

OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

11-01-2026

Total pilgrims: 76,447

Tonsures: 21,708

Hundi kanaku: 3,42 CR

Waiting Compartments.. 04

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens).. 04 H

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99484 80279, 73307 78889



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Congress chief Kharge flays MGNREGA repeal, accuses Modi govt of 'favouring' corporates



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SPORTS | NEWS

Shubman Gill Told To Follow Virat Kohli's 'Single-Mindedness' By Ravi Shastri: "It Is A Routine"

INBRIF

Class 12 girl student gang-raped inside moving car in Rajasthan's Bikaner

JAIPUR (TSIT): A Class 12 girl student was allegedly kidnapped and gang-raped inside a moving car in Rajasthan's Bikaner district, police said on Monday. The incident occurred on January 6 in the Napasar area, but a case was registered only on January 11 following a complaint by the girl's family, they said. According to the complaint, the girl had left home for school on the morning of January 6. Two youngsters intercepted her and abducted in a car and drove away.

Couple beaten to death over 'love affair' in Etah; woman's kin detained

ETAH (UP) (TSIT): A 20-year-old woman and her lover were beaten to death on Sunday, allegedly by her family, after they were caught together at her house in Etah district, police said. SSP Shyam Narayan Singh said some members of the woman's family have been detained for questioning in connection with the double murder at Garhiya Suhagpur village. The deceased have been identified as Shivani (20), daughter of Ashok, and her lover Deepak (25), son of Radheshyam. Both belonged to the same village and community.

Telangana govt to form panel to review district reorganisation

Hyderabad (TSIT): Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Monday, January 12, said the state government would soon appoint a commission led by a retired high court or Supreme Court judge for reorganisation of districts in the state. Speaking after unveiling the 2026 calendar and diary of Telangana Gazetted Officers Central Association here, he said the reorganisation of districts was carried out irrationally during the previous BRS regime.

"We are receiving representations about reorganising districts and mandals. Justice will not be done if we take decisions (on districts) based on political considerations. Soon, we will appoint a committee headed by a retired high court or Supreme Court judge and comprising officers who worked in revenue department and others," he said.

The Chief Minister said there would be "rationalisation" of mandals, revenue divisions and districts. He said the government would take up debate on the issue during the budget session of the Assembly.



The Chief Minister said there would be "rationalisation" of mandals, revenue divisions and districts.

The number of districts in the state increased to 33 from 10 during the BRS government. Several leaders sought reorganisation of districts and other administrative units.

The CM mooted that the proposed panel should undertake field visits to gather public opinion on reorganisation.

Reddy announced that he has cleared a pending DA of government

We are receiving representations about reorganising districts and mandals. Justice will not be done if we take decisions (on districts) based on political considerations. Soon, we will appoint a committee headed by a retired high court or Supreme Court judge and comprising officers who worked in revenue department and others,"

employees. This would put a burden of Rs 225 crore per month on the government.

PSLV suffers rare setback in C62 mission due to third-stage anomaly

The mission also included satellite payloads belonging to the United Kingdom, Brazil, Spain, Nepal and France

SRIHARIKOTA (TSIT): India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), long regarded as ISRO's most reliable workhorse, suffered a rare setback on Monday morning when the PSLV-C62 mission failed due to an anomaly in its third stage, marking the second such failure linked to the PS3 stage in less than a year.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched the PSLV-C62 mission carrying the Earth Observation Satellite EOS-01 for the Indian Army along with 15 foreign satellites from the second launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SHAR), Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, at 10.18 am on Monday.

The mission also included satellite payloads belonging to the United Kingdom, Brazil, Spain, Nepal and France. The lift-off and the performance of the first and second stages were reported to be normal. However, an anomaly occurred during the operation of the third stage (PS3), which uses solid fuel, leading to a deviation in the rocket's trajectory and resulting in mission failure.



This is the second consecutive failure associated with the PSLV's third stage. The earlier PSLV-C61 mission, launched in May 2025, had also failed due to a malfunction in the PS3 stage, according to ISRO sources.

Despite these recent setbacks, PSLV remains India's most dependable launch vehicle. Out of 64 missions conducted so far, only four have failed. These include the maiden PSLV-D1 mission in 1993 due to a second-stage separation and ignition issue, PSLV-C39 in 2017 caused by heat shield separation failure, and the recent PSLV-C61 (2025) and PSLV-C62 (2026) missions, both linked to third stage anomalies.

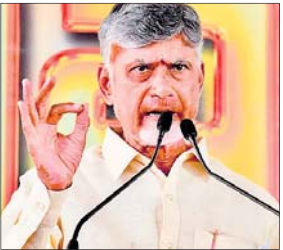
Addressing the media after the launch, ISRO Director V Narayanan said that the PSLV has four stages, two solid fuel and two liquid fuel stages. "The rocket's performance was normal up to the third stage. However, an anomaly was encountered towards the end of the PS3 stage. A detailed analysis is currently underway," he said. He added that data is being collected from multiple ground stations to thoroughly analyse the mission and identify the root cause of the anomaly.

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Polavaram-Nallamalla project won't harm anyone: CM Naidu

Amaravati (TSIT): Amid the ongoing dispute with Telangana over the sharing of river waters, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Monday defended the proposed Polavaram-Nallamalla Sagar link project, saying it will not harm anyone. He wondered what was wrong with using water released from upstream in the Godavari River and diverting it at Polavaram to Nallamalla Sagar. "I never objected when Telangana built its projects. Both Telugu states can efficiently utilise the Godavari waters," he said.

The Chief Minister was speaking at a meeting with ministers and secretaries at the Secretariat. He said the Polavaram project will be completed and dedicated to the nation before Godavari Pushkaram. He stated that Polavaram is a magnificent



project and once it is completed, no state in South India can compete with Andhra Pradesh.

"Every year, 3,000 TMC of water goes to waste into the sea. By providing water to the Krishna delta through Pattiseema, we are saving water in Srisaillam and giving it to Rayalaseema. Through Nallamala Sagar, there is an opportunity to provide water to Rayalaseema, Prakasam, and other regions," he said.

He stated that Telangana State will also have the opportunity to utilise the surplus water from Polavaram. Chief

Minister Naidu said that Bhogapuram International Airport will also be dedicated to the nation soon.

He claimed that the coalition government has saved Visakhapatnam Steel Plant with the cooperation of the Central government and the assistance of Rs 12,000 crore.

"Visakhapatnam Steel Plant is a sentiment for the people of Andhra Pradesh, and we will definitely protect that plant," he said.

The Chief Minister revealed that Andhra Pradesh attracted 25 per cent of the foreign investments that came into the country during the current financial year. Stating that Andhra Pradesh has become a destination for investments, he said that if all the agreements made through Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) materialise, 16 lakh jobs will be created.

Trump calls himself acting president of Venezuela

Venezuela's vice president and oil minister, Delcy Rodríguez, was formally sworn in as the country's interim president last week.

New York (TSIT): US President Donald Trump described himself as the "Acting President of Venezuela" in a Truth Social post, using a picture of his purported Wikipedia profile on Monday, January 12. he post on Truth Social on Sunday has Trump's official portrait and then the designation "Acting President of Venezuela, "Incumbent January 2026."

It also has his designation as the 45th and 47th President of the United States, who assumed office on January 20, 2025.

This month, the US carried out a "large-scale" strike against Venezuela, capturing the country's leader, Nicolas Maduro, who, along with his wife Cilia Flores, was flown to New York, where they were indicted on narco-terror-



ism conspiracy charges. Trump has said that the US will "run Venezuela until we can do a safe, proper and judicious transition. We can't take a chance that

someone else takes over Venezuela who doesn't have the interests of Venezuelans in mind." Venezuela's vice president and oil minister,

That money will be controlled by me, as President of the United States of America, to ensure it is used to benefit the people of Venezuela and the United States!

Delcy Rodríguez, was formally sworn in as the country's interim president last week. Trump had said that the interim authorities in Venezuela will be turning over between 30 and 50 million barrels of "high-quality, sanctioned oil" to the US, which will be sold at its market price.

IndiGo flight makes emergency landing in Varanasi after bird hit

Varanasi (TSIT) A Bengaluru-bound IndiGo Airlines flight with 216 passengers on board made an emergency landing at the Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport here following a bird strike, airport officials said on Monday. The incident occurred on Sunday night and Airport Director Puneet Gupta said all 216 passengers on board were safely evacuated after the plane landed. The aircraft, operating as flight 6E 437 en route from Gorakhpur to Bengaluru, suffered damage to its front portion following the bird hit during the flight, officials said. Given the seriousness of the situation, the pilot immediately contacted the Varanasi Air Traffic Control and safely landed the aircraft at the Varanasi airport, officials added.



India, Germany elevate strategic partnership with wide-ranging agreements

Gujarat (TSIT) Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz reaffirmed their commitment to significantly deepen bilateral ties across defence,

economy, technology, climate action and people-to-people exchanges during Merz's official visit to India, according to a joint statement issued on Monday. [More on Nation Page](#)

AI-driven digitisation errors causing widespread hardship during SIR: Mamata to CEC

KOLKATA (TSIT): West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee wrote to CEC Gyanesh Kumar again on Monday, claiming that AI-driven digitisation errors in the 2002 electoral rolls were causing widespread hardship to genuine voters during the SIR exercise.

In her fifth letter to the chief election commissioner since the beginning of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, Banerjee said serious

errors occurred in elector particulars during the digitisation of the 2002 voters' list using AI tools, leading to large-scale data mismatches and wrongful categorisation of genuine voters as having "logical discrepancies".

Accusing the EC of disregarding its own statutory processes followed over the last two decades, she said electors were being compelled to re-establish identity despite earlier corrections made after



"quasi-judicial hearings". "Such an approach, disowning its own actions and mechanisms spanning more than two decades, is arbitrary, illogical and

contrary to the letter and spirit of the Constitution of India," she alleged.

Banerjee also alleged that no proper acknowledgement was being

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issued for documents submitted during SIR, claiming that the procedure was "fundamentally flawed". She said the SIR hearing process had become "largely mechanical, driven purely by tech-

nical data", and was "completely devoid of the application of mind, sensitivity and human touch", claiming that it undermined "the bedrock of our democracy and constitutional framework".

India, Germany elevate strategic partnership with wide-ranging agreements

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Chancellor Merz, who was accompanied by a high-level delegation including 23 leading German CEOs and industry leaders, made his first official visit to India and his first trip to Asia since assuming office, underlining the priority Germany places on India as a key strategic partner in the Indo-Pacific. The visit came at a landmark moment in bilateral relations, with India and Germany having completed 25 years of Strategic Partnership in 2025 and marking 75 years of diplomatic relations in 2026.

