rupee sent. Our share was cut by the 15th Finance Commission, special grants were denied, over Rs 53,000 crore was lost through cesses, and even severe drought relief was ignored," he said.

Siddaramaiah accused the Centre of undermining cooperative federalism by centralising resources. "When the union hoards resources through cesses, cuts devolution, delays disaster relief and denies States their constitutional dues, it is not reform, it is a betrayal of the Constitution," he added.

Drive to Remove Unauthorized Hoardings, Flexes and Banners in Bengaluru Central City Corporation Limits: Daljit Kumar

Bengaluru: Additional Commissioner (Development) Daljit Kumar said that As per the orders of the Commissioner of Bengaluru Central City Corporation, Rajendra Cholan, more than 51 hoardings that were illegally installed on pedestrian skywalks and bus shelters in 5 divisions of the Central City Corporation limits have been removed.

From morning, a special drive was carried out in 5 divisions of the Central City Corporation to



remove hoardings that were illegally installed on pedestrian skywalks and

bus shelters.

Continuous Drive

The Bengaluru Central City Corporation is continuously carrying out drives to remove flexes, banners and hoardings. Through this, the public and organizations are instructed not to install flexes, banners and hoardings illegally.

Executive Engineers, Assistant Executive Engineers, Advertisement and Revenue Officers, and other sanitation staff participated in this drive to remove illegal hoardings.

Dr. Ponguleti Sudhakar Reddy, Former MLC has extended his heartfelt congratulations to Nitin Nabin on being elected as National President of BJP



Delhi : Dr. Sudhakar Reddy conveyed his best wishes to Nitin Nabin for a successful and impactful tenure, expressing confidence that under his leadership, the BJP will further strengthen its organizational base and take the party's vision, ideology, and commitment to public service to every corner of Bharat.He stated that the election of Nitin Nabin reflects the trust and confidence reposed in his leadership abilities and organizational experience, and expressed optimism that the party will continue to grow stronger and more united in the coming years. Vimal Dua and other party functionaries joined in this occasion with Reddy. Dr. Sudhakar Reddy reaffirmed his commitment to work collectively with the party leadership and cadre to further strengthen the BJP and serve the nation with dedication.

MP Basavaraj Bommai Congratulates the newly elected BJP National President Nitin Nabin

Bengaluru: Former Chief Minister and Member of Parliament Basavaraj Bommai has extended his heartfelt congratulations to Nitin Nabin on being unanimously elected as the National President of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

In a post on X, he stated that he expresses his sincere gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister



Amit Shah, and outgoing party president J.P. Nadda for placing their trust in young leadership and entrusting this responsibility with the future of both the party and the nation in mind.

He further said that he is confident the newly appointed president, Nitin Nabin, will take the party—which has the largest membership in the world—to even greater heights.

Citizens, citizen groups, RWAs, and NGOs invited to submit suggestions for the 2026–27 Budget of Bengaluru East City Corporation – D. S. Ramesh

Bengaluru: The budget preparation process for the financial year 2026-27 of the Bengaluru East City Corporation is currently underway. In this regard, the Commissioner of the East City Corporation, D. S. Ramesh, has appealed to citizens within the jurisdiction of the East City Corporation, citizen groups, Residents' Welfare Associations (RWAs), environmental activists, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to submit their valuable suggestions related to the Corporation's budget.

He appealed to the public to offer their valuable suggestions for preparing a comprehensive and sustainable budget for the East City Corporation, with the core objective of prioritizing infrastructure development, public

health and safety, environmental conservation, social welfare, transparent governance, and initiatives that respond to citizens' needs, thereby ensuring holistic and sustainable urban development. Citizens who wish to submit suggestions for the 2026-27 Budget may do so in person by dropping their representations in the Suggestion Box kept at the office of the Deputy Controller (Finance), Bengaluru East City Corporation, Commercial Complex, Ground Floor, Opposite Phoenix Mall, RHB Colony, Mahadevapura, Bengaluru – 560048, or by sending their suggestions via email to acfma-hadevapura@gmail.com. All suggestions must be submitted within seven (7) days from the date of issuance of this press release.

The Appellate Authority of the School Education Department has upheld the order cancellation of recognition of Al Jamia Muhammadiyah Education Society.

Bengaluru: The School Education Department has upheld the fact that Al Jamia Muhammadiyah Education Society, Thanisandra, Mumbai, under its administration, has opened educational institutions in Bengaluru named Jamia Muhammadiyah Mansoor, Jamia Muhammadiyah Education Society, Saamar International Islamic School, Thanisandra, Bangalore and is running schools illegally.The Commissioner of School Education Department, after hearing the lengthy arguments and arguments on the appeal filed by Al Jamia Muhammadiyah Education Society challenging the previous order of the School Education Department that cancelled the school's recognition, has issued a comprehensive and special order of 36 pages.

88.91 lakh voters listed in draft rolls of five city corporations

Opportunity to submit claims and objections from January 20 to February 3, 2026

Bengaluru: In connection with the conduct of elections under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), the draft electoral rolls were published. Citizens are advised to verify whether their names are included in the draft electoral rolls and, if not found, to immediately submit applications in the prescribed forms to get their names included. All citizens aged 18 years and above should ensure that their names are included in the electoral rolls, stated State Election Commissioner G.S. Sangreshi during a joint press conference held at GBA Head Office.

The ward-wise draft electoral rolls of the five City Corporations under the jurisdiction of the Greater Bengaluru Authority include a total of 8,891,411 voters, informed State Election Commissioner G.S. Sangreshi.

Speaking to the media after releasing the draft electoral rolls, he stated that elections will be conducted under the GBA jurisdiction covering five City Corporations —



Bengaluru Central, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru East, and Bengaluru West — comprising a total of 369 wards.

The draft electoral rolls have been prepared with October 1, 2025 as the qualifying date. The rolls include 45,69,193 male voters, 43,20,583 female voters, and 1,635 other voters, totaling 88,91,411 voters, he explained.

From January 20, 2026 to February 3, 2026, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will visit households for verification. During this period, citizens will have the opportunity to submit claims and objections, he said. The disposal of claims and objections will be carried out from February 4 to February 18, 2026, and the final electoral rolls will be published on March 16, 2026, he added.

Among all wards, Ward No. 23 of Bengaluru West City Corporation has the highest number of voters

with 49,530, while Ward No. 16 of Bengaluru East City Corporation has the lowest number of voters with 10,926. A total of 8,044 polling stations will be set up across the 369 wards, he informed.

ELECTORAL ROLLS ON WEBSITE
The ward-wise draft electoral rolls will be published in PDF format on the official GBA website: <https://gba.karnataka.gov.in/home>

Citizens can verify and confirm the inclusion of their names in the electoral rolls. On this occasion, GBA Special Commissioners (Election) Ramachandran, City Corporation Commissioners Rajendra Cholan, Shri Pommala Sunil Kumar, Shri Ramesh D.S., Dr. Rajendra K.V., Special Officer (Elections) Shri Selvamani, Additional Commissioners (Elections), Tahsildars and other concerned officials were present.

Operations to remove unauthorized flexes, banners and hoardings

Bengaluru: Officers and staff of the Bengaluru North City Corporation are constantly working against unauthorized/illegal flexes, banners and hoardings. As a part of this in record manner in a single day a total of 473 flexes, banners and hoardings are being removed. As per the instructions of Bangalore North City Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar, team of officers and employees of the corporation have worked tirelessly on a single day (Monday) to remove a record number of 473 flexes, banners and hoardings with the intention to keep city clean and beautiful.



With removal of 280 flexes, banners and hoardings Kodigehalli stands first in the list. Followed by T Dasarahalli 54, Thanisandra 45, Jakkur 38, Attur 35 and 21 in Yelahanka Satellite Town making it a record of 473 number of flexes, banners and hoardings removed across all wards within the limits of Corporation.

MINISTER M.B. PATIL HOLDS DISCUSSIONS WITH MENZIES AVIATION, UPL, TATA SONS AND OTHER COMPANIES

Bengaluru: Minister for Large and Medium Industries M.B. Patil, who is participating in the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting in Davos, held discussions on the first day, Monday, with senior representatives of Menzies Aviation, UPL, The Coca-Cola Company, Tata Sons, Anheuser-Busch InBev (AB InBev) and Natural Fiber Welding (NFW Earth).

In a media release issued from Davos, the Minister said that Menzies Aviation has already invested \$25 million in Bengaluru for the development of cargo handling operations. The



company is now exploring opportunities to offer additional services at the Kempegowda International Airport and has expressed its willingness to invest a further \$10 million. In addition, Menzies Aviation has shown interest in establishing a Global Capability Centre (GCC) in the State, he said. The fertiliser major UPL is looking to expand its operations in Karnataka.

Ramesh Babu urged to implement House Committee report on clubs



Bengaluru : Legislative Council member Ramesh Babu has urged to properly implement the report on clubs given by the House Committee and to implement the proposed bill given by the committee.

In this regard, he has written a letter to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and the Chairman of the Legislative Council, saying that the 14th Karnataka Legislative Assembly had constituted a House Committee in 2012-13 to control the

illegal activities of clubs in the state and the Greater Bengaluru Metropolitan Area. The committee had presented an interim report in the House on 07-06-2013. Later, the House Committee submitted a comprehensive report of about 180 pages to the Speaker on 07-02-2017.