PM Modi welcomed the German Chancellor in Ahmedabad, where the two leaders paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at the Sabarmati Ashram and participated in the International Kite Festival, highlighting the cultural dimension of the visit. They also jointly addressed the India-Germany CEOs Forum, engaging with business leaders to encourage greater investment and industrial collaboration. Chancellor Merz is scheduled to visit Bengaluru, with engagements focused on technology and innovation. During restricted and delegation-level talks held on January 12, the two leaders reaffirmed shared democratic values, commitment to a rules-based international order and mutual respect as the foundation of the Strategic Partnership.



They reviewed progress in bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and global developments.

Defence and security cooperation

The leaders agreed to further strengthen defence and security cooperation, welcoming progress made through institutionalised staff talks, service-level exchanges and joint exercises. They endorsed deeper military-to-military cooperation, including training, port calls and senior-level exchanges, and welcomed the establishment of a new Track 1.5 Foreign Policy and Security Dialogue.

India welcomed Germany's participation in major defence engagements, including Naval Exercise MILAN, the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium Conclave of Chiefs in February 2026, Air Combat Exercise TARANG SHAKTI later this year, and Germany's decision to deploy a Liaison Officer to the Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region.

Both sides also welcomed the signing of a Joint Declaration of Intent to develop a Defence Industrial Cooperation Roadmap, aimed at promoting long-term collaboration through co-development, co-production

and technology partnerships. The leaders reiterated their strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms, including cross-border terrorism, and pledged to enhance cooperation in counter-terrorism, including through UN mechanisms.

Trade, economy and technology

Highlighting strong economic ties, the leaders noted that bilateral trade in goods and services surpassed USD 50 billion in 2024, accounting for over a quarter of India's trade with the European Union. They reaffirmed support for concluding the India-EU Free Trade Agreement, describing it

as a key outcome of the upcoming EU-India Summit and a catalyst for unlocking further economic potential.

Several agreements and declarations were signed to boost cooperation in semiconductors, critical minerals, telecommunications, digitalisation, artificial intelligence and innovation. The leaders welcomed plans to establish institutional dialogue across the semiconductor value chain and deepen collaboration in research and development.

Green and sustainable development

Both leaders reviewed progress under the Green and Sustainable Development Partnership (GSDP), noting that nearly 5 billion of Germany's 10 billion commitment up to 2030 has already been utilised or earmarked for projects in renewable energy, green mobility, climate-resilient infrastructure and sustainable urban development. They welcomed new funding commitments and the launch of joint working groups on battery storage, solar manufacturing and wind energy.

The leaders also emphasised cooperation on green hydrogen, including alignment between India's National Green Hydrogen Mission and Germany's National Hydrogen Strategy, and welcomed a major green ammonia offtake agreement between Indian and German companies.

Two former PNB officials sentenced in Rs 4 crore fraud case



New Delhi, Jan 12: A CBI court has convicted and sentenced two former Punjab National Bank (PNB) officials in connection with a Rs 4 crore fraud at the bank's Jor Bagh branch in New Delhi.

Kulvinder Kaur Johar, ex-chief manager and branch head, and Ranjiv Suneja, ex-senior manager, were each sentenced to three years of rigorous imprisonment and fined Rs 75,000. PNB's former panel advocate, Narendra Singh Parihar, received two-and-a-half years' imprisonment with a Rs 50,000 fine. The sentencing was pronounced on January 9. The case, registered by the CBI on July 11, 2013, involved a conspiracy to fraudulently secure a cash credit facility of Rs 4

crore using forged property and KYC documents. The loan proceeds were diverted for purposes other than those sanctioned.

According to the investigation, Sanjeev Dixit, proprietor of M/s Shankar Metals, colluded with the PNB officials and advocate Parihar to fraudulently obtain the cash credit. The funds were siphoned off through fake bank accounts of fictitious firms, the CBI said.

Following trial, the court convicted Johar, Suneja, and Parihar, while private individuals Rahul Sharma and Rajeev Sharma were acquitted. The prime accused, Sanjeev Dixit, has been declared a proclaimed offender and remains at large.

Elderly man dies after firecracker factory blast in South 24 Parganas

Kolkata, Jan 11: One of the four individuals critically injured in a powerful explosion at a firecracker manufacturing unit in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district has died, police confirmed on Sunday. The deceased, identified as 70-year-old Gouhari Ganguly, passed away around 1.30 am while undergoing treatment at MR Bangur Hospital in Kolkata. Ganguly had suffered nearly 80 per cent burn injuries in the incident. A senior Kolkata Police official stated that Ganguly was among those most severely injured



and could not survive despite medical intervention. The remaining three victims — Gour Gangopadhyay, Kishan Mandal and Rahul Mandal — continue to be in critical condition, doctors

said. The explosion took place on Saturday at Haral village in the Champahati area under the jurisdiction of Baruipur Police Station. According to police sources, investigations are ongoing, and the owner of the firecracker unit has reportedly gone into hiding.

Following the blast, the Fire Department was alerted, and at least one fire engine was immediately dispatched to control the blaze. Additional Superintendent of Police of Baruipur Police District, Rupantar Sengupta, said authorities are probing the exact

cause of the explosion.

Local residents reported hearing a loud blast from the unit, where several workers were engaged in manufacturing firecrackers at the time. The force of the explosion was so intense that a portion of the structure collapsed, and a large nearby tree caught fire. Police personnel rushed to the scene after being informed and arranged for the injured to be taken to Baruipur Super Speciality Hospital. They were later shifted to MR Bangur Hospital for advanced treatment.

Former CBI officer's wife duped of Rs 2.58 cr in fake stock market scam

Hyderabad, Jan 12: In a shocking case of cyber fraud, the wife of former CBI Joint Director and retired IPS officer VV Lakshmi Narayana was allegedly cheated of Rs 2.58 crore by online scammers posing as stock market investment experts.

The fraud reportedly took place between December 24, 2025 and January 5. The victim, Urmila, a resident of Banjara Hills, approached Hyderabad cybercrime police after realising that the investment platform she was using was a sophisticated scam. According to police, the fraud involved a carefully planned strategy of social engineering and psychological manipulation. In November, Urmila



received a WhatsApp message promising unusually high returns through stock market trading and was subsequently added to a group titled "Stock Market Profit Guide Exchange 20".

PBEL City celebrates Pongal with rural Tamil traditions

PBEL City at Peeramcheruvu came alive with the vibrant spirit of rural Tamil Nadu as the Tamil diaspora celebrated Pongal with traditional fervour and gaiety. More than 2,000 families participated in the two-day festivities, recreating the atmosphere of village Pongal celebrations away from their native places.

The celebrations featured Kho-Kho competitions, colourful cultural programmes, a village fair experience, a bull-cart display and a traditional Tamil-style Pongal feast, drawing enthusiastic participation from residents of all age groups.

Priyanka Reghuraman, Secretary of the Tamil Association, said the event was not just a festival celebration but also a platform to strengthen community



bonding and pass on Tamil culture and traditions to the younger generation.

Residents of PBEL City have been celebrating Pongal in a traditional Tamil style for the past five years. One of the organisers, Prasanna Ganesh, said that due to work com-

mitments and school schedules, many families are unable to visit their native villages. "To keep our cultural roots alive, we decided to bring the essence of village Pongal celebrations and fairs into our residential community," he said.



Congress-expelled MLA Rahul Mamkootathil arrested in third sexual assault case

Palakkad, Jan 11: Congress-expelled MLA Rahul Mamkootathil was arrested late on Saturday night in connection with a sexual assault case registered in Palakkad, police sources said on Sunday.

According to Kerala Police, Mamkootathil was taken into custody from a hotel in Palakkad around

which is already probing two similar cases against Mamkootathil, has also been entrusted with the investigation of the latest case, sources told.

Mamkootathil was reportedly staying at a hotel in Palakkad when he was detained and subsequently brought to Pathanamthitta for fur-



midnight and shifted to the Armed Reserve (AR) Camp in Pathanamthitta. After interrogation, he will be produced before the Thiruvalla Magistrate. Officials said he was moved to a police camp in Pathanamthitta on Sunday morning.

Police said the arrest follows the registration of a third sexual assault case against the Palakkad MLA, based on a complaint filed by a woman from Pathanamthitta district. The Special Investigation Team (SIT),

ther proceedings.

Earlier, the Kerala High Court had granted him interim protection from arrest in the first case, which involves allegations of rape and forcing a woman to undergo an abortion. In the second case, a sessions court in Thiruvananthapuram had granted him anticipatory bail. Following the serious allegations, the Congress party expelled Mamkootathil from its ranks. Investigations in all the cases are currently underway.

ALL-NEW KIA SELTOS LAUNCHED AT PROSPERA KIA SOMAJIGUDA



Hyderabad (TSIT) : Kia India on Monday showcased the All-New Kia Seltos at Prospera Kia, Somajiguda, offering customers an opportunity to experience the next-generation mid-size SUV. The all-new Seltos has been launched at an introductory price starting from Rs.10.99 lakh (ex-show-room).

The launch event was attended by Telangana Transport Minister Ponnampalabakar, who unveiled the vehicle along with Sirajuddin Babu Khan, Managing Director, Prospera Kia. The new Seltos is engineered for a new generation of SUV buyers, focusing on enhanced design, space, safety and

advanced technology. Built on Kia's India-first global K3 platform, the All-New Kia Seltos features segment-leading dimensions, including a length of 4,460 mm, width of 1,830 mm and a wheelbase of 2,690 mm, offering improved road presence and cabin comfort. Its bold exterior design follows Kia's 'Opposites United' philosophy, highlighted by the new Digital Tiger Face, Ice Cube LED projector headlamps, automatic stream-

line door handles and new colour options such as Morning Haze and Magma Red.

Inside, the SUV offers a premium digital experience with a 75.18 cm Trinity Panoramic Display Panel, Bose 8-speaker audio system, ventilated seats, ambient lighting and a panoramic sunroof. On the safety front, it comes with a 24-standard safety package and Level-2 ADAS with 21 autonomous features.

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Serving To Empower

POSSESSION NOTICE Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002.

Whereas The Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 01.11.2025 thereby calling upon i) Mr. A Arif S/o late Hajee Mohammad Allahbakh R/o Plot No E , New Door No. 148, Perambur Barracks Road, vepery Chennai-600007 (Borrower-Mortgagor)ii) Mr. A. Sadiq S/o late Hajee Mohammad Allahbakh R/o Plot No E , New Door No. 148, Perambur Barracks Road, vepery Chennai-600007 (Guarantor) iii) Mr. A Afzal S/o late Hajee Mohammad Allahbakh R/o Plot No C , New Door No. 148 ,Perambur Barracks Road, vepery Chennai-600007 (Mortgagor-Guarantor) iv) Mr. A Aslam S/o late Hajee Mohammad Allahbakh R/o Plot No B , New Door No. 148 ,Perambur Barracks Road, vepery Chennai-600007 (Guarantor) v) Mr. Mohamed Shafi S/o Mohamed Annarbaig R/o 131 KKR Apartment MH Road, perambur Chennai-600011 (Guarantor) vi) Mr. K Saravanan S/o C. Kalidhass R/o 25/2 12th lane, Indira NagarAdayar, Chennai-600020 (Guarantor) to repay an amount of . Rs. 4,35,38,721.70 (Rupees Four Crores Thirty Five lakhs Thirty eight Thousand Seven Hundred twenty One and Paise Seventy Only) being the balance outstanding as on 30.11.2025 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on the 9th January 2026

The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to Rs. 4,41,96,054.70DR (Rupees Four Crores Forty One lakhs Ninety Six Thousand Fifty Four and Paise Seventy Only) together with future interest thereon from 01.01.2026 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property: Mortgage of leasehold rights in favour of Mr. M.Arif of all that piece and parcel of land and residential building standing in the name of M/S Parveen travels P.Ltd bearing New Door No.148, Plot No-D', Perambur Barracks Road, Vepery, Chennai-600007, comprised in R.S.Nos.840/1, 840/3 to 840/9 in Block No. 15 of Purasawalkam Village, Purasawalkam -Perambur Taluk, Chennai District, measuring an extent of 2839 Sq.ft of land together with residential building in basement, ground, First and Second Floor, etc., including common areas and land and being bounded by: North by survey Nos.842/1 , 844 and 840/2 and Mrs. Bayne's property, South by plot-C , New Door No. 148 and 14 ft and 2 inches. On the South-68ft 9 inches+ 13ft+27ft. On the East- 39ft 10-1/2 inches. On the West- 41ft. In all measuring about 2839 sq.ft. Together with proportionate share and rights over common passage including to Perambur Barracks Road and situated within the Sub registration district of Purasawalkam and Registration district of Central Chennai.

Dated:-09.01.2026
Place: Chennai

Sd/-Mr. Vinay Kumar
Authorized Officer

BAJAJ FINANCE LIMITED

REGISTERED OFFICE: Bajaji Auto Limited Complex, Mumbai - Pune Road, Akurdi, Pune - 411035. BRANCH OFFICE: Bajaji Finance Ltd, Bajaj Finserv, 1649, South Main Street, Above Univercell Mobile Showroom, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu 613001

Authorized Officer's Details:

Name: Mr. Kesavan K, Email ID: kesavan.k@bajajfinserv.in, Mob.No. 966803659

APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6)]
e-Auction Sale Notice Under SARFAESI ACT 2002

Sale of Immovable Assets Under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("ACT")

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the Borrowers/Co-borrowers/Mortgagors in respect of below mentioned secured asset which is mortgaged with Bajaj Finance Limited ("BFL"), and possession of which had been taken by undersigned Authorized Officer of BFL under the provisions of the ACT will be sold by Auction for recovery of the amount mentioned hereunder and further applicable interest, charges, and costs etc.

The secured asset described below is being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS, AS IS WHAT IS AND WHATEVER THERE IS" under Rule No. 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules ("the Rules") for recovery of the dues detailed as under:-

Particulars of e-Auction:-

Name & Address of Borrower & Co-Borrower's	JESUS GRANTES (BORROWER) (Through its Proprietor/Authorized Signatory/Managing Director) AT : - No. 7 FATHIMA KURUM VILAR MAIN ROAD, THANJAVUR, TAMILNADU - 613006 JAYAMARY T (CO-BORROWER) AT : - 561 RENGANADAPUAM VILAR ANJAL, VILAR, THANJAVUR, TAMILNADU - 613006 PRUDHAYASASTHINAJ T (CO-BORROWER) AT : - 113 SEVIVAR NAGR VILAR ROAD, THANJAVUR, TAMILNADU - 613006
Loan Account Number	495FS961459106
Statutory Demand Notice u/s. 13(2) Date & Amount	Notice dated 04-0ct-21 Demand amount ₹ 20,74,966/-
Outstanding Amount as on 15.12.2025	₹ 33,97,214.56/- (Rupees Thirty-Three Lakh Ninety-Seven Thousand Two Hundred and Fourteen and Fifty-Six Paise Only) as on 08/01/26
Description of Immovable Property	All that Piece And Parcel Of The Non-Agricultural Property Described As: Door No. 2/113, Xavier Nagar, Vilar Main Road, Thanjavur, Tamilnadu-613006. North-Land In Survey No.5/2b, West-Property Belongs To Mr. Muniyandi Plot, East-Vilar Road, South-Property Belongs To Mr. Karuppanan Plot.
Reserve Price in INR	₹ 23,73,000/-
EMD	₹ 2,37,300/-
E-auction date and time	18/02/26 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm
E-auction Portal	https://bank.auctions.in
Last date of submission of EMD	17/02/26
Bid Increment Amount in Rs.	₹ 25,000/-
Encumbrance Known to Secured Creditor	Not Known
Date of Inspection of Property	From 10/01/26 to 17/02/26 on working day between 9.30 AM to 5.30 PM with Prior appointment

Public in General and Borrowers in particular please take notice that if in case auction on date scheduled herein fails for any reason whatsoever then secured creditor may enforce security interest by way of sale through private treaty, at the discretion on of the secured creditor. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link https://bank.auctions.in and https://www.bajajfinserv.in/sarfaesi-auction-notices

Date - 13/01/2026, Place - THANJAVUR Authorized Officer, For M/s BAJAJ FINANCE LIMITED

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited

Business Unit: T. Nagar Chennai. NO. 60, RAINBOW ARCADE, THEAGARAYA ROAD,
PONDY BAZAR, CHENNAI-600017, T+044- 24313851-52-53 E|chennai@jkbank.com|www.jkbank.net

J&K Bank

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POSSESSION NOTICE Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002.

Whereas The Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 01.11.2025 thereby calling upon i) Mr. A Sadiq S/o late Hajee Mohammad Allahbakh R/o Plot no E , New Door No.148,Perambur Barracks Road, Vepery Chennai-600007 (Borrower-Mortgagor)ii) Mr. A. Aslam S/o late Hajee Mohammad Allahbakh R/o Plot No B , New Door No. 148 ,Perambur Barracks Road, vepery Chennai-600007 (Guarantor) iii) Mr. A Afzal S/o late Hajee Mohammad Allahbakh R/o Plot No C , New Door No. 148 ,Perambur Barracks Road, vepery Chennai-600007 (Mortgagor-Guarantor) iv) Mr. A Arif S/o late Hajee Mohammad Allahbakh R/o Plot No D , New Door No. 148 ,Perambur Barracks Road, vepery Chennai-600007 (Guarantor) v) Mr. Mohamed Shafi S/o Mohamed Annarbaig R/o 131 KKR Apartment MH Road, perambur Chennai-600011 (Guarantor) vi) Mr. K Saravanan S/o C. Kalidhass R/o 25/2 12th lane, Indira NagarAdayar, Chennai-600020 (Guarantor) to repay an amount of . Rs. 4,50,08,712.87 (Rupees Four Crores Fifty lakhs Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Twelve and paise Eighty Seven Only) being the balance outstanding as on 31.01.2024 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on the 9th day of January 2026

The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to Rs. 4,56,88,239.87 DR (Rupees Four Crores Fifty Six lacs Eighty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Nine and paise Eighty Seven Only) together with future interest thereon from 01.01.2026 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property: Mortgage of leasehold rights in favour of Mr. A.Sadiq of all that piece and parcel of land and residential building standing in the name of M/S Parveen travels P.Ltd bearing New Door No.148/2, Plot No-E, Perambur Barracks Road, Vepery, Chennai-600007, comprised in R.S.Nos.840/1, 840/3 to 840/9 in Block No. 15 of Purasawalkam Village, Purasawalkam - Perambur Taluk, Chennai District, measuring an extent of 2776 Sq.ft of land together with residential building in basement, ground, First and Second Floor, etc., including common areas and land and being bounded by: South By: 12 Feet Wide Common Passage, North By: Survey No.842/1,844 and 840/2 and Mrs Bayne's property, East By: - 16 Feet Common Passage, West By:Plot-D, Admeasuring, On the North: 72 Feet 3 inches. On the south: 67 Feet. On the East: - 49 Feet. On the West: 39 Feet 10-1/2 inches. In all measuring about 2776 sq.ft boundry on all. Together with proportionate share and rights over common passage including to Perambur Barracks Road and situated within the Sub registration district of Purasawalkam and Registration district of Central Chennai.

Dated:-09.01.2026
Place: Chennai

Sd/-Mr. Vinay Kumar
Authorized Officer

Madras HC grants interim protection to Kamal Haasan against unauthorised use of his persona

Chennai, Jan 12 (TSIT): The Madras High Court on Monday granted interim relief to veteran actor Kamal Haasan in a John Doe suit, restraining unauthorised commercial exploitation of his personality rights, including the use of his name, image, likeness or other attributes associated with his public persona.

Justice Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy passed the interim injunction while hearing a plea filed by the actor seeking protection against the sale of merchandise bearing his name or image without consent.

The court restrained a Chennai-based firm, Neeeye Vidai, along with several other unidentified individuals and entities, from selling products such as T-shirts and shirts featuring the actor's image, name or screen titles, including "Ulaganayagan", unless expressly authorised or endorsed by him.

The restraint will remain in force until the next date of hearing.

The interim order was granted after the court was satisfied that the actor had established a prima facie case. Senior counsel Satish Parasaran, assisted by advocate Vijayan Subramanian, appeared for the plaintiff and argued that the unauthorised commercial use of the actor's persona amounted to a clear violation of his personality and publicity rights. Accepting the submissions, the judge observed that commercial exploitation without consent could not be permitted at this stage. However, the court clarified that the order would not restrict legitimate creative expressions such as caricature, satire or other permissible



artistic works, provided they did not amount to commercial misuse of the actor's persona.

In his plaint, Kamal Haasan stated that he is widely regarded as one of the greatest and most versatile actors in Indian cinema, known for portraying complex and diverse roles across genres, often involving significant physical and artistic transformations. He noted that he is popularly referred to as a "cinema encyclopaedia" due to his extensive knowledge and mastery over various aspects of filmmaking.

The 71-year-old actor informed the court that he has acted in about 250 films across Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Hindi, Kannada and Bengali languages during a career spanning over 65 years.

His accolades include four National Film Awards, 20 Filmfare Awards, 11 Tamil Nadu State Film Awards, and

four Nandi Awards.

He has also been honoured with the Kalaimamani Award (1978), Padma Shri (1978), Padma Bhushan (2014), and the Chevalier of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (2016). The veteran actor further pointed out that he was invited in 2025 to become a member of the Actors Branch of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, in recognition of his "indelible contributions to the global filmmaking community". He argued that his endorsements command significant commercial value and public trust, and therefore unauthorised use of his persona could mislead consumers.

After granting interim relief, the court directed the actor to issue a public notice about the order in both an English and a Tamil daily, noting that the John Doe nature of the suit required wide communication of the injunction.