The House Committee has mentioned in its report that clubs are carrying out illegal activities by flouting the government rules and laws. In addition, it has visited many clubs and examined the

bylaws and rules of the clubs and given an opportunity to their objections, and has prepared and presented a report. In addition, a proposed bill has been presented. If the proposed bill is implemented, it will be convenient to bring the clubs in the state under the purview of the law and control them. Although almost eight years have passed since the report was presented, it has not been implemented till now. In the interest of the state, in order to ensure that the clubs run transparently and to increase the income of the state government, it is imperative to implement the report of the House Committee. The committee has held many meetings and obtained information and then submitted a report. Before submitting the report, it visited other states and obtained information about the clubs, made a lengthy study and gave a good report, and Council member Ramesh Babu has urged in his letter to implement it.

"Innovation Flourishes Only When Education and Industry Collaborate," says Former ISRO Director Dr. Mylswamy Annadurai

Bengaluru : "Innovation becomes more prolific and fruitful only when educational institutions and industries work together. Through this collaboration, it is possible to find solutions to societal problems," said Dr. Mylswamy Annadurai, former Director of ISRO.

He was speaking after inaugurating the BBC 2.0 Catalyst Program, an initiative organized by the Bangalore Bioinnovation Centre (BBC) in collaboration with K-Tech, aimed at connecting skill development with innovation and promoting self-employment. Dr. Annadurai noted that while facilities are available in the healthcare sector, the increasing number of patients demands advanced technology and innovative solutions. He also highlighted the immense opportunities in the energy sector, stating that responsible involvement can transform many existing challenges into opportuni-



ties. "Bengaluru, particularly through its IT and BT sectors, has the potential to make a global mark and become a hub for innovation-led development," he added.

Innovation in Agriculture: Dr. Annadurai emphasized that India is primarily an agricultural nation and holds the top position globally in banana cultivation. "Banana pseudostems, which are usually discarded after harvest, cre-

ate waste management challenges for farmers. By applying research-based solutions, this solid waste can be reprocessed and recycled, creating value instead of waste," he explained. Drawing parallels with space exploration, he mentioned, "Although around 100 missions attempted lunar exploration, Chandrayaan gained global recognition as the first mission to analyze the Moon uniquely and comprehen-

sively. The Moon is the same for everyone; the difference lies in the perspective. India is moving towards the peak of the global innovation ecosystem. With the right combination of talent, technology, and cooperation, India has the potential to deliver transformative missions." At BBC. BBC 2.0 - Mission for Life sciences: Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Manjula N IAS Secretary Dept of E, IT and BT, stated about the new phase of BBC activities and new initiatives of Beyond Bangalore along with the collaboration with NABARD and RKVY is playing a significant and effective role in promoting innovation-based solutions in agriculture. She stressed that focusing on nutrition, value addition, and sustainable food systems is essential for Karnataka's long-term development. Also NABARD support in establishment of new BBC NABARD-RKVY Agri innovations centre.

EDITORIAL

THE RISE, EXILE, AND
FADING FOOTPRINTS OF
KASHMIRI PANDITS

The Kashmiri Pandits are Saraswat Brahmins, one of the oldest ethnic groups of the Indian subcontinent. Their history can arguably be traced back to the first human settlements in the Valley over 4,000 years ago, rooted in a land they believed was reclaimed from a vast lake by the sage Kashyapa. For centuries, Kashmir was the “sharda peeth,” or the seat of learning. The Pandits developed Kashmir Shaivism, a sophisticated school of philosophy that views the universe as a manifestation of pure consciousness. Unfortunately, this highly educated and scholarly community was persecuted in history at least eight times between 1320 and 1990.

1) 1320: It was Zulju, also known as Zul Qadir Khan, a Turco-Mongol invader who attacked in 1320 AD and wreaked devastation when he commanded the force that conquered Kashmir.

2) 1389–1413: Sultan Sikandar, or Sikandar Butshikan, who was also known as the ‘iconoclast,’ destroyed massive temples like Martand and gave Hindus in the area the choice to convert, flee, or die.

3) 1413–1420: Ali Shah, the son of Sikandar, continued his father’s policies with even more brutality, deploying guards to prevent Pandits from escaping so they could be forcibly converted.

4)1500s: Under Kaji Chak and Musa Raina, who were influenced by Shia missionary Mir Shams-ud-Din Iraqi, thousands were forcibly converted. Those who resisted were massacred on the holy day of Ashura, according to K.L. Bhan.

5) Late 1600s: Mughal ruler Aurangzeb’s governor, Iftikhar Khan, used extreme force to convert the community. This led the Pandits to seek help from the Sikh Guru Tegh Bahadur, who was eventually killed while protecting them.

6) 1720s: During a period of Mughal decline, local fanatical leaders including the cleric Mullah Abdul Nabi imposed “jizya” or tax and banned Pandits from wearing turbans, shoes, or even riding horses.

7) 1753-1819: Afghan Rule is widely considered the darkest era. Afghan governors would tie Pandits in pairs in grass sacks and drown them in Dal Lake. It was said that “a Pandit’s life was not worth the price of a hen.”

8) 1989-1990: Modern militancy, the rise of Pakistan-sponsored insurgency and radical Islamism led to targeted killings and mosque announcements. This forced most of the community into exile. The Kashmiri Pandits’ ‘best times’ are often associated with the reign of Lalitaditya Muktapida in the 8th century and later, the peaceful rule of Zain-ul-Abidin in the 15th century. The latter invited Pandits back after a period of persecution, earning him the title Budshah, the great king. During these eras, the community thrived as administrators, scholars, and spiritual leaders. Life moved on after the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India in 1948. The two communities, Pandits and Muslims, lived in harmony although Kashmiri Pandits were always viewed with a bit of suspicion because of their religious identification with the majority community of mainland India. Pandits were, however, acknowledged as good teachers and professionals (many were doctors and bureaucrats). Interestingly in spite of being Hindus they were very good teachers of the Persian language and were also recognised as good interpreters of the Quran. The most painful chapter in their modern history began in January 1990. As Islamic militancy surged in the Valley, fuelled by external support and internal radicalisation, the minority community was targeted with a campaign of terror. Slogans like “Raliv, galiv ya tchaliv (convert, die, or leave)” reverberated from loudspeakers of the mosques.

Edit

How China Got Trapped In
Its Own 'Export Miracle'

Last week, China reported the world's largest ever trade surplus for 2025, a year when Donald Trump's tariffs on more than 90 countries gave a jolt to the global economic order. The Chinese trade surplus reached a massive \$1.19 trillion, despite Beijing reducing exports to the US by 20%. It simply sold much more to the rest of the world, including India. The staggering \$1.9 trillion trade surplus of China is just under half the size of India's GDP and close to the size of Saudi Arabia's, a G-20 member. Last year, China was the largest trading partner of Brazil - in America's backyard, of Central Asia - in Russia's backyard and the Gulf countries, where the US used to dominate. The US has already lost Africa to Beijing; if Trump continues with his disastrous tariff policies, even other regions could become China's number one trading partner, replacing the US. China has not had a global trade deficit since 1993. It has come a long way from being one of the world's poorest countries in 1978, when its leader Deng Xiao Ping introduced economic reforms, to becoming the world's second largest economy and a superpower. But in the process, China has also transformed the global economy, making everyone else dependent on it, based on a model that has created problems even for its own people. But can this model survive? The Making Of China's Economic Model Beijing's exports-based economic model has roots in Deng's reforms, which paved the way for the country to become the world's manufacturing hub. Large plants and factories were set up across the country to produce cheaper products for the rest of the world. Gradually, millions of Western manufacturing jobs were outsourced to factories in China. These state-subsidised plants forced many factories in other countries to close down because they could not compete with Chinese products. As early as 1994, silk farmers in India were complaining that the dumping of cheap Chinese synthetic silk in the country was driving them out of business. Beijing has often been accused of dumping its products in other countries. Such accusations have resurfaced after the publication of the lat-



est record surplus figures. But China has continued to expand its production capacity, diversifying into many new fields. The current Chinese leader, Xi Jinping, has taken the country's economic model to a new level. After becoming the head of the Communist Party in 2013, he focused on high-quality development by investing in strategic emerging industries to become a dominant force that could not only challenge China's rivals but also control them. Self-Reliance Or World Domination? At the core of China's economic strategy is making itself self-reliant, according to the Chinese leaders. Xi's 10-year programme, known as Made in China, launched in 2015 to reduce dependence on the West, has achieved most goals. Beijing's unprecedented investment in green technologies has made it the undisputed world leader in renewables, electric vehicles and many other fields. Over the week-end, China's state media reported that the country consumed 10.4 trillion kilowatt-hours of power in 2025, according to the National Energy Administration. This is more than double the use in the United States and exceeds the combined power consumption in India, Russia, Japan

and the European Union. This suggests industrial plants and AI data centres in China are working harder than anywhere else. Xi has also prepared China for a trade war with the United States and ordered his officials to work on choke points for its economy, which he successfully employed last year in response to Trump's tariffs. As early as 2019, Xi described rare earths and other critical minerals as an "important strategic resource." Beijing now has almost total control over the global supply of those minerals. India may be a leading supplier of pharmaceuticals, but China is the world's dominant producer of the ingredients needed to make antibiotics and other pharmaceuticals. The same is the case in the solar power industry. Global Domination But Domestic Repression China's economic growth helped its government to lift tens of millions of people out of poverty and make many others in the country rich, especially in the early years of reform. But its model of increasing growth by selling cheaply to the world has had its implications. For years, Chinese families subsidised the country's rise through foregone returns while the rest of the world splurged on dis-