Tamil Nadu: New mini stadium in Sooriyur set for more events this year



TIRUCHY: The new Jallikattu stadium in Sooriyur in Tiruchy, developed at an estimated cost of Rs 3 crore, would be open for events this year. The stadium is expected to host more events this year as the organisers have planned to approach the officials for permission by this week.

As the new jallikattu stadium includes several facilities such as a vast arena along with a permanent vadivasal, two VIP galleries and two galleries for spectators and two VIP galleries and two galleries for spectators and two galleries, moving from the trend of holding only one event in Sooriyur, the

organisers across Tiruchy have decided to hold the event in the stadium form this year.

"Because of a permanent structure for galleries in place in the stadium, at least 50 per cent of the total expenditure would be saved. We need at least Rs 5 lakh for establishing galleries for spectators and VIPs, the mini stadium would save such an amount, and instead the fund could be utilised for the other purposes," said Jallikattu D Rajesh, the Founder President of Tamilar Veera Vilayattu Kazhagam. He welcomed this initiative by the gov-

am yesterday," Palaniswami claimed.

Their mobile phones were taken away and switched off. "The puppet chief minister's government does not know how to handle the protest in a smooth manner. Engaging such tactics and denying them even basic rights of accessing their phones is condemnable," the former Chief Minister said in a post on the social media platform 'X.' He further said the state government would be held accountable if any "minor harm" befell those who have been arrested.

"I urge the DMK government to immediately release the arrested teachers," he said. The government teachers have been on protest since December 26, 2025, seeking the government's intervention to set right basic pay anomalies between the teachers appointed after June 1, 2009, and those recruited till a day before this date. The difference in basic pay which was Rs 3,170 initially had increased to about Rs 9,000 over the years, they claimed.

TVK chief Vijay appears before CBI for questioning in Karur stampede case



NEW DELHI: TVK chief and actor Vijay appeared before the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Monday for questioning in connection with the Karur stampede case, officials

said.The Tamil superstar reached the CBI headquarters here and was taken to the team investigating the stampede, which occurred during a rally he addressed on September 27 last year

Ramadoss expels three MLAs supporting Anbumani for alleged anti-party activities

CHENNAI: Escalating the bitter power struggle with his son and former Union minister Anbumani Ramadoss for control of the Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK), party founder S Ramadoss on Monday expelled three MLAs

identified with the Anbumani camp for alleged anti-party activities.In a statement, PMK general secretary Murali Shankar said the disciplinary action committee had sought explanations from the legislators through letters sent on

July 20, 2025, but had received no response, either in person, by phone, or in writing, to the party founder and president.He alleged that the MLAs continued to engage in activities detrimental to the party even after the notices.

SURYODAY

A BANK OF SMILES

Regd. & Corp. Office: 1101, Sharda Towers, Plot 65, Sector - 11, CBD Belapur, near Mumbai - 400614, CIN: L65923M2008PLC261472

Under Section 13 (2) of The Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

Whereas the undersigned is the Authorised officer of the M/s. Suryoday Small Finance Bank Ltd. ("SSFBL") under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s), Guarantor(s) to discharge in full their liability to the Company by making payment of entire outstanding including up to date interest, cost and charges within 60 days from the date of respective Notices issued and the publication of the Notice as given below as and way of alternate service upon you. As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset (s) have been mortgaged to SSFBL by the said Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s), Guarantor(s) respectively.

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice	17.12.2025
257000025308, 257000025317	Date of NPA	09.12.2025
1. MR. VENKATACHALAM K. S/O KITTAN 2. MR. V. THANGAMANI S/O VENKATACHALAM K.	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs.15,07,669.18/- as on 11.12.2025

Description Of Secured Asset(S) / Immoveable Property (ies): All The Piece And Parcel Of Land/ed Property Comprised In Old S.No-169/1b After Subdivision S.No. 169/1b1 Patta No. 170, Site No. 2 Veerakeralam Village Thondamuthur Sro Perur Tk, 641007, Coimbatore North, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, Total Area 1050 Sq Ft. Boundaries : East : Site No.3, West : Site No.1, North : 23 Feet Wide East West Layout Road South : Balisundaram Land.

Date : 13.01.2026, Place : Tamil Nadu Authorized Officer, Suryoday Small Finance Bank Limited

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited

Business Unit: T. Nagar Chennai. NO. 60, RAINBOW ARCADE, THEAGARAYA ROAD,
PONDY BAZAR, CHENNAI-600017, T+044- 24313851-52-53 E|chennai@jkbank.com|www.jkbank.net

J&K Bank

Serving To Empower

POSSESSION NOTICE Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002.

Whereas The Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 02.02.2024 thereby calling upon i) Mr. A Aslam S/o late Hajee Mohammad Allahbakh R/o Plot No B, New Door No. 148, Perambur Barracks Road, vepery Chennai-600007 (Borrower-Mortgagor)ii) Mr. A. Sadiq S/o late Hajee Mohammad Allahbakh R/o Plot No E , New Door No. 148, Perambur Barracks Road, vepery Chennai-600007 (Guarantor) iii) Mr. A Afzal S/o late Hajee Mohammad Allahbakh R/o Plot No D , New Door No. 148 ,Perambur Barracks Road, vepery Chennai-600007 (Mortgagor-Guarantor) iv) Mr. A Arif S/o late Hajee Mohammad Allahbakh R/o Plot No D , New Door No. 148 ,Perambur Barracks Road, vepery Chennai-600007 (Guarantor) v) Mr. Mohamed Shafi S/o Mohamed Annarbaig R/o 131 KKR Apartment MH Road, perambur Chennai-600011 (Guarantor) vi) Mr. K Saravanan S/o C. Kalidhass R/o 25/2 12th lane, Indira NagarAdayar, Chennai-600020 (Guarantor) to repay an amount of Rs. 3,79,70,822.77 (Rupees Three Crores Seventy Nine lakhs Seventy Thousand Eight Hundred twenty two and Paise Seventy Seven Only) being the balance outstanding as on 01.11.2025 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on the 9th January 2026

The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to Rs. 3,85,44,093.77DR (Rupees Three Crores eighty five lakhs Forty four Thousand Ninety three and Paise Seventy seven only) together with future interest thereon from 01.01.2026 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of land and residential building bearing New Door No.148/2, Plot No-B, Perambur Barracks Road, Vepery, Chennai-600007, comprised in R.S.Nos.840/1, 840/3 to 840/9 in Block No. 15 of Purasawalkam Village, Purasawalkam - Perambur Taluk, Chennai District, measuring an extent of 3079Sq.ft of land together with residential building in basement, ground, First and Second Floor, etc., including common areas and land being bounded by: North By :12 Feet Wide Common Passage, South By : Lands In Survey No.839, East By : 16 Feet Common Passage, West By :Plot-C, Admeasuring, East To West on the Northern Side: 74 Feet 6 inches, East To West on the Southern Side: 47 Feet 9 inches + 13 Feet + 27 Feet, North to South on the Eastern Side: 35 Feet, North to South on the Western Side: 41 Feet 11 inches together with proportionate share and rights over common passage including to Perambur Barracks Road and situated within the Sub registration district of Purasawalkam and Registration district of Central Chennai.

Dated:-09.01.2026
Place: Chennai

Sd/-Mr. Vinay Kumar
Authorized Officer

ICICI Home Finance

Corporate Office: ICICI Home Finance Company Limited ICICI HFC Tower, Andheri - Kurla Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400059, India
Branch Office : Lion Arcade, 1A, 1st floor, Madurai Road, West Street, Sindupondurai, Tirunelveli-627001
Notice for sale of immovable assets through Private Treaty

Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets through Private Treaty under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 8(8) r/w Rule 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

ICICI Home Finance Company Limited (ICICI HFC) conducted several e-Auctions for the sale of the mortgaged property mentioned below, however, all such e-Auctions failed. Now, an interested buyer has approached ICICI HFC with an offer to purchase the said property for an amount of Rs. 7,00,000/-. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below-described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd., will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", by way of Private Treaty as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Legal Heirs. Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction	One Day Before Auction Date	Surfaced Stage
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)
1.	Selva Muthukrishnan B (Borrower) Jayasankari K (Co-Borrowers) Lan No. NHTV100000848520	S.No. 1059/1A, Block No. 28, T S No. 20, Melapalayam Ward No. 26, Anaiyarkulam Eastern Side, Kulavangapuram Village, Palayamkottai Taluk, Tamil Nadu- 627801	Rs. 21,28,000/-	Rs. 7,00,000/-	January 22, 2026 11:00 AM	January 29, 2026 11:00 AM	January 28, 2026 before 04:00 PM	Physical Possession

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link- https://BidDeal.in) of our auction agency ValueTrust Capital Services Private Limited. The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) RTGS/ Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article on or before January 28, 2026 before 04:00 PM. The Prospective Bidder(s) must also submit a signed copy of the Registration Form & Bid Terms and Conditions form at ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article on or before January 28, 2026 before 05.00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit Demand Draft (DD) should be from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in favor of "ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd. - Auction" payable at the branch office address mentioned on top of the article.

The general public is requested to submit their bids higher than the amount being offered by the interested buyer mentioned above. It is hereby informed that in case no bids higher than the amount being offered by the aforementioned interested buyer is received by ICICI HFC, the mortgaged property shall be sold to the said interested buyer as per Rule 8(8) r/w Rule 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the sale or submission of bids, kindly contact ICICI Home Finance Company Limited on 9920807300.

The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit https://www.icicifin.com.

Date : January 13, 2026
Place : Tirunelveli

Authorized Officer, "ICICI Home Finance Company Limited"
CIN Number: U65922MH1999PLC120106



EDITORIAL

Grazing on the Margins: Why Pastoralists and Rangelands Deserve a Place at the Centre

Imagine a form of livelihood that requires no factories, no irrigation, and no massive infrastructure. It contributes to food security, biodiversity, renewable economies and even climate resilience. It's deeply ecological, quietly productive, and astonishingly widespread. Now imagine it being ignored for over a century.

Across India, close to 10-12 million people and their animals traverse mountains, plains, and deserts, doing what they've done for generations – moving with the rhythms of the seasons in search of grass, water, and opportunities to market their goods. These are pastoralists – managers of one of India's most misunderstood livelihood system and keepers of over 40% of the country's livestock genetic diversity. And yet, for all their contributions, both they and the grazing lands they depend on remain invisible in national policy making and discourse. Misunderstanding pastoralism and grasslands

To be fair, pastoralism can feel like a bit of a mystery. The whole business of people and livestock moving around, refusing to settle down into neat categories, does not sit easily with our understanding of "modern" production systems. Pastoralism ought to have made way for agriculture and then closed shop. Is evolutionary logic appropriate to assess whether pastoralism survives or not? But regardless of whether it survives, we pretend it doesn't exist. Neither pastoralists nor the rangelands where they graze their animals are quantified, understood or even properly enumerated. As for rangelands, they are most often labelled as "wastelands" – a term that suggests not only neglect but a policy green light for takeover by industry, agriculture, or, more recently carbon-sequestering tree plantations. All this, despite the fact that these ecosystems are home to some of India's rarest biodiversity and form the ecological backbone of our dryland ecosystems.

The roots of this problem go deep. Colonial-era foresters, trained in the temperate woods of Europe, looked out at India's scrublands and savannas and saw absence — of trees, of timber and of the potential for revenue. In came the plantations and out went the herders. The British administrative mindset, with its love of neat borders and settled cultivation, was flummoxed by pastoral mobility, which seemed outdated, inefficient and unproductive. Never mind that pastoralists had evolved precisely the kind of adaptive, mobile systems that one would now call climate-adaptive. Their centuries-old knowledge of landscapes, forage and weather patterns was dismissed as backward. The irony is that these systems, derided for their unpredictability, are now being hailed, at least by researchers and civil society organisations, as 'models of resilience' in a world of climate chaos. Pastoral mobility, it turns out, is not a bug or a glitch but an integral feature of this extensive production system. It allows herders to track changes in weather and navigate across landscapes that fluctuate wildly in productivity. Where settled agriculture falters under erratic rainfall, pastoralists make do by being on the move. It's not aimless wandering, it's a finely calibrated migration.

Despite this, pastoralists find themselves hemmed in on all sides. Common lands have shrunk and commercial crop agriculture has taken over. Forests have turned into conservation fortresses that shut out the people who once helped maintain them. And now, in the name of climate mitigation, one of our many pledges include greening 26 million hectares, much of which will likely come from open ecosystems wrongly assumed to be barren or "wastelands". The prevailing logic seems to be: if it doesn't have trees, plant some. But many of these grasslands are naturally treeless ecosystems. Introducing trees can not only damage these fragile ecologies but also displace the pastoralists who rely on them. Economies and ecology in plain sight All this while, the pastoral economy continues to feed us, largely unrecognised and under-appreciated. By the estimates of our team of researchers at the Centre for Pastoralism, the annual value of just the sheep and goat economy in India is Rs 589 billion. Pastoralism, at large, could be valued closer to Rs 1,650 billion – more than India's national education budget and nearly 3% of the agricultural GDP. This includes meat, milk, wool, pashmina, and dung (yes, dung!), all of which flow through informal value chains that rarely make it to NITI Aayog reports or Ministry of Agriculture briefings.

EditTrump: When 'Ego-Mania' Trumps Rationality

US President Donald Trump is bent on wrecking the global system, just as he is wrecking the US political system. He has become all powerful internally and he wants to be all powerful externally, too. Internally, the constitutional checks and balances system is not working; externally, his depredations remain unchecked. Despite the rise of China and the revival of Russia as a power, the US is once again becoming unilateralist on the global stage under Trump. He has arbitrarily imposed tariffs on all countries in flagrant violation of WTO rules. He is using tariffs as a weapon to extract not only trade and investment concessions from others but also political ones. This is the case with India, on which he has imposed an additional 25% penalty tariffs for buying Russian discounted oil. Trump is rejecting multilateralism. Sure, his predecessors also did that, but he is doing it more scornfully. Earlier, he had walked out of the Paris Climate Change Agreement, the WHO, UNESCO and the UN Human Rights Commission, among other bodies. He has now decided to quit 66 international organisations, including many UN-related ones, the important ones being related to climate change such as the UNFCCC and the IPCC, as well as trade and economic development-related ones such as UNCTAD and the ECOSOC. Trump disparages renewable energy. He dismisses as a hoax the very idea of climate change, disregarding totally the serious concerns of the international community about the phenomenon. This also reflects US unilateralism on a very sensitive issue. Behind this are the interests of the US oil industry, which are strong backers of Trump and the Republican Party. This explains Trump's enthusiastic reference to the slogan "Drill baby Drill" in his inaugural address in January 2024, pressure on Europe (and India, too) to buy American LNG, sanctions on the Russian oil industry, and, more dramatically, his most recent adventure of attacking Venezuela and abducting President Nicolas Maduro with the expressed intention of taking control of Venezuelan oil reserves, which are the world's



biggest. Trump wants to become the dominant oil power in the world. He has made the legally bizarre claim that America owns Venezuelan oil because the infrastructure was developed by American companies in the first instance. Venezuelan oil, according to him, will be shipped to and marketed internationally by the US. The proceeds will be spent as decided by Trump himself, with Venezuela spending what is allocated to it to buy only American products. The aggression against Venezuela is the 'Trump Corollary' to the US revived Monroe Doctrine spelt out in the National Security Strategy 2025. The US Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, has questioned why Venezuela should sell its oil to China - which bought 50% of the country's oil last year - Russia and Iran, forgetting that the United States used to be the main buyer of Venezuelan oil but following sanctions, China became the main destination in the last decade. (Venezuela owes about \$10 billion to China after the latter became the largest lender under late President Hugo Chavez). Trump's unilateralism was also dramatically reflected in his recent interview with The New York Times, where, in the background of his attack on Venezuela violating international law, he said most pre-

sumptuously, "I don't need international law." When asked if there were any limits on his powers on the world stage, he said, "My own morality. My own mind." That means a business morality and an inconsistent mind. As part of his power play, he intends to let the New Start Treaty expire, closing the chapter on US-Russia agreements to end the arms race. With his announcement of an Iron Dome for the entire US and a \$1.5 trillion defence budget for 2027, a new arms race and strategic instability could well be the result. That Trump, with his aggression against Venezuela and the kidnapping of its President - as well as his determination to acquire Greenland by force if necessary - should still feel entitled to the Nobel Peace Prize and accuse Norway for making a big mistake in not awarding it to him, shows how totally unconcerned he is about how others judge him. He says he will accept Venezuelan Opposition Leader Maria Machado's bizarre offer to hand over to him her Peace Prize for 2025. The Norwegian Nobel Institute has ruled this out as the prize cannot be transferred to others, though the prize money can. Trump again asserted that he had solved eight conflicts (including repeating his claim to have stopped the India-Pakistan conflict) and

should therefore be eligible theoretically for eight Nobel Peace Prizes! It continues to rankle him that Obama obtained the Nobel Peace Prize undeservedly. Trump continues to talk down at Modi and India patronisingly, and even offensively, quite unmindful of the damage he is doing to India-US ties. He has made the absurd claim that knowing that he was unhappy, Modi tried to (console him) "make him happy" by stopping the purchase of Russian oil and asked "Sir, may I see you", as if a deferential subordinate was wanting to see his boss. The MEA spokesperson has countered this by clarifying that both leaders address each other with mutual respect as per diplomatic norms. The arch-warmonger, Senator Lindsey Graham, standing alongside Trump in Air Force One, congratulated him for green lighting the new Russia Sanctions Bill that would impose 500% tariffs on those countries that buy Russian oil such as Brazil, India and China, and elicited the remark from the US President that it was easy to impose tariffs on India. This casual way of dealing with what has become a very sensitive issue between the two countries shows how unbothered he is about the reaction in India and also implies a readiness to increase tariffs on India if required.

Folk festival of change of seasons: Lohri and the arrival of the new season



PRIYANKA SAURABH

India's folk traditions are not just festivals; they are living expressions of society's collective memory, understanding of nature, and philosophy of life. These traditions may change over time, but at their core, they preserve the relationship between humans and nature. Lohri, celebrated in North India, is one such folk festival, symbolizing the departure of winter and the arrival of spring. This festival not only announces the change of seasons but also announces a changing chapter in life's outlook—where warmth follows chill, light follows darkness, and new energy follows stagnation. The festival of Lohri celebrates the cycle of nature, where every pause yields movement, and every difficulty yields possibility. This festival reminds us that life isn't just a struggle, but the relief and hope that come after struggle are just as real. This is why society has made it not just a one-day celebration, but a festival of collective emotion. Lohri's origins are deeply rooted in agricultural life. When a farmer in North India sees greenery in his fields after sowing the Rabi crops, he is filled with hope. The lush crops of wheat, mustard, and gram signal prosperity in the times to come. Lohri celebrates that hope. This festival honors the farmer's hard work, patience, and faith in nature. Gathering around a fire and offering sesame seeds, jaggery, peanuts, and rewadi is not merely a religious ritual, but a collective expression of gratitude to nature. Here, fire symbolizes

purification—a resolve to burn away the cold, hardship, disappointment, and failures of the past and move forward. In folk life, fire not only provides warmth, it also fosters unity. People standing around a fire on a cold night warm not only their bodies but also their minds. Folk tales and folk songs play a special role in the Lohri tradition. The story of Dulla Bhatti transforms Lohri from a mere seasonal festival to a symbol of social consciousness. Dulla Bhatti's character underscores the value of standing up against injustice, protecting the weak, and respecting women. This folk tale demonstrates that folk culture is not only a medium of entertainment but also a source of moral education. The Lohri festival teaches the village community the lesson of collectivism. Rich and poor, young and old, men and women—all stand together around the fire. It is a moment of equality, where social distinctions melt away for a moment. Folk songs have a collective voice; the protagonist is not alone—the entire community participates in them. Lohri is also a cultural occasion for children. When children listen to folk songs from elders, learn stories, and participate in traditions, they not only celebrate but also connect with their roots. This is the greatest power of folk traditions—they maintain communication between generations. But over time, the nature of festivals has also changed. Urbanization, consumerism, and a culture of ostentation have impacted folk festivals. Today, in many places, Lohri is becoming a personal performance rather than a collective event. Loud music replaces traditional folk songs, ostentation replaces simplicity, and unnecessary expenditure replaces a natural-oriented celebration. This weakens the essence of the festival. This change isn't bad in itself, but the problem arises when meaning is lost. If festivals are reduced to mere photos, videos, and social media content, they cease to be folk culture. The soul of folk

festivals resides in participation, simplicity, and collective memory, not in commercial decorations. Today, festivals like Lohri need to be celebrated with environmental sensitivity and social inclusion. In an era of increasing pollution and resource scarcity, it's crucial to avoid unnecessary fuel, plastic, and noise. The simplicity of folk festivals is their greatest beauty. Additionally, these festivals can be used as a means of learning for children. They should be taught that Lohri is not just a festival of fire and song, but a celebration of the farmer's labor, the cycles of nature, and community life. When children understand the meaning of traditions, they not only observe them but also carry them forward. The arrival of spring marks not just a change of season, but a rebirth of hope. The longer days after cold and long nights also energize people mentally. Nature returns to color, flowers bloom, and life finds pace. Lohri celebrates this change—it teaches us that life is not static; after every darkness comes light. In today's stressful and uncertain times, folk festivals take on even greater significance. They give us a chance to pause, gather, and share collective joy. At a time when life is increasingly driven by competition and isolation, such folk festivals remind us of community life. Ultimately, Lohri teaches us that tradition survives when it communicates with the times—remaining relevant in new contexts while upholding its values. Simplicity, collectivism, respect for nature, and a positive outlook on life—if these sentiments persist, every Lohri can become not just a festival but a source of new energy for society. The Lohri bonfire not only burns away the cold, it also dispels despair, loneliness, and inertia. This is why this folk festival is as relevant today as it was centuries ago. This folk celebration of the changing seasons reminds us that change is inevitable in life, and every change brings with it the possibility of a new beginning.