counted Chinese goods. While the rest of the world is fighting inflation, China is facing an acute problem of deflation, where prices continue to drop, discouraging customers from buying in the fear that goods would be even cheaper later. This is caused by overcapacity in factories and weak domestic demand. A persistent decline in consumption signals deeper economic trouble. Last year, Chinese authorities promised new child-care subsidies, increased wages and better paid leaves to revive a slowing economy. But that has failed to have any meaningful impact. The collapse of the property market in recent years has also made Chinese consumers more risk-averse, leading them to cut back on spending. Domestic consumption drives more than 80% of growth in the US and UK, and about 70% in India. China's share has typically ranged between 50% to 55% over the past decade. So Xi has a hard task to encourage his countrymen to spend more. Falling Birth Rate China is facing another problem that is threatening its economic model. A shrinking population of youngsters and an ever-growing number of elderly people. On Monday, the authorities announced that the birth rate has now fallen to the lowest level since 1949, when Mao Zedong came to power after leading the communist revolution. Last year, only 7.92 million new babies were born, a decline of 17% over 2024. This means China will have fewer people to work in its factories to sustain its export-based economy. On top of that, young families now have to care for their elderly parents. The Social Security System in China is poor in comparison to other industrialised economies. The Chinese government has offered many incentives to encourage youngsters to have children and taxed contraceptives but young Chinese are not keen to produce babies. Currency Manipulation Western countries have often alleged that China's rise has been aided by the manipulation of the global system, using its state-owned or subsidised firms to buy depressed assets in other countries, and, above all, keeping its currency renminbi artificially low - which makes its products cheap.

When the educated stand and the illiterate
sit: The insult of education in democracy

-Dr. Satyavan Saurabh

Any civilized society is defined by its education system and the respect it receives. Education is not merely a collection of degrees, but rather a culture of conscience, discipline, constitutional understanding, and public responsibility. The question is whether a democracy like India truly respects this education, or whether educated people in the corridors of power are merely destined to stand in a posture of obedience. In India, millions of young people reach the civil services after years of rigorous preparation, failure, and struggle. They enter the IAS, IPS, or other services after a thorough study of the Constitution, administration, economics, sociology, and policymaking. Even after selection, they face lengthy training, field postings, and constant accountability. On the other hand, these same officers are often seen standing with folded hands before public representatives whose educational background and administrative understanding are extremely limited. This is the scene where the truth of the system speaks, not satire—the illiterate are sitting, the educated are standing. The journey to becoming a civil servant is a years-long endeavor. The exam tests not just facts, but also thinking, analytical skills, ethics, and the ability to make decisions under pressure. Even after joining the service, every file, every order, and every signature must stand the test of future scrutiny. In contrast, there is no minimum educational

qualification required for entry into politics, nor is formal training in policy or administration mandatory. Public support is the soul of democracy, but when that very support becomes a veneer to conceal a lack of competence within the entire system, then the problems begin. Democracy means rule by the people, but democracy has never been a celebration of ignorance. Successful democracies value both political leadership and professional administration. There, the decision-making stage is dominated by facts and logic, not emotions. Our situation is developing into one where debates are more noisy and less scholarly. The heat of accusations and counter-accusations is high, and the light of data and facts is low. In such an environment, the bureaucracy, which represents knowledge and process, is reduced to a mere machine that obeys orders. This mentality gives rise to the scenario—the kurta is sitting, the uniform is standing. In the vision of independent India, khadi and khaki were considered complementary. Khadi symbolized public opinion, politics, and policymaking, while khaki symbolized law, order, and impartial implementation. A respectful relationship between the two was supposed to lay the foundation for good governance. Today, the situation is such that khadi often appears to impose its views through numerical strength and positional power, while khaki, fearing transfer, retaliation, or false accusations, refrains from offering prudent advice. Officers have come

to believe that "what the higher-ups want" is more important than "what is right." This mindset not only weakens administrative ethics but also calls into question the rule of law. This environment directly impacts the image of education in society. When young people repeatedly witness the scene where those who studied for years, passed competitive exams, and underwent training are left standing at the end, while those who climbed the political ladder without any preparation are left sitting and making the final decisions, disappointment naturally arises. The message is clear: education does not bring power, knowledge does not make decisions, and hard work does not ensure respect. Gradually, education becomes a mere means to obtain employment, not a means to guide society. Ironically, when policies fail, plans fail to materialize, or corruption is exposed, officers are often the first to be targeted. The reality is that most major decisions are made at the political level, and officers are the implementers of those policies. Yet, the entire responsibility for failure is placed on them. This is a double injustice—limited participation in decision-making, but complete accountability. The result is that honest and forthright officers are discouraged, and "silence and doing what is told" becomes the safe option. Whenever the question is raised about whether a minimum level of education and administrative understanding should be required for policymaking,

the immediate argument is, "Are you questioning the legitimacy of public representatives?" It should be clear that the question is not one of legitimacy, but of competence. Representatives are elected by the people; this is their democratic legitimacy, and it must be respected. But is a mandate in itself a certificate of expertise in every field? Should decisions affecting millions of people be made solely based on political expediency, caste equations, or electoral gains and losses? The question is simple—if qualifications and examinations are required for the jobs of doctors, engineers, teachers, or even ordinary clerks, how can leadership of a major ministry be considered possible without any training and minimal intellectual preparation? Democracy does not mean that "whoever gets elected knows everything"; it means that the elected leadership makes decisions with the help of experts, administrative experience, and constitutional values. The solution lies not in elevating officials to the highest order, nor in diminishing public representatives. The solution lies in balance. Public representatives should set policy direction and priorities; officials should shape that direction in accordance with the constitutional framework and administrative practicalities. Certain steps are necessary for this—mandatory constitutional and administrative training for public representatives, systematic orientation programs for new legislators and ministers.

Dear America, Keep Your Republic
and Let All Others Keep Theirs

It is not easy to play poker with Washington these days. It holds a trump card never seen in the deck before. It is now an ace, a king, a jack, and a joker with very dark intent. For example, just when we were being schooled to believe that Russia and China could be gunning for Greenland, it turns out that is the trump card gunning for Europe and NATO. The terrible child, having snatched the bauble of world opinion – which he otherwise despises – from Maria Machado, with a forthrightly stated “I am the one who deserves the peace prize”, is again to the fore. “I want Greenland, give me Greenland,” says he. “And if you don’t I will thee tariff more and yet more; you are allies only if I be your lead bad boy. If not, Europe and NATO can go as many leagues below the Mediterranean as they might, so long as I have my Greenland.” Gosh, if only the good old Dr. Sigmund Freud were still with us, what illuminations he might have shared with us little people. What of the lilliputians who live on that land? The joker in the poker would say, “In poker, the winner takes all, be they chips or homo sapiens.” So come forth, speak to them the truth that only muscle matters; the rest is moral blackmail visited by the weak on the puissant. Thus spake Zarathustra, have you forgotten? No sir, we haven’t.



And we remember what inferno their teachings of Nietzsche brought the world to not too long ago, dear Trump; which is why we need regime change, foremost in that land which once shook off the monarchs who tyrannised those whom you now lead as did the despots of old. So, dear Europe, do you begin to see the new poker game and the new trump card that begins to do that to you what neither Russia nor China have yet done? Ten percent tariffs more already, with promise of 25% come first of June, should you fail to come to supplicant senses? Dear NATO, you may well be fighting the next war not against Russia or China but your chief guarantor, the US. Do laugh; But also begin to take a leaf from Canada’s book. Neither

Europe nor Canada seem any more to belong to the “western hemisphere” which Trump has vowed to protect with blood and guts; so why not turn East? You have a combined GDP equivalent to the US. So think how you might put the joker back in the pack by simply teaming up with Russia and China who, after all, have never coveted any of your belongings, not even Greenland; and who, in fact, saved you from your own predators eight decades ago. So rise and shine. Bring down the poker. Save Greenland. Show the way down to the Greenback, where it may begin to be reborn with a human face. Build a new world with sturdy, self-confident, peace-loving BRICS. Prepare a new American ground to plant a Bernie Sanders here, a

Zohran Mamdani there. Forestall the bad boy of the day from extracting Mette Frederiksen, who governs Greenland, as he did the incautious Nicolas Maduro. And, dear Americans, look to Minneapolis. Allow yourselves to take in the full meaning of the contention there, before the moment comes when, like a century and a half before, a call goes up for secession from the Union. Save the federation, save democracy and save the ideals which led mankind out from the dark ages. Recall Benjamin Franklin’s prophetic caution: “A republic, if you can keep it.” Keep your republic and help all others keep what they have chosen for themselves. Badri Raina taught at Delhi University.