Anatomy of a Political Raid: From Lalu to Mamata

Has Mamata Banerjee done something “absolutely unforgivable” by raiding the raiders of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) at the office of the Indian Political Action Committee (IPAC), a private election consulting agency, and by hitting the streets of Calcutta on January 9? At least, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's cadres and supporters are vociferous in asserting that the West Bengal chief minister has broken “constitutional norms” by stalling the ED's action against money laundering and corruption under her governance, and they are gunning for her head. Yet, they find it difficult to convince the larger electorate in this election-bound eastern state – and India at large – that the ED raided IPAC's office solely to bust corruption, its primary mandate. Despite its numerical strength in Parliament, the ruling dispensation has been unable to create a consensus among neutral experts and the wider public about its so-called “war against corruption.” However, the purpose of this article is not to investigate allegations of corruption against Banerjee, the BJP's principal political opponent, or that against Suwendu Adhikari and others of his ilk, who were charged by the ED and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) when they were in the Trinamool Congress but secured reprieve after joining the BJP. The purpose, rather, is to understand how the Election Commission of India's special intensive



revision (SIR) and India's premier investigating agencies appear to have been timed and synchronised with the BJP's electoral strategy to corner its opponents and win elections – not only in Bengal but across the country. In this light, Mamata Banerjee's “misadventure” or “street fight” in Calcutta, and even her use of “cuss words” against the BJP's top brass, can also be read as an expression of frustration and helplessness in the face of an opponent making all-out efforts to delegitimise her mandate and snatch power in her home state. One may list the options she might have taken instead: taking a delegation to the governor and submitting a memorandum against the ED; approaching the Election Commission of India to complain that the investigating agency was sabotaging her electoral strategy under the garb of fighting corruption; challenging the ED's action in a

court of law. But the fact remains that she belongs to an enormously large section of Indians who are rapidly losing faith in the neutrality of constitutional institutions – including the investigating agencies, the election commission, and the governors. It would be imprudent to place the judiciary in the same bracket, but by its very nature the judiciary takes time and depends on investigating agencies that have already lost much of their credibility. The Yashwant Sinha route By hitting the streets with thousands of people on January 9, Banerjee has done exactly what the former BJP stalwart, now in the TMC, Yashwant Sinha, had urged the Congress and other opposition parties to do after the Bihar election results of November 2025. In an interview with journalist Neelu Vyas for her digital platform, Sinha – a former Indian Administrative Service officer of repute – said: “There is

no iota of doubt that the Bihar election has been rigged. The only option for the opposition parties, including the Congress, is to hit the streets, get arrested, and not pray for bail. Let the government put you in jail as long as it wishes. The people will eventually find a way to liberate them and save the Constitution that its founding fathers gave them.” He went on in the same vein: “I used to take pride in my pedigree as an IAS officer. But I feel ashamed when I see Gyanesh Kumar, also an IAS officer. Gyanesh Kumar is a disgrace to the IAS... The opposition must bring an impeachment motion against him in Parliament, even if it is defeated.” Sinha had been principal secretary to former Bihar chief minister Karpoori Thakur before relinquishing his post to enter public life. He joined the Janata Dal and later became finance minister in the Chandra Shekhar government.

Hyderabad, January 12, 2026:

ties. With a presence across 23 states, brands can achieve national scale through a single buy with measurable results." Advertisers will have access to programmatic buying, campaign optimization, and performance metrics including impressions, audience profiles, and football data.

About Cinépolis India

moments, Cinépolis aims to offer an unmatched experience to movie patrons. The company currently operates 449 screens in India under the brand names Cinépolis, Cinépolis VIP, and Fun Cinemas. Cinépolis has pioneered several innovations in the exhibition industry including luxury cinemas with Cinépolis VIP and Cinépolis Junior, an auditorium specially designed for kids with colorful bean bags, cushy sofas, and loungers. The multi-benefit loyalty program, Club Cinépolis, enhances the movie-watching experience with free re-

istration, points rewards, pre-screening invites, and star visits. Over the years, Cinépolis India has received numerous accolades, including the IMAX Big Cine Award for India's Top Multiplex Chain of the Year and the Image Retail Award for Retail Launch in 2023. At MAPIC India 2023, Cinépolis was honored with the Most Admired Retailer of the Year: Best Turnaround Story and Retailer of the Year – Leisure and Entertainment awards. In 2024, the company was again recognized as the Retailer of the Year – Leisure and Entertainment at MAPIC Retail.

About It's Spotlight

It's Spotlight is an India-based DOOH media technology company delivering AI-powered digital screens, real-time analytics, and interactive advertising solutions across premium locations, including malls and cinema chains nationwide. Founded under Skuka Solutions Pvt. Ltd., It's Spotlight combines media infrastructure with proprietary technology to bring transparency, intelligence, and measurable performance to physical advertising environments.

Hyderabad: 12th January, 2026: Freedom Refined Sunflower Oil, India's leading edible oil brand, has onboarded popular film actor Siddu Jonnalagadda known for his films like "DJ Tillu" and "Tillu Square," to inspire Telugu Freedom Refined Sunflower Oil, India's leading edible oil brand, has onboarded popular film actor Siddu Jonnalagadda known for his films like "DJ Tillu" and "Tillu Square," to inspire Telugu households to adopt healthy eating habits. The actor, known for his charismatic screen presence and massive fan following amongst the youth, has emerged as one of the most

promising actors in Telugu cinema. The partnership brings together a beloved actor known for his relatable performances with a brand that's all about making healthy cooking accessible to every home. Mr. Siddu Jonnalagadda enjoys immense trust and admiration in the Telugu market. His association with Freedom Healthy Cooking Oils will enable the brand to forge deeper connections with the consumers and reinforce the commitment to delivering pure, healthy cooking oil solutions for every kitchen. The collaboration will see Siddu featured across Freedom's campaigns

on TV, digital platforms, and beyond across Telugu states. The objective will be to start conversations around healthier cooking and reinforce the trust in Freedom Refined Sunflower Oil. Speaking about the association Mr. P. Chandra Shekhara Reddy, Vice President, Sales & Marketing, Gemini Edibles and Fats India Ltd said “We are happy to be associated with Actor Siddu Jonnalagadda and we welcome him to the Freedom Sunflower Oil family. Freedom Sunflower oil helps customers to ‘cook more with less oil’ giving users a unique combination of health with good taste.”

Hyderabad, January 12.

Mouhini, Manoj
Nandwana, Jadumoni
Dutta, Dr Padmini
Nagulapalli, Satish, Y Ravi
Shankar and Dr Jummoni
Devi Khaund, the festival
director. The session was
moderated by Sunitha
Krishnan. The discussion
witnessed insightful con-
versations on cinema as a
tool for social change, inde-
pendent filmmaking, repre-
sentation, and the evolving
landscape of storytelling in
the digital era. It also delib-
erated upon film produc-
tion, co-production, and
distribution, both national-
ly and globally.

The category-wise winners of the film festival are as follows:

Feature Films:
 Best Feature Film:
 Juiphool
 Second Best Feature Film:
 Ghar
 Third Best Feature Film:
 Dahini - The Witch
 Jury Special Award:
 Kuhuipath
 Best Actor (Male): Bishnu
 Khargoria (Akash Henu
 Nodir Nam)
 Best Actor (Female):
 Akanksha Yadav (Ghar)
 Best Child Artist(s): Nihar
 Kashyap, Sanidul Islam,
 Manik Ali (Kuhupath)

Hyderabad, 12th January

2026: Go Colors, India's leading women's bottom wear brand is strengthening its foothold in Southern India by launching its newest flagship store, spreading across a massive area of 4,430 sq.ft. in Hyderabad's A.S. Rao Nagar - a popular retail destination in the city. Another significant leap forward in Go Colors' retail scaling trajectory, the store was inaugurated by popular actress Niharika Konidela. Located in Dr. A.S. Rao Nagar, one of Hyderabad's well-developed residential and commercial hubs, the store enjoys excellent connectivity, strong street visibility, and a thriving neighbourhood ecosystem. The location also serves as a strategic testing ground for Go Colors' expansion across similar residential-led markets in the city, and the launch aligns with Go Colors' mission to offer fashion that is comfortable, versatile, expressive, and

inclusive. Designed as a one-stop destination, the Dr. A.S. Rao Nagar outlet showcases the brand's complete portfolio across women's Indian and western wear, men's wear and its signature bottomwear range. Customer insights played a key role in selecting this location. The area attracts a diverse mix of consumers with a strong preference for everyday ethnic and western wear.

making it ideal for highlighting Go Colors' wide assortment of colours, fits and fabrics. The store caters to men and women across age groups, sizes and body types, with silhouettes crafted for daily wear, work, leisure and special occasions. Thoughtfully designed to offer a great shopping experience, the store blends modern aesthetics with functional planning. Its spacious, airy

layout allows for easy navigation and comfortable browsing, while clearly defined category zones make product discovery intuitive. Enhanced mannequin styling, well-planned planograms and intuitive displays elevate visual appeal, complemented by comfortable trial rooms and seating areas that create a relaxed, immersive, and seamless shopping experience.

New Delhi: Ola Electric on Monday announced the rollout of its first battery energy storage system, Shakti, from its manufacturing plant in Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu. Shakti marks the company's entry into the country's residential BESS (battery energy storage system) market and takes the company beyond the automotive domain, the Bengaluru-based firm said in a statement. It represents a fundamental shift in how Indians will access, control, and consume energy, as a portable,

on-demand resource designed for modern Indian households, farms, and businesses, it added. "The rollout of Shakti from our Gigafactory is a defining moment in our mission to build the future of energy in India. With Ola Shakti, we have reimaged how India will store and consume energy," a company spokesperson said. Powered by the company's indigenous 4680 Bharat Cell, Ola Shakti makes reliable, affordable, and intelligent energy storage accessi-

ble to every Indian home, farm, and business, the spokesperson added. Unlike conventional lead-acid inverters or diesel generators, Shakti operates across a wide input voltage range of 200V-240V protecting appliances from voltage fluctuations, and is spill-proof with IP67-rated batteries tested for dust, water, and monsoon conditions, the company said. Ola Shakti is available in four configurations — 1 kW / 1.5 kWh, 1 kW / 3 kWh, 3kW/5.2kWh, and 6kW/9.1kWh and can power air conditioners, refrigerators, induction cookers, farm pumps, and communication equipment, with charging times as fast as 2 hours and backup capacity of up to 1.5 hours on full load. The product is available for reservation on the Ola Electric website at Rs 999, it said.

January 12, 2026: Mahindra

& Mahindra Ltd., India's leading SUV manufacturer, today launched the new XUV 7XO, the company's latest trendsetter. Starting at a price of ₹ 13.66 lakh (ex-showroom), the XUV 7XO raises the benchmarks set by the gamechanger XUV 700, which has had over 300,000 customers since its launch in 2021. The XUV 7XO delivers an experience that rewrites the rules of high-end SUVs by elevating sophistication and technology like never before. Mahindra has consistently worked towards democratising technology, and the XUV 7XO further exemplifies this commitment by offering advanced features starting from the base variant. The AX variant, featuring Coast-to-Coast 31.24 cm Triple HD screens, Intelligent ADRENEX, Wireless Android Auto & Apple CarPlay, Alexa Built-in with ChatGPT, Cruise Control, Push Button Start/Stop, and 75 safety fea-



tures—all as standard—makes cutting-edge technology and premium features more accessible than ever. Expressive Design: Full-width grille with jewel-like talon accents, Bi-LED projector headlamps with DRLs, diamond-inspired Clear Lens LED taillamps, R19 diamond cut alloy wheels and super-premium high-gloss piano-black finish exude a 'tough-premi-

um' character Experiential
Tech: Coast-to-Coast
31.24cm Triple HD screens
16 speaker Harman Kardon
Audio system with India's
first Dolby Vision & Atmos,
540-degree camera with digital
video recording, ADAS
Level 2 with Dynamic
Visualisation, Frameless
Electrochromic IRVM and
Memory ORVM with Auto
Tilt for reverse, Approach
Unlock & Walk Away Lock

Smoother in every move:
Global debut of the revolutionary DAVINCI damping technology;
Front McPherson Strut & Multi-link Rear Independent suspension with Frequency Selective Damping & Stabilizer Bar offering superlative ride and handling. Exquisite Luxury: 6-Way Powered Co-driver seat with 4-way Boss Mode, Front Seat and Rear

Ventilated Seats, BYOD, High Density Seat Foam with First-in-segment Plush Pads Authentic SUV Legacy: Best-in-Segment 2L mStallion TGD1 gasoline engine and 2.2L mHawk turbo-diesel engine options, first-in-segment All-Wheel Drive (AWD) in Diesel R Velusamy, President, Automotive Business, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., said, "XUV 7XO is our next step in delivering a truly premium, technology-forward SUV—smoother in ride, sharper in response, and smarter in experience. We are introducing DAVINCI suspension system—our new valve-based damping technology—for the first time worldwide, delivering a distinctly more plush and settled ride. ADRENEX+, powered by the Qualcomm Snapdragon SA8155P, marks the first introduction of this chipset in an ICE vehicle in India, enabling exceptional computing speed and responsiveness.

Trump mulls 'very strong' military options as hundreds killed in Iran protests

President Donald Trump says the US military is considering "very strong options" in Iran, as anti-government protests which have reportedly killed hundreds enter a third week. The US-based Human Rights Activist News Agency (HRANA) says it has verified the deaths of nearly 500 protesters and 48 security personnel in Iran, while sources tell the BBC the death toll could be much higher. Trump has threatened to intervene, and said on Sunday that Iranian officials had called him "to negotiate" - but added "we may have to act before a meeting". Iranian leaders have described the demonstrators as a "bunch of vandals", and called on their supporters to take part in pro-government marches on Monday. The government has also announced three days of mourning for what it called "martyrs" killed in a "national battle against the



US and Israel" - two countries that Tehran says are fomenting unrest. Anger over the plummeting value of the Iranian currency sparked protests in late December, which have grown into a crisis of legitimacy for Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Trump has not yet elaborated on what the US is considering in terms of military options, nor on the proposed negotiations, despite saying that a "meet-

ing is being set up" with Iranian officials. He added that Iranian leaders "want to negotiate", because "they are tired of being beat up by the United States". A US official told the BBC's US news partner CBS that Trump has been briefed on options for military strikes on Iran. Other approaches could include boosting anti-government sources online, using cyber-weapons against Iran's military, or imposing more sanctions,

officials told the Wall Street Journal. Sources told the BBC that protests continued on Sunday night, but at a reduced level compared to previous days, as fears grow of an escalating crackdown by the Iranian government. At least 10,600 people have been detained over the fortnight of unrest, according to HRANA. The BBC counted 180 body bags in footage from a morgue near the Iranian capital, with one source saying on Sunday

that the streets of Tehran were "full of blood". "They're taking away bodies in trucks," the source added. In one video from the site near Tehran, about 180 shrouded or wrapped figures can be seen, the majority lying out in the open. Shouts and cries of distress can be heard from people who appear to be looking for their loved ones. Footage has been blurred to protect the identities of the living, who could face further persecution from the authorities. Sources said large numbers of bodies had accumulated at hospitals and forensic facilities, while some bodies were reportedly buried urgently before dawn by the authorities, limiting the chance for identification. City workers have also removed debris, burned cars and bloodstains from the streets during the night, a source told the BBC. Multiple sources in Iran also said that they had seen

drones flying persistently over crowds and residential neighbourhoods to identify and track protesters. The BBC and most other international news organisations are unable to report from inside Iran, and the Iranian government has imposed an internet shutdown since Thursday, making obtaining and verifying information difficult. Some witnesses are relying on Starlink proxy connections or satellite television for information, but fear that these could be used by the authorities to trace them. "We cannot even send text messages," one source in southern Iran told the BBC, as a blanket internet outage continued. "Only the government is sending threatening messages to people." Trump said on Sunday that he would speak to Elon Musk, owner of company SpaceX which operates Starlink, about restoring internet access to Iran.

THOUSANDS OF TOURISTS STRANDED IN LAPLAND AS COLD GROUNDS FLIGHTS



HUNGARY GRANTS ASYLUM TO POLISH EX-JUSTICE MINISTER



Hungary has granted political asylum to Poland's former Justice Minister Zbigniew Ziobro who is facing charges of embezzlement. Ziobro is facing 26 charges related to embezzling money from a fund meant to be spent on crime victims and rehabilitating criminals. Instead, he is accused of authorising the purchase of spyware that was allegedly used to hack political opponents' phones. He says he is a victim of political persecution. Granting asylum to a citizen of a fellow EU member state goes against the spirit of EU standards. But in the case of Hungary it is neither new nor surprising. Ziobro is the second politician of the former Justice and Law-led government to be granted this status - last year it was his former deputy Michal Romanowski who fled to Budapest to seek protection. Both are accused of corruption and misusing their power - most notably by using the money of the state-controlled Foundation for Justice

which was under their oversight in order to fund their party and its cronies. Ziobro was justice minister between 2015 and 2023 under the previous right-wing PiS-led government, which is politically aligned to Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban. If found guilty he could face up to 25 years in prison. Writing on X, Ziobro said: "I have decided to accept the asylum granted to me by the government of Hungary due to the political persecution in Poland." "I have chosen to fight against political banditry and lawlessness. I stand in opposition to a creeping dictatorship," Ziobro added, accusing Prime Minister Donald Tusk of waging a "vendetta" against him. Ziobro is accused of authorising a 25m zloty (\$7m; £5.15m) purchase from of Israeli-made Pegasus spyware, which Poland's current coalition government and a European Parliament investigative team found was used to secretly hack the phones of political opponents.

CUSTODY EXTENDED FOR OWNER OF SWISS SKI BAR AFTER DEADLY FIRE

A judge in Switzerland has ordered that one of the two co-owners of the ski resort bar where 40 people died in a fire on New Year's Eve be kept in detention for 90 days. Swiss prosecutors have argued that Jacques Moretti, a French national, is a potential flight risk. He and his wife Jessica, who is also French, are suspected of manslaughter by negligence, bodily harm by negligence and arson by negligence. The blaze at Le Constellation bar in Crans-Montana also left 116 people injured. Many of the victims were aged under 20. The fire is believed to have been started by sparklers in champagne bottles raised too close to the ceiling during celebrations. Authorities



acknowledged last week that the bar in the popular ski resort had not undergone safety checks for five years. Jacques Moretti was first detained on Friday for an initial period of 48 hours. On Monday, a judge at what is known as a court of coercive measures ruled that he should be kept in custody for three months - a period that can be renewed under Swiss law.

Referee and student among hundreds killed in Iran protests

A referee and a student are among hundreds of people reportedly killed during massive anti-government protests in Iran. Coach Amir Mohammad Koohkan, 26, was hit by live ammunition on 3 January during protests in the town of Neyriz, his friend told BBC Persian. "Everyone knew him for his kindness", they said, adding his family is grieving and "angry because he was killed by the regime". Five days later, student Rubina Aminian, 23, was shot from behind during a protest in Tehran, according to human rights groups. "She fought for things she knew were right", her uncle told CNN. Nearly 500 protesters and 48 security personnel have been killed in two weeks of



protests, a US-based rights group says. Sources in Iran have told the BBC the death toll is likely higher than reported. Demonstrations began on 28 December over the economy in the capital Tehran and have spread to 186 cities and all 31 provinces, according to the Human Rights Activist News Agency (HRANA). The



protests have grown into the largest in years, with calls for an end to the Islamic Republic and rule of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The protests led to a government crackdown, with at least 10,600 people reportedly arrested and 496 protesters killed, according to HRANA. Medical staff in Iran have

described hospitals overwhelmed with dead and injured patients. BBC Persian verified that 70 bodies were brought to Poursina Hospital in Rasht city on 9 January, and the BBC counted 180 body bags in footage from one morgue near Tehran thought to have been filmed on the same night. The BBC and most other international news organisations are unable to report from inside Iran, and the Iranian government has imposed an internet shutdown since Thursday, making obtaining and verifying information difficult. Among the protest victims was Koohkan, who was killed in Neyriz in south-west Fars Province, his friend told BBC Persian.

Fed chair Powell hits out at 'unprecedented' probe by US justice department

Federal prosecutors have opened a criminal investigation into Federal Reserve chair Jerome Powell, he said on Sunday. In a highly unusual move, Powell disclosed that the US Department of Justice (DoJ) served the agency with subpoenas and threatened a criminal indictment over testimony he gave to a Senate committee about renovations to Federal Reserve buildings. Calling the probe "unprecedented", Powell said he believed it was opened due to Donald Trump's anger over the Fed's refusal to cut interest rates despite repeated public pressure from the president. Trump said he did not "know anything" about



the investigation. The DoJ has been contacted for comment. Until now, the long-running feud between Trump and Powell has been largely one-sided with the US president calling the banker "Mr. Too Late" and a "numbskull". Powell's statement on Sunday is the first time he

has publicly and robustly pushed back against Trump as he warned that the independence of the US central bank is at stake. "This is about whether the Fed will be able to continue to set interest rates based on evidence and economic conditions, or whether instead monetary policy will be directed by political pressure or intimidation," Powell said. "I have deep respect for the rule of law and for accountability in our democracy. No one, certainly not the chair of the Federal Reserve is above the law, but this unprecedented action should be seen in the broader context of the administration's threats and

ongoing pressure," he went on to say. Trump said in an interview with NBC News on Sunday that he did not have any knowledge of the DoJ's investigation into the Fed. "I don't know anything about it, but he's certainly not very good at the Fed, and he's not very good at building buildings," he said of Powell. The Fed is undertaking the first renovation of two buildings, the Eccles and 1951 Constitution Avenue buildings, since their construction in the 1930s. The "overhaul and modernisation" of the buildings includes health and safety work such as the removal of asbestos and lead contamination.