Tata Motors Launches 17 Next-Generation Trucks, sets New Standards for Safety, Profitability & Progress

New Delhi, 20 January 2026: In a landmark move set to transform the Indian trucking landscape, Tata Motors, India's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer and mobility solutions provider, today launched its next-generation portfolio of 17 trucks, spanning 7 to 55 tonnes, setting new benchmarks in safety, profits and progress. This comprehensive launch introduces the all-new Azura series, the cutting-edge Tata Trucks.ev range, and significant upgrades to the established Prima, Signa, and Ultra platforms. Engineered to conform to stringent global safety standards (ECE R29 03), these trucks maximise earning potential, reduce total cost of ownership and enhance vehicle uptime to deliver greater success to transporters. Launching the new trucks, Mr. Girish Wagh, MD & CEO, Tata Motors Ltd., said, "India's trucking landscape is undergoing a rapid transformation, driven by progressive national policies, modern infrastructure, and the rising demand for safer, cleaner, and more efficient logistics. Tata Motors has always



led the way in setting benchmarks that shape the industry's future. With the introduction of our next-generation portfolio—including the all-new Azura series, two advanced high-efficiency powertrains, India's widest range of zero-emission electric trucks and tippers on our new I-MOEV architecture, significant upgrades to European standard cabins and industry-leading safety features, increased payload and fuel efficiency, all seamlessly integrated with Fleet Edge digital services, we are advancing this legacy. Guided by 'Better Always'

philosophy, our relentless drive for innovation, deep commitment to localisation, and unwavering focus on customer success embody the vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', enhancing India's self-reliance and aspiration to lead in sustainable mobility." Introducing Azura - Excellence Reimagined for the ILMCV segment Highlights of Azura ü New 3.6-litre diesel engine with best-in-class performance and efficiency ü Available in 7 to 19-tonne configurations ü Contemporary styling with bold grille, stylish panels, and signature Trust bar

ü All-new walkthrough Cabin with enhanced interiors – Comfortable and safe with D+2 seating configuration, reclining seats, enhanced utility space, ergonomically designed for fatigue-free driving ü Tata Motors showcased the all-new Azura range. Purpose-built to deliver superior performance, comfort and uptime in the intermediate and light commercial vehicle segment. Engineered to drive productivity, safety and comfort, Azura combines aesthetics with purpose for a fatigue-free driving experience. Powered by a

new 3.6-litre diesel engine delivering best-in-class performance and efficiency, Azura sets a new benchmark for reliability and uptime. The Azura range will be offered in 7 to 19-tonne configurations, perfectly suited for a diverse array of applications—from e-commerce and FMCG distribution to white goods delivery, construction material transport, agricultural and industrial goods movement, as well as intercity, medium-haul, and regional logistics. Bringing World-Class Safety to Indian Roads Tata Motors has set a new benchmark for road safety by comprehensively upgrading its entire truck portfolio—including the Signa, Prima, Ultra, and all-new Azura range—to meet the stringent ECE R29 03 global crash safety standard (Euro crash norms). These trucks feature cabins engineered for full frontal, rollover, and side-impact protection, and are equipped with up to 23 India-specific advanced active safety technologies such as adaptive cruise control, lane departure warning, and collision mitigation systems.

Bandhan Mutual Fund Offers Two ETF Fund of Funds for Simple and Efficient Access to Precious Metals



Hyderabad, January 2026: Bandhan Mutual Fund has announced the launch of the Bandhan Gold ETF FoF and Bandhan Silver ETF FoF, two open-ended schemes designed to provide investors with an easy, transparent, and cost-efficient way to participate in gold and silver. The New Fund Offers (NFOs) open on Monday, 12 January 2026, and close on Tuesday, 20 January 2026. Investments in the Bandhan Gold ETF FoF and Bandhan Silver ETF FoF can be made through licensed mutual fund distributors, investment advisors, online platforms, or directly at <https://bandhanmutual.com/campaign/info/>

Vishal Kapoor, CEO, Bandhan AMC, commenting on the launch, said, "Gold and silver can play a meaningful role in portfolio diversification, but the way investors access these assets matters. Physical metal often brings uncertainties around purity, making charges, storage, and resale, while ETFs require demat accounts that many investors still do not use. The Fund of Fund (FoF) structure removes barriers such as demat requirements, lowers the entry point to ₹1,000, and enables disciplined investing through SIPs starting at ₹100. Bandhan Gold ETF FoF and Bandhan Silver ETF FoF combines the

assurance and transparency of ETFs with the simplicity of mutual fund investing. Investors can now participate in the resilience of gold and the structural industrial demand for silver through a liquid, transparent format. These offerings are designed to make precious metal investing easier, smarter, and more accessible for a much wider audience." Bandhan Gold ETF FoF and Bandhan Silver ETF FoF are suitable for investors seeking to enhance portfolio resilience, diversify across assets, and participate in the evolving global demand for precious metals through a simple and efficient investment route.

Yulu Marks National Road Safety Month with Rider Awareness Rallies in Bengaluru and Delhi

Bengaluru, January 20, 2026: Reinforcing its commitment to safer roads and responsible riding, India's largest shared EV mobility tech company Yulu, organised rider awareness initiatives in Bengaluru and Delhi as part of the National Road Safety Month campaign spearheaded by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH). Aligned with this year's theme, "Sadak Suraksha, Jeevan Raksha" (Road Safety Saves Lives), Yulu conducted a two-wheeler EV rally in Bengaluru and participated in a government-led road safety rally in Delhi to promote traffic discipline and health awareness among riders. The company kicked off its campaign in Bengaluru with a 5-kilometre anti-drug and road safety awareness rally, joined by 30 police officials. The rally was flagged off by Inspector R. Veeresh of the Vivek Nagar Police Station and covered key junctions across Vivek Nagar, Koramangala and surrounding areas. The offi-



cials engaged with fellow road users and local residents, highlighting the importance of personal well-being and responsible riding. In Delhi, Yulu participated in a two-wheeler rally organised by MoRTH and Delhi Traffic Police at Connaught Place. The rally was flagged off by Additional Commissioner of Police (Traffic), DK Gupta. It saw participation from around 200 riders—including Yulu users and delivery partners—who interacted with commuters to reinforce the importance of road safety awareness.

Over the last eight years, Yulu has promoted road safety through multiple platforms and formats including in-app and WhatsApp-based safety notifications, training videos and on-ground workshops conducted in partnership with local police departments. "Enabling people to navigate cities safely and securely is a vital part of Yulu's mission. Therefore, we work closely with all relevant stakeholders—from delivery brands to gig workers and transport officials—to sensitise commu-

nities to the importance of responsible and safe riding," says Mr RK Misra, Co-founder and President - Ecosystem Partnerships, Yulu. One example of this can be seen in Yulu's largest market, Bengaluru, where the company has deployed trained safety Marshals at major junctions to guide riders and ensure compliance with traffic rules, at the request of the Bengaluru Traffic Police. These, and numerous other initiatives, underscore Yulu's ongoing efforts to foster safer and healthier urban communities.

THE PREMIA ACADEMY HONoured WITH SUSTAINABILITY SUPERSTAR AWARD AT GOSHARPENER SUSTAINABILITY SUPERSTAR '25 CONCLAVE

HYDERABAD, 20th January, 2026: The Premia Academy, a leading international school in Hyderabad, today has been recognized for its exceptional Sustainability Superstar Awarded at G o S h a r p e n e r Sustainability Superstar '25 Conclave and recognises institutions creating meaningful impact through sustainability-driven practices The recognition reflects The Premia Academy's belief that education should not only prepare students for careers, but also for life—by nurturing values of responsibility, empathy, and environmental consciousness. At the conclave, the Academy also shared its experiences and insights on shaping education that is future-ready, sustainable, and rooted in purpose. The G o S h a r p e n e r Sustainability Superstar '25 Conclave brought together changemakers



from across sectors to discuss how organisations can create long-term value while staying socially and environmentally responsible. The Premia Academy stood out for seamlessly weaving sustainability into its

curriculum, campus culture, and everyday learning experiences. Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Sinduri Reddy, Founder & Managing Director of The Premia Academy, said: "This national recognition is a

powerful affirmation of our core mission and its truly belongs to our students, teachers, and the entire Premia community. Sustainability for us is not a checklist—it's a way of thinking, learning, and growing together. We want our students to understand their role in building a better, more responsible future." "We believe the classrooms of today shape the world of tomorrow. By encouraging curiosity, critical thinking, and conscious choices, we aim to raise young individuals who don't just succeed professionally, but also contribute positively to society." Adding to this, Ms. Trupti Rao, Principal of The Premia Academy, added: The Sustainability Superstar Award reinforces The Premia Academy's ongoing efforts to redefine education—one that empowers learners to lead with purpose, act responsibly, and make a meaningful difference in the world around them.

Celebrate Republic Day 2026 with Exclusive ASUS Laptop Offers



Hyderabad, January 2026: ASUS, a Taiwanese tech giant, is celebrating the spirit of India's Republic Day with exciting offers across its wide range of laptops. As part of the Republic Day Sale, consumers can upgrade their digital experience with cutting-edge ASUS laptops, ranging from high-performance gaming machines to sleek and lightweight productivity devices. The offers span across ASUS' popular product line-ups, including

ROG, TUF, Vivobook, and Zenbook series. During this limited-period festive sale, customers can enjoy savings of up to 19% on select ASUS laptops, making it an ideal time to invest in advanced technology and best-in-class performance. These special Republic Day offers will be available till 26th January 2026 at leading electronics retail chains, including Reliance Digital, Croma, and Vijay Sales, ensuring easy access for customers across the country. Customers can

also enjoy offers on ASUS AIO PCs, Consumer & Gaming DT Accessories across all platforms. In addition to the festive discounts, ASUS customers can also avail attractive bank and card finance offers, including No Cost EMI, low-cost EMI and IBD options on select models. To add more value, ASUS is also offering extended warranty plans and exclusive goodies starting at just ₹99, redeemable via the ASUS Promo website during the offer period.

BHARAT STEEL TO SHAPE GLOBAL DIALOGUE ON THE FUTURE OF STEEL

New Delhi, 13 Jan, 2026: As India prepares to host Bharat Steel 2026, a global platform to reshape future of steel, the nation is signalling its intent to showcase the next era of global steelmaking forged by R&D, digitalization, innovation, and access to high skilled engineering and technology human resources. The two-day summit in New Delhi will bring together policymakers, technology pioneers and industry leaders to confront the defining challenges of the decade: building resilient supply chains and accelerating the transition to low-emission steel production. Steel has played a pivotal role in modern economies, akin to a skeleton", emphasised Shri Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of India, remarking that whether it is skyscrapers, shipping, highways, high-speed rail, smart cities, or industrial corridors, steel is the strength behind every success story. "India is striving to achieve the goal of becoming a \$5 trillion economy, with the steel sector playing a significant role in this mission", he added during India Steel 2025, expressing pride in India being the world's second-largest steel producer. The Prime Minister's vision forms the corner-



stone of this year's Bharat Steel summit, which seeks to reimagine a global blueprint for the steel sector at a time marked by economic uncertainty, fragmented trade flows, rising protectionist tariffs, and the urgent imperative of achieving net-zero goals. India's leadership is rooted in both scale as it is already among the largest steel producers and ambition, with a national target of 300 MT of steel production capacity by 2030 and 500 MT by 2047. India's steel demand continues to grow across infrastructure, housing, railways, defence and energy. But achieving 500 MT requires more than added capacity; it demands

secure raw materials, predictable regulations and innovation-led modernisation. Strengthened domestic beneficiation, reduced coking-coal dependence, improved logistics and efficient approvals form the backbone of this supply-side push. The Government's Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for specialty steel is reshaping the sector, shifting India from commodity-grade output toward high-value precision engineered steels essential for aerospace, automotive, defence and advanced infrastructure. 'Green' steel lies at the heart of India's competitiveness. The Ministry of Steel's 2024 Green Steel Roadmap outlines the transi-

tion to clean energy integration, green hydrogen pilots, CCUS deployment, expanded scrap utilisation and emerging routes like direct electrolysis. Digitalisation; covering IoT monitoring, robotics, automation and predictive maintenance; will be a core Summit theme. AI-based optimisation promises efficiency gains, lower waste and improved quality. This technology thrust will be reinforced by expanded R&D, deeper partnerships, clearer tech-transfer pathways and pilot-scale trials for emerging processes. As global trade moves toward carbon-accounting norms, India aims to position itself as a major exporter of low-emission, high-grade steel. The National Steel Strategy prioritises joint ventures in hydrogen-based DRI, CCUS and electrolysis technologies, supported by targeted investment incentives. The Bharat Steel Summit thus marks a pivotal moment; one in which India seeks to chart a global roadmap for a steel sector that is secure, competitive, climate-aligned and future-ready. Such direction will ensure that steel remains not only the backbone of India's infrastructure, but also the spine of sustainable progress and global industrial leadership.

Chagos sovereignty no longer up for debate, says Mauritius, after Trump criticises UK deal

Mauritius' attorney general has responded to Donald Trump's criticism of the Chagos deal, stressing that it still expects the agreement to go ahead. In the written statement, Gavin Glover says it is "important to remember" that the deal was "negotiated, concluded and signed exclusively between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Mauritius". "The sovereignty of the Republic of Mauritius over the Chagos Archipelago is already unambiguously recognised by international law and should no longer be subject to debate," it says. "We expect the treaty to be implemented as soon as possible, in accordance with the commitments made." The government's opponents argue that giving up the Chagos Islands represents an act of national self-harm and a boost to the United Kingdom's rivals, especially China. The arguments include an element of



post-imperial hand-wringing but also the fear that the base at Diego Garcia, vital to both the UK and United States, will soon be more vulnerable. The base's remote location makes it extremely difficult to monitor, except from space. But if Mauritius decides to open up the waters of the Chagos archipelago to commercial fishing, this could change. "Beijing uses its fishing fleet as the eyes and ears of

its military," Jack Watling of the Royal United Services Institute wrote in November 2024. "There is a significant risk that such vessels will soon ply the waters around the base." If such concerns were shared by in Washington, there was little sign of it last summer when US Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke in glowing terms of what he called "this monumental achievement". In February

last year, Donald Trump said he had "a feeling that it's going to work out well". It's not clear why he seems to have changed his mind so dramatically. Donald Trump's post on his Truth Social platform earlier positioned the Chagos Islands deal as a matter of national security for America, referring to Diego Garcia as "the site of a vital US Military Base". The US launched a huge construction project

on the island in the 1970s and spent 10 years turning it into a fully operational military airbase. The site, and operations there, are highly secretive. Here are some of the operations it has been involved in before: During former US President George W Bush's so-called War on Terror, following the 9/11 (11 September) attacks, US stealth bombers would stop off at Diego Garcia as they returned from bombing-runs of al-Qaeda targets in Afghanistan. It was later a key base for US and UK operations during the Iraq War. Troops and bombing aircraft were stationed there, as well as the giant US Navy hospital ship USNS Comfort. More recently, in May 2025, satellite imagery from Earth data analytics company Planet Labs showed that the Pentagon had deployed bombers to the island. This came after the US ramped-

up its bombing campaign against the Houthis rebel group in Yemen and amid tensions with Iran. Downing Street has said the US still supports the deal to hand sovereignty of the Chagos Islands to Mauritius, despite President Trump calling it "an act of great stupidity". The prime minister's official spokesperson says: "Our position hasn't changed on Diego Garcia or on the treaty that's been signed." "The US supports the deal and the president explicitly recognised its strength last year," they say. "All our Five Eyes allies support it too and they all understand the national security capabilities that the base provides." When the UK took control of the Chagos Islands - Diego Garcia is the southernmost - from former British colony Mauritius, it sought to rapidly evict its population of more than 1,000 people to make way for the military base.

France makes first interception targeting small boat crossings to UK



French officials have made their first interception on the water as part of a new policy aimed at stopping small boats carrying illegal migrants to the UK. A so-called "taxi-boat" was boarded by French officers on Saturday on the Aa canal in Gravelines, which is on the Channel coast above Calais. It follows a change of tactics agreed in November following growing pressure from the UK government to step up interventions. A photograph of the aftermath of the operation

obtained by the BBC shows a number of men - apparently people-smugglers - on an inflatable dinghy with the police launch alongside. The inflatable is then towed to the dockside. The French maritime prefecture declined to comment to the BBC, saying only that there was "an ongoing judicial investigation" regarding the small boat. France agreed to the new tactics at a summit in the UK last July between President Emmanuel Macron and Sir Keir Starmer.

Palestinian children's football pitch faces Israeli demolition ultimatum



A Palestinian children's football club in the occupied West Bank faces imminent demolition despite an international campaign to save it. Its supporters say it provides a rare sporting opportunity for young Palestinian players. But Israel insists it's been built without the necessary permits. In this deeply divided land so much is contested; from the identities and faiths of the people who live here, to every inch of the ground they stand on. Recently, that has come to include one small patch of artificial turf laid down under the shadow of the giant concrete wall that isolates Israel from much of the occupied West Bank. In the context of the 7 October attacks, the two-year war in Gaza and the fragility of the current ceasefire, there are without doubt far more pressing issues. But this is a story freighted with symbolism and one which has drawn outsized international attention because of its

connection to that other world religion - football. On the day we visit, a group of Palestinian children are lining up to take penalty shots in the winter sunshine. The construction of the pitch began here on the edge of Bethlehem in 2020, and today it provides a place to practise for more than 200 young players from the nearby Aida refugee camp. The cramped and crowded streets contain the homes of the descendants of Palestinian families who were forced or who fled from their homes during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. On 3 November last year, as the children made their short walk from the camp for that day's training, they found a notice pinned to the gate of the football field declaring it to be illegal. The notice was followed soon by a demolition order. "We don't have anywhere else to play," 10-year-old Naya told me, wearing a Brazil shirt with the name of the footballing legend Neymar emblazoned on the back.



Surfer injured in fourth shark attack in Australian state in 48 hours

Spain train crash recovery continues as investigators probe 'gap' in rail

Heavy machinery is being used to assist in the recovery following a two-train crash in southern Spain which killed at least 41 people. Rescuers worked through a second night and said the death toll included three bodies still trapped in a wrecked carriage. More than 120 people were injured when carriages on a Madrid-bound train derailed and crossed over to the opposite tracks, hitting an oncoming train in Adamuz on Sunday evening. Sabotage has been ruled out, the interior minister has said, and the initial focus of investigators is on a broken rail on the high-speed line. Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez has cancelled his planned



trip to the World Economic Forum in Davos, pledging to get to the bottom of Spain's worst train disaster in more than a decade. Spain's King Felipe and Queen Letizia visited the site on Tuesday, shaking hands and speaking to emergency service workers near the site of the crash on the first of three days of

national mourning. Transport Minister Óscar Puente said the death toll "is not yet final", and officials are working to identify the dead. Puente said the investigation could take at least a month, describing the incident as "extremely strange". Interior Minister Fernando Grande-Marlaska ruled out sabo-

tage, telling reporters that it "was never considered", and he stressed that all hypotheses remained open. Óscar Puente warned against speculation and said a lot of cracks had been found on the track but investigators would have to determine whether they had caused the derailment or had been caused by it. A 30cm gap in one of the rails is the current focus of the investigation, according to Spanish reports. Technicians told El Mundo newspaper that a "bad" or "deteriorated" weld was "more than likely" the cause for the derailment. Ignacio Barrón, head of Spain's Commission of Investigation of Rail Accidents (CIAF).

US officials probing Minnesota ICE protest that disrupted church service

The US justice department has said it is investigating protesters who disrupted a Sunday service at a Minnesota church because they believed a pastor there worked for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Video showed protesters inside the church chanting "ICE out" and "Justice for Renee Good", the woman killed by an ICE agent in Minneapolis earlier this month. Justice department officials, who accuse the protesters of "desecrating a house of worship", say they will investigate them for civil rights violations. President Donald Trump has called them "agitators and insur-



rectionists". Anti-ICE protests continue in the state against Trump's immigration crackdown. Over the weekend, ICE officers arrested a naturalised US citizen at his St Paul home, after breaking down his front door. Videos showed officers escorting Chong Ly

Thao, clad only in shorts with a plaid blanket over his shoulders, out of his house with his hands behind his back. Images of the 56-year-old walking to a car in his snow-covered neighbourhood with an ICE agent at each elbow quickly spread across social media.

Thao was returned home later on Sunday. "I was praying. I was like, God, please help me, I didn't do anything wrong. Why do they do this to me? Without my clothes on," Thao, a Hmong man born in Laos, told Reuters. The Department of Homeland Security told Reuters that officers were investigating two individuals convicted of sexual offences who were linked to the address. Thao's family told Reuters that one of the individuals of interest previously lived at the address, but had moved out. The Pentagon has reportedly put 1,500 soldiers on standby for possible deployment.

Nigerian homicide police investigate death of singer Destiny Boy at 22



Police in Nigeria have made one arrest as they investigate the death at 22 of popular singer Destiny Boy, whose real name was Afeez Adesina. Ogun state police's homicide section is dealing with the case, it said in a brief statement. News of Destiny Boy's death emerged on Sunday, sparking shock and speculation on social media. It is not clear exactly what happened but his family reportedly said he had been suffering from a long-term illness. The body has since been buried in line with Muslim rites. Destiny Boy was seen as a promising young Afrofuji artist, known for blending traditional Yoruba Fuji sounds with modern Afrobeats. He came to national prominence after his 2019 version of popstar Davido's hit song Ife went viral on social media. He later recorded his own renditions of other popular songs as well as original tracks. Following the young man's death, videos shared widely on social media showed what appeared to be his body being transported to a mortuary, triggering

rumours about what may have led to his death. Family members have said the singer had been living with a long-term illness, which they said caused him to have seizures. In an online video, his mother, Saida, stated that the family had sought both medical and traditional treatment for the condition. She said the illness "had almost run him mad", adding that relatives had to physically restrain him during seizures to prevent him from running out. Nigerians online have been sending condolence messages, with some questioning the circumstances of his death. On X, artist Ruger appeared to be complaining that there had been "no autopsy" and "we just have to accept that he's dead." May God RIP Destiny Boy". The artist began his career as a backup dancer for Fuji musician Pasuma at T2 Boys Studios in Agege, a suburb of Lagos, before gaining wider attention in 2019. His death comes about a year after the birth of his first child with his partner, Iremide, in November 2024.

DONALD TRUMP SAYS HE WILL '100%' CARRY OUT GREENLAND TARIFFS THREAT, AS EU VOWS TO PROTECT ITS INTERESTS

Donald Trump has vowed to "100%" follow through on his threat to impose tariffs on European countries who oppose his demand to take control of Greenland. European allies have rallied around Greenland's sovereignty. Denmark's foreign minister emphasised the US president cannot threaten his way to ownership of the semi-autonomous Danish territory. UK Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper reiterated the UK's position that the future of Greenland is for "Greenlanders and for the Danes alone" to decide. On Monday, Trump declined to rule out the use of force and insisted he would press ahead with the threatened tariffs on goods arriving in the US from the UK and seven other Nato-

allied countries. In a post to Truth Social in the early hours of Tuesday morning, the US president said he had a "very good telephone call" with Nato secretary general Mark Rutte, and agreed to a meeting "of various parties" in Switzerland this week. He went on: "Greenland is imperative for National and World Security. There can be no going back - On that, everyone agrees!" Trump has said he will charge a 10% tariff "on any and all goods" sent from the UK to the US from 1 February, increasing to 25% from 1 June, until a deal is reached for Washington to purchase Greenland from Denmark. He said the same would apply to goods from Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, the



Netherlands and Finland - all of whom are members of the defence alliance Nato which was founded in 1949. Asked if he would follow through on the tariff threat, Trump told NBC News: "I will, 100%." When the outlet asked whether he would use force to seize the territory, the president replied "no comment". Trump added: "Europe ought to focus on



the war with Russia and Ukraine because, frankly, you see what that's gotten them... That's what Europe should focus on - not Greenland." Denmark has warned that US military action in Greenland would spell the end of Nato. In recent days, Greenland has received support from European members of the alliance - some even sent a

handful of troops to Greenland last week in a move seen as symbolic. However, Trump followed that deployment with an announcement to impose tariffs on the eight Nato allies. Danish foreign minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen said that Europe had to show President Trump tariff threats were "not the way forward". "We have red lines that can't be crossed," he told Sky News. "You can't threaten your way to ownership of Greenland. I have no intention of escalating this situation." Germany's Chancellor Friedrich Merz said that the tariffs did not benefit anyone, and he hoped to meet with the US president during his trip to Davos for the World Economic Forum. He said:

"We do not want this escalation. We do not want a trade dispute with the United States of America." He also added that the Trump administration would not have been surprised by Nato's so-called reconnaissance mission over the weekend, as it had been announced and agreed upon beforehand. "It was never a military action," the German chancellor said. The European Union is to hold an emergency summit in Brussels for its leaders on Thursday where they will discuss how to respond to Trump's latest threat to take over Greenland. Kaja Kallas, the EU's foreign policy chief, said the bloc has "no interest to pick a fight, but we will hold our ground".

Sports minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya congratulates Ladakh for showing capability to host Khelo India Winter Games

Leh (Ladakh), January 20: The curtains went up on the sixth edition of the Khelo India Winter Games at the Nawang Dorjan Stobdan (NDS) Stadium here on Tuesday. The Ladakh phase of the winter Games, that will host ice sports like skating and hockey, will conclude on January 26. This is the third time that the Union Territory of Ladakh is hosting KIWG. The snow leg of KIWG will be held in Gulmarg, Jammu & Kashmir later this year. At a colourful opening ceremony, punctuated by traditional music and dance and an exhibition ice hockey match between Army XI and UT Ladakh, Khelo India Winter Games 2026 were declared open by the Hon'ble Lt Governor of Ladakh, Shri Kavinder Gupta. The first leg of Khelo India Winter Games 2026 will be organised by the Youth Services and Sports department of the Union Territory of Ladakh under the supervision of the Sports Authority of India. The technical expertise for the con-



duct of the Games will be provided by the national sports promotional bodies/federations managing ice sports. In a message to Ladakh, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, the Hon'ble Minister for Youth Affairs & Affairs, said: "I congratulate the Union Territory of Ladakh for successfully hosting the Khelo India Winter Games once again and for demonstrating, with confidence and capability, that India's winter sports

future is being built from the Himalayas outward. Under the visionary leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Ladakh has emerged as a symbol of what focused policy, infrastructure development, and local commitment can achieve. The manner in which these Games have been organised sends a clear national signal that winter sports are now an integral part of India's competitive sporting framework

and will be pursued with seriousness, scale, and long-term intent." Dr Mandaviya added, "The Khelo India Winter Games 2026 have been deliberately designed as a two-leg competition, with ice sports in Leh followed by snow events in February at Gulmarg in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, to build depth, continuity, and high-quality competitive exposure for athletes. This structure allows

athletes to test themselves across varied terrains and conditions, closely aligned with international winter sport standards. Such sustained domestic competition is essential if India is to move beyond sporadic participation and steadily build credibility, consistency, and competitiveness in winter Olympic disciplines over the coming years." In his speech, Shri Gupta expressed how Ladakh has benefitted from Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision on promotion of sports in India. "Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India's sporting culture has received a renewed impetus. Through the Khelo India initiative, youth empowerment, physical fitness, and sporting excellence have been elevated as national priorities." Shri Gupta added: "Hosting the Khelo India Winter Games continuously for the past three years is a matter of great pride for Ladakh.

Shreyas Iyer Snubbed, This India Star To Bat At No. 3 In 1st T20I Against New Zealand

Indian cricket team skipper Suryakumar Yadav said that wicket-keeper batter Ishan Kishan will be taking Tilak Varma's slot in the batting order during the first T20I against New Zealand on Wednesday. With Tilak out of the first few matches due to injury, Suryakumar revealed that Kishan will be batting at No. 3. While Shreyas Iyer was another option for the No. 3 slot, the India captain explained that Kishan will be given the chance as he is a part of the T20 World Cup squad. Kishan was included in the T20 World Cup squad in place of Shubman Gill, keeping "team combination" in mind, while Shreyas was included as a replacement for Tilak for the first three T20I matches. "Ishan will bat at number 3 because he is a part of our T20 World Cup team and he was picked in the squad first so it's our responsibility to give him a chance," he said in the pre-match press conference. "He hasn't played for India for



past one and half year and in the mean time consistently performed in domestic cricket," the Indian skipper did not leave any room for guess work. "Since he (Ishan) has been picked for World T20, he deserves to play ahead (of Shreyas). Had it been a question of batting slots Nos 4 or 5, it would have been a different question altogether. Unfortunately, Tilak isn't there so Ishan is our best bet," he added. When asked if he himself has any chance of

batting at No.3 where he got a lot of success, the skipper indicated that he would like to be flexible. "I have batted at both positions for India. My stats at No. 4 are slightly better although they are good at No. 3 also. But then we are flexible with that," he said. "We will see and if the situation demands that we have to send a right-hander (in case right hander Sanju Samson gets out), then, I will go in, otherwise Tilak (now injured) has been doing really well at number three."

Sanjay Manjrekar Jumps To Gautam Gambhir's Defence With Stunning Claim: 'No Cricket Fan Remembers'

While India's first-ever ODI series defeat at home to New Zealand has sent another shockwave through the Indian cricket fraternity, former India cricketer and reputed commentator Sanjay Manjrekar urged fans to not read too much into the result of the series. Manjrekar came to the defence of head coach Gautam Gambhir and captain Shubman Gill by playing down the importance of the three-match bilateral series, claiming that many fans will not remember the result in a couple of weeks. In fact, Manjrekar went as far as to say that the World Cup is the only ODI tournament that holds value. "Honestly, in 50-overs cricket today, what really



matters are the World Cups and not even the Champions Trophy," Manjrekar said in a video on his official Instagram account. "If you try and remember the last three Champions Trophy winners, you'll struggle to remember those. But the

50-over World Cup, you'll remember each winner from the time the World Cup started. So, yes, if you want to have your setbacks and poor performances, get it out of the system now, in time for the next World Cup," he added. "These bilateral series are sched-

uled, but they're mostly warm up games and one shouldn't read too much into them. In fact, the importance of these bilateral series has become such that, two weeks later, no cricket fan also remembers the result of what happened in that bilateral ODI series," he explained. "It's all about the World Cups and form coming into the World Cup is really not a big indicator of who's going to win the World Cup," he further stated. India take on New Zealand in five T20Is, starting Wednesday, January 21. These five matches will be Suryakumar Yadav-led India's final games before they begin the defence of their T20 World Cup title on home soil.

Full Details Of Babar Azam-Steve Smith Controversy Revealed: 'Misunderstanding Of Cultures'

Sydney Sixers captain Moises Henriques revealed that the Big Bash League controversy involving Babar Azam and Steve Smith did not end on the spot and actually went on for a few days. It all started after the Pakistan cricketer was left fuming on being denied a single by Smith during their match against Sydney Thunder. Media reports claimed that Babar felt 'disrespected' by Smith's decision and even told his teammates in the dressing room about his feelings. He also slammed the boundary cushions with his bat after his dismissal during the match. However, ahead of their next game, Smith revealed that everyone was fine between the two and the



matter was completely resolved. Henriques has now revealed that he played a small part in establishing peace between the two players and he described the entire incident as "a bit of a misunderstanding of cultures". "It

explained to him, he was absolutely fine. They kissed and made up. I played a role post-game, and so it should be. He was quite upset with what happened on the field. So we needed to try and understand why he felt that way. So once we got to the bottom of it, it was ok," he said. Earlier, Smith opened up about his relationship with Pakistan star Babar Azam following their recent Big Bash League controversy. "Nah, he's good. We were just chatting before. I thought he batted really well the other night and we had a good partnership. We were talking about our golf there. He's looking forward to tonight; it's a nice wicket, so I hope we can get off to a good start again," Smith said.

"Mr Expert Of Cricket Has Suggestions": Virat Kohli's Brother Rips Into Sanjay Manjrekar



Virat Kohli's brother, Vikas Kohli, launched another scathing attack on former India cricketer and reputed commentator Sanjay Manjrekar. This follows after Manjrekar had lamented that Virat Kohli retired from Test cricket to instead play ODIs. Manjrekar had described ODIs as the "easiest format", and expressed his disappointment at Kohli's decision to play only the 50-over format. However, after Kohli smashed yet another century on Sunday - this time in a losing cause against New Zealand - his brother took to social media to hit back at Manjrekar's earlier comments. "I wonder if Mr Expert of Cricket has some suggestions for the easiest form of cricket. You need to be there to do that. Anyways, as I said, easier said than done," Vikas Kohli posted on his official Threads account, subtly referring to Manjrekar's statements. This is not Vikas Kohli's first criticism of

Manjrekar's comments, having made a post referring to the same just a few days earlier. "Such an easy format isn't it ... someone gave his gyaan a few days back... easier said than done....," he had said. On Sunday, Kohli made 124 runs off just 108 balls but India ended up failing to chase down a target of 337 as top-order batters like Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill and Shreyas Iyer failed to contribute highly. It was Kohli's fourth century in his nine List A matches. This is what Manjrekar had previously said about Kohli's ODI career. "Well, as Joe Root attains new heights in Test cricket, my mind goes to Virat Kohli. He's walked away from Tests, and it's unfortunate that in the five years that he struggled before retiring, he didn't quite put his heart and soul into finding out the problems as to why he was averaging 31 for five years in Tests. That is for another time as to what he could have done."

Brooklyn Beckham's Feud With Father David, Mother Victoria Goes Public: Timeline Of Events

Months, or rather years, of speculations of growing rifts within the Beckham family were finally made official as Brooklyn, the eldest son of David and Victoria, made some serious allegations against his parents in a 6-page statement. Brooklyn asserted that there's no scope of reconciliation with his family, as distance from them has freed him from the "overwhelming anxiety" he grew up with. The 26-year-old also cited "endless" attempts by his parents to undermine his marriage to Nicola Peltz Beckham. He even accused them of spreading lies to the media, which is why he could no longer remain quiet. Here's a timeline of events: Wedding Drama In 2022 - Nicola married



Brooklyn in a lavish Palm Beach ceremony. She wore Valentino Haute Couture instead of a Victoria Beckham design. Nicola later claimed Victoria's dress couldn't make it in time. However, sources alleged Victoria backed out at the "eleventh hour." - Reports emerged that Victoria "hijacked" the cou-

ple's first dance. Instead of Brooklyn dancing with Nicola, family friend Marc Anthony reportedly called Victoria to the stage to dance with her son to the couple's chosen song, leaving Nicola in tears. - Brooklyn later alleged that the night before the wedding, family members told him Nicola was "not blood"

and therefore "not family." 2023 - 2024: Just Another Family - The entire family appeared united at the London premiere of David's Netflix documentary in October 2023. - Victoria and Nicola were seen smiling together at the premiere of Nicola's film, Lola, appearing to quash feud rumours in February 2024. Brooklyn and Nicola spent Christmas with the Beckhams, with Victoria posting "together for the holidays makes me so happy", in December 2024. 2025: The Relationship Collapse - Brooklyn and Nicola were notably absent from David Beckham's 50th birthday celebrations. Brooklyn later claimed he travelled to London, but David refused to see him privately unless Nicola was

Rohtak Royals Kick Off Training Camp In Rohtak Under Head Coach Surrender Nada

Adroit Sports LLP-owned Rohtak Royals, the franchise representing the city of Rohtak in the inaugural Kabaddi Champions League (KCL), have begun their training camp in Rohtak under the guidance of newly appointed Head Coach Surrender Nada, marking the formal start of the team's preparations for the upcoming season. The Kabaddi Champions League Trophy Tour, which was recently launched, is travelling across the state and will reach Rohtak on January 21. For Surrender Nada, the camp marks the beginning of a new chapter after a decorated playing career spanning over 15 years. A gold medalist with India at the 2016



Kabaddi World Cup, the 2017 Asian Kabaddi Championship, the 2018 Dubai Kabaddi Masters and the 2019 South Asian Games, Nada now turns his focus to building Rohtak Royals from the sidelines. Speaking on the start of Rohtak Royals' journey in the Kabaddi

Champions League, Head Coach Surrender Nada expressed, "This is a matter of great joy for us, for our players, and for our state. Haryana has a huge number of Kabaddi players and a strong passion for the sport. The league will be extremely beneficial for future genera-

tions and it will give new talent an opportunity to showcase their skills, and that will ultimately benefit Haryana by providing these players with a strong platform." With Rohtak Royals assembling a squad that blends senior professionals, emerging talent and strong local representation, Nada underlined the importance of cohesion as the franchise builds towards its debut season, "My journey as a player has given me a strong foundation for this new role, and stepping in as the coach of Rohtak Royals is both exciting and motivating. The team has great potential, and our focus is on building the right combination and strong on-field coordination."

FULHAM IN TALKS TO SIGN MAN CITY WINGER BOBB



Fulham are in talks to sign winger Oscar Bobb from fellow Premier League side Manchester City. The 22-year-old has fallen down the pecking order under Pep Guardiola following the £62.5m signing of forward Antoine Semenyo this month. Sources have told BBC Sport talks have taken place between the two clubs, but the Cottagers have yet to make a formal offer. Bobb, who has also had interest from Bundesliga side Borussia Dortmund, has featured 15 times for City this season without scoring. He last played on 17 December against Brentford in the Carabao Cup, when he hobbled off injured inside the opening 20 minutes. City face Bodo/Glimt in the Champions League group phase on Tuesday and

when asked about Bobb's injury, Guardiola replied: "He says he is not fit, so he is not fit." Semenyo's signing adds competition on the right wing, where Brazilian Savinho also plays, meaning Bobb may well be allowed to leave this month either on loan or a permanent transfer. Fulham have lost only one of their past seven games under Marco Silva, sitting 11th in the table and progressing into the fourth round of the FA Cup. Bobb has featured six times for Norway this year, helping them qualify for this summer's World Cup, and would unite with compatriot Sander Berge at Craven Cottage. He missed almost the whole of last season after fracturing a bone in his leg during training in August 2024.

Biggest musical romantic drama Nilave set to be released for Valentine's Day on February 13th



Directed by Sowmith Poladi and Sai K Vennam, Nilave stars Sowmith and Shreyansi Sen in lead roles. Raj Allada, Sai Vennam and Giridhar Rao Poladi have bankrolled this soulful project under the banner POV Arts Production. The film has completed its production and is currently in the post-production stage. The makers have announced the release date of the promising product. Nilave will come out in theatres on February 13 as a Valentine's Day treat for audiences. Made as the biggest musical love drama, the film is set to enthrall viewers with its emotional depth as well as

fresh and innovative ideas. Sowmith Poladi and Shreyansi Sen are set to deliver superb performances. Harsha Chemudu, Supriya Aysola, Rupesh Marrapu, Jeevan Kumar, Gururaj, Siddarth Gollapudi, Anala Susmitha, and others appear in key roles. The makers stated that each artist will leave a distinct mark with their diverse and unique characters. Music for this film has been composed by Kalyan Nayak, while Dilip K Kumar's cinematography is set to be one of the major highlights of the movie. For the songs written by M. V. S. Bharadwaj, additional lyrics were pro-

vided by Koti. With editing by Sathya G, the film has taken on a more engaging and compelling form. Katta Siva Rama Krishna and Jiya Ghosh worked as production designers, with Noora Sayyed serving as the additional production designer. Venkat Konakandla and Sanjana Krishna served as co-producers. The film unit has expressed strong confidence that the movie will stand out in terms of content and offer audiences a fresh and unique experience. Nilave, crafted as a blend of novelty and deep emotions, is all set to create a buzz in theaters on February 13.

FARAH KHAN SHOWS 'AYATUL KURSI' PAINTING BY SALMAN KHAN



Ben Affleck Says He Had Food Poisoning While Filming Goodbye Scene With Bruce Willis in 'Armageddon'

Ben Affleck has revealed an unexpected behind-the-scenes detail from Armageddon, sharing that he was severely unwell while filming one of the film's most emotional moments with Bruce Willis. Speaking to Fox 32 Chicago, the actor said he was suffering from food poisoning when he shot the goodbye scene between AJ Frost and Harry Stamper. At the time, Affleck admitted, he didn't feel confident enough to step away from work despite his condition. "I wasn't an experienced enough actor to know that you can just pick up the phone and say, 'I'm too sick to work today,'" he said. Instead, he pushed through the shoot — even though it meant "vomiting between takes". Looking back, Affleck joked that his physical discomfort may have actually enhanced his performance, quipping that it "probably made the scene better." The moment he

refers to is a key emotional beat in Michael Bay's 1998 disaster epic, in which AJ bids farewell to Willis' Harry Stamper, a veteran oil driller who sacrifices himself to manually detonate a bomb and save Earth from a massive, planet-threatening asteroid. Armageddon featured a large ensemble cast including Liv Tyler, Billy Bob Thornton, Will Patton, Steve Buscemi, William Fichtner, Owen Wilson and Michael Clarke Duncan. The film follows a group of roughneck deep-core drillers recruited by NASA for a near-impossible mission to stop an asteroid the size of Texas from colliding with Earth. Despite drawing mixed responses from critics, the film was a box office juggernaut, finishing as the highest-grossing release of 1998 and becoming Touchstone Pictures' most successful film at the time. Affleck also recently reflected on the experience while reconnecting

with Buscemi at the premiere of his new Netflix film, The Rip. The encounter, he said, brought back vivid memories of Armageddon. "We were reminiscing about that movie and thinking about how that was the weirdest, kind of wonderful, strange, otherworldly movie experience," he recalled. The scene from Armageddon that Affleck is referencing is the emotional moment when his character A.J. Frost says his final goodbye to Willis' Harry Stamper, the heroic oil driller. Stamper sacrificed himself and stayed behind the asteroid to destroy it manually before it collided with Earth. Looking back on the experience, Affleck reckoned that his medical emergency, "probably made the scene better." The remark earned a laugh from Matt Damon, who was sitting beside him during the interview. The duo is cur-

Mythri Movie Makers Presents, Satya, Ritesh Rana, Clap Entertainment's 'Jaitley' Final Schedule Begins

Highlights

- The shooting of this film is going on at a jet speed. The final shooting schedule has recently begun.
- The first look posters and glimpses that have already been released have received a tremendous response.
- Miss Universe India Rhea Singha will be making her Telugu debut with this film.



- Tollywood's favorite duo Satya and director Ritesh Rana are going to entertain with 'Jaitley'. Presented by the prestigious Mythri Movie Makers, Clap Entertainment is producing Chiranjeevi (Cherry) and Hemalatha Peddamallu.

Tollywood's favorite duo Satya and director Ritesh Rana are going to entertain with 'Jaitley'. Presented by the prestigious Mythri Movie Makers, Clap Entertainment is producing Chiranjeevi (Cherry) and Hemalatha Peddamallu. The shooting of this film is going on at a jet speed. The final shoot-

ing schedule has recently begun. The first look posters and glimpses that have already been released have received a tremendous response. Miss Universe India Rhea Singha will be making her Telugu debut with this film. The main team behind Mathu Valadara is working on this film. Ritesh Rana, along with

music composer Kala Bhairava, cinematographer Suresh Sarangam, editor Karthika Srinivas, and production designer Narni Srinivas, have once again created a unique cinematic universe. Jetli will deliver a fun-packed experience, combining high-energy action with Ritesh Rana's style and signature humor.

After Hania, Sajal, another Pakistani actress' wedding on cards

Islamabad: It looks like 2026 is shaping up to be the biggest wedding season for the Pakistani entertainment industry, with several A-list celebrities rumoured to be tying the knot this year. While the internet is already buzzing with reports about Hania Aamir-Asim Azhar and Sajal Aly-Hamza Sohail's alleged weddings, another popular actress has now entered the spotlight. Another big celebrity wedding in Pakistan? According to leading Pakistani entertainment portal Galaxy Lollywood, actress Laiba Khan is set to get married soon. The portal's hosts, Momin Ali Munshi and Iman Ali Munshi, who earlier confirmed Hania Aamir and Sajal Aly's weddings, have now dropped strong hints about Laiba's upcoming nuptials. They also claimed that wedding cards have already been printed. Adding fuel to the speculation, Laiba recently shared a cozy, celebratory picture on her Instagram story. The image featured a teal-blue plate with the words "Happy Days



Coming" written on it, leaving fans convinced that a big announcement is on the way. Momin Ali Munshi also claimed that the actress will officially announce her wedding on Instagram soon. Who is Laiba Khan? Laiba Khan is a rising name in Pakistani television, best known for her performance in the 2024 hit drama Kaffara. She has steadily built a strong career with notable roles in dramas like Do Boli, Kaisi

Teri Khudgarzi, Baylagaam, Mera Dil Mera Dushman, and Aafat, earning praise for her grounded performances and versatility since her debut around 2018-19. About Hania Aamir's wedding buzz Meanwhile, buzz around other celebrity weddings continues to grow. Reports suggest that preparations are in full swing at Hania Aamir and Asim Azhar's homes, with the duo allegedly hosting a qawwali night to kick-start their pre-wedding celebrations.



సృష్టి విశ్వావసునామ సంవత్సర దక్షిణాయన పుష్యమాస బహుళపక్ష సవతు సోమవారం తేది 12-01-2026 నాటి సాయంత్రం మా మాతృమూర్తి సుధీయ వన్యాల లక్ష్మి (కీ. శే. వన్యాల పెద్ద వీరస్వామి, స్వాతంత్ర్య సమరయోధుడు గారి సతీమణి) గారు సుధీయలైనారు తెలుపుటకు వింతస్తున్నాము

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Did Pooja Hegde Give A 'Caravan & Star Hero' Statement?



Pooja Hegde is one of the star heroines in the movie industry. The actress awaits the release of the Tamil movie Jana Nayagan, starring Thalapaty Vijay in the lead role. It's been a while since the actress actively promoted a film and participated in interviews. However, some media outlets are spreading news that Pooja shared an incident in which a star crossed boundaries and misbehaved with her. According to news reports on social media, Pooja reportedly said that some industry people forget basic boundaries and start misbehaving. She reportedly stated

that during a pan-India film shoot, a star entered her caravan without permission. She reportedly added that she stood up for herself by slapping him, and the particular person in question never worked with her again. However, there seems to be no truth in the news reports about this. As per what we came across, Pooja never shared any incident like that or gave any statement in the recent past. Some media houses are just tagging Pooja and attributing something that she has never said. A few sites are even pushing it further without even checking the authenticity.