JAILED VENEZUELAN POLITICIAN'S SON SAYS TRUMP SHOULDN'T BE 'FOOLED' BY PLEDGE OF PRISONER RELEASES



The son of a jailed Venezuelan opposition leader has warned Donald Trump to "not be fooled" by the country's government, amid accusations it has not kept its promise to release a significant number of political prisoners. Ramón Guanipa, the son of Juan Pablo Guanipa, said he believed the US president was unaware that only about 40 releases out of more than 800 political prisoners had reportedly been confirmed so far. On Saturday, Trump thanked the Venezuelan authorities, saying they had "started the process, in a BIG WAY". The Venezuelan government announced on Thursday it would release detainees considered political prisoners by human rights groups as a "goodwill gesture". The move came after the US seized Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro in a raid on the capital, Caracas, on 3 January, and took him to New York, where he has been charged with drug trafficking. Jorge Rodríguez, Venezuela's

National Assembly leader and the brother of Interim President Delcy Rodríguez, announced that an "important number of Venezuelan and foreign detainees" would be released "immediately". On Monday, the government said more than 100 such prisoners had already been released - a number far greater than the figure so far confirmed by human rights campaigners. Among those who are confirmed to have been released are several high-profile opposition figures - with Spain's foreign ministry confirming that five Spanish citizens had been freed, including human rights lawyer Rocio San Miguel. Trump claimed credit for the releases, writing on social media on Saturday: "I hope these prisoners will remember how lucky they got that the USA came along and did what had to be done." But relatives of those still behind bars have been expressing their frustration that only a small number of prisoners have been freed.

Chalamet beats DiCaprio to Golden Globes glory

Timothée Chalamet was among the main winners as Hollywood's finest gathered for this year's Golden Globe Awards. Chalamet, 30, continued his pursuit of greatness, and an Oscar, by beating stars including Leonardo DiCaprio and George Clooney to the award for best actor in a musical or comedy for table tennis caper Marty Supreme. Despite DiCaprio missing out, his film One Battle After Another won the most awards overall, with four prizes including best musical or comedy film and best director. Irish actress Jessie Buckley was named best drama actress for Hamnet, which also scored a surprise win in the best drama film category. Vampire thriller Sinners had been considered the frontrunner, but it instead

went home with the box office achievement prize as well as best score. The Golden Globes are a key stop on the road to the Academy Awards, and other acting winners on Sunday included Teyana Taylor, Rose Byrne, Wagner Moura and Stellan Skarsgård. Unlike the Oscars, the Globes also reward TV shows, and the night saw British actors Stephen Graham, Owen Cooper and Erin Doherty pick up more honours for their performances in Netflix drama Adolescence. With all eyes on the Oscars race, Timothée Chalamet's victory has given him a boost over his rivals. "I'm in a category with many greats," he said when accepting his trophy. It was Chalamet's fifth Globes nomination, but his first win. "My dad



instilled in me a spirit of gratitude growing up, always be grateful for what you have," he said. "It's allowed me to leave this ceremony in the past empty handed, my head held high, grateful just to be here. But I'd be lying if I didn't say those moments make this moment that much sweeter. "For my parents, for my partner, I love you so much," he added, looking at girlfriend Kylie Jenner.

Jessie Buckley was named best actress for her role in the adaptation of Maggie O'Farrell's best-selling novel Hamnet, about the death of William Shakespeare's son. "This is not a normal feeling or situation to be in," she said in her acceptance speech. "It was such an extraordinary set to be part of, because we were telling the story of probably the most famous Brit that ever lived, and we had a

Chinese director, a lot of Irish, a mostly Polish crew, beside our British family." She concluded: "This is a real honour, I love being part of this industry." Shortly afterwards, Hamnet director Chloe Zhao looked visibly shocked when the movie was announced as the winner of best drama film. Accepting the prize, producer Steven Spielberg said he had "loved the book" by O'Farrell, but felt Zhao was "the only filmmaker on the face of the planet who could tell the story". Zhao said: "The village of Hamnet that made this film together. Some of them lost their loved ones while we were making this film, and some of them are still struggling, and I just wanted to say we're thinking of you, we're here because of you, we love you." Elsewhere, singer

and actress Teyana Taylor, whose career started when she choreographed a Beyoncé music video at the age of 15, cemented her Hollywood breakthrough by winning best supporting film actress for One Battle After Another. After tearfully thanking a list of people, she used her acceptance speech to send a message to "my brown sisters and little brown girls watching tonight". "Our light does not need permission to shine," she told them. "We belong in every room we walk into. Our voices matter and our dreams deserve space." Swedish actor Stellan Skarsgård, 74, won best supporting actor for Sentimental Value, and joked that he hadn't prepared a speech "because I thought that I was too old".

"No Problem If Pakistan, UAE Host Bangladesh's T20 World Cup Matches": Top Government Official On Venue Row

Less than a month remains for the 2026 T20 World Cup to start, yet there is uncertainty over Bangladesh's four group-stage matches in India (three in Kolkata and one in Mumbai). Bangladesh does not want to play in India, citing a 'security threat' in the country. The tussle began after the release of Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman from IPL franchise Kolkata Knight Riders on the instructions of the BCCI for unspecified reasons. The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has asked the International Cricket Council (ICC) to shift its matches to Sri Lanka (the hosts of the tournament). In the meantime, a report in Geo Super claimed that the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has now shown interest in hosting the Bangladesh games. Bangladesh government's



Sports Advisor Asif Nazrul, known for his hardline stance against India, has reacted to the report. He was responding to a question on whether the BCB would accept a proposal where Bangladesh matches are shifted from Kolkata and Mumbai to another Indian city. "We are talking about

India, we are not talking about Kolkata. If the venue is changed from India to Sri Lanka, there is no issue. I saw a report, which I don't know is true or not, that claimed Pakistan has offered to host our matches. No problem if Pakistan or UAE host our matches," Nazrul said on Wednesday. Nazrul also

claimed that the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has received a letter from the ICC's security team. Following is what Nazrul said in a press conference on Monday: "We are yet to receive any reply to the two letters sent to ICC. Also, in the meantime, the ICC security team, those in charge of

security, have given a letter to the BCB. In that letter, it is said that if three things happen, the security threat to the Bangladesh team will increase: If Mustafiz is included in the Bangladesh team. If the supporters of the Bangladesh team roam around wearing the national jersey of Bangladesh, which is our national jersey. As the national elections are forthcoming, the security threat to the Bangladesh team will increase." This statement by the ICC security team has proven that Bangladesh is in no position to play the T20 World Cup in India." The ICC is yet to confirm or deny the existence of the letter from its security team. According to sources, this letter was part of an inter-departmental note, and not ICC's official response to BCB over its request to relocate its T20 World Cup matches from India.

Shikhar Dhawan Gets Engaged To Sophie Shine

Former Indian cricket team star Shikhar Dhawan confirmed his engagement to long-time girlfriend Sophie Shine on Wednesday. "From shared smiles to shared dreams. Grateful for the love, the blessings, and every good wish for our engagement as we choose togetherness forever - Shikhar & Sophie," Dhawan wrote in the caption of an Instagram post, which featured a photo of the two wearing their engagement rings. According to reports, Dhawan is set to marry Sophie Shine in February. The ceremony is likely to take place in the third week of February in Delhi-NCR, with big names from both the cricketing world and Bollywood expected to attend. Preparations for the lavish ceremony are already underway, though no further details have emerged. Reports suggest that Sophie worked as a product consultant and holds a degree in Marketing and



Management from the Limerick Institute of Technology. While cricketing celebrities are often linked with personalities from the world of social media and entertainment, Sophie's case is quite different. The Ireland-born professional has an academic background at Castleroy College, with credentials that can impress anyone. She currently serves as Second Vice President at Northern Trust Corporation, based in Abu Dhabi. Sophie completed

all her education in Ireland. She now heads the Shikhar Dhawan Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Da One Sports. Sophie has close to 341,000 followers on Instagram and has been posting pictures and videos with Shikhar for a while now. She was spotted with Dhawan on multiple occasions, watching cricket matches with the former India opening batter, but the news about their relationship status was only confirmed after the southpaw himself made it public.

Afghanistan's Mohammad Nabi Blasts Reporter Over Mustafizur Rahman-KKR IPL Controversy

Former Afghanistan captain Mohammad Nabi lashed out at a reporter over a question surrounding the Indian Premier League (IPL) controversy involving Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman and the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR). KKR released Mustafizur from their squad for IPL 2026 following directives from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). While a lot has been said and written about KKR and Mustafizur, a Bangladeshi reporter, during a press conference, asked Nabi about the controversy. Nabi, who is currently playing for Noakhali Express in the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), lost his cool at the journalist, saying that he has nothing to do with the controversy.



"Iska merese kya lena dena bhai. Mera Mustafizur se kya kaam hai? Politics me kya kaam hai mera? (What do I have to do with it? How am I related to Mustafizur? I don't have anything to do with politics)," Nabi responded. The veteran all-rounder insisted that he shouldn't have been asked about the controversy

in the first place. "I know he is a good bowler, all these things. But the way you are questioning, it's not related to me," he added. The 30-year-old drew significant attention after KKR acquired him for a record Rs 9.20 crore at the December mini-auction, making him the highest-paid Bangladeshi cricketer in IPL

history. He was purchased from a starting bid of Rs 2 crore amid a fierce bidding war between the Chennai Super Kings and the Delhi Capitals. The decision to release Mustafizur was made following reports of violence against members of the Hindu community in Bangladesh in December. Additionally, critics had voiced their disapproval of Rahman's involvement in the IPL. The 30-year-old player has claimed 65 wickets over 60 matches, maintaining an economy rate of 8.13 since his IPL debut with Sunrisers Hyderabad in 2016. He has represented several franchises: Mumbai Indians in 2018, Rajasthan Royals in 2021, Delhi Capitals during 2022-23, and Chennai Super Kings in 2024.

Shubman Gill Told To Follow Virat Kohli's 'Single-Mindedness' By Ravi Shastri: 'It Is A Routine'

Indian cricket's next generation is being reminded that talent alone isn't enough to reach the top; discipline and obsession matter just as much. Ahead of India's ongoing ODI series against New Zealand, former India head coach Ravi Shastri highlighted the unparalleled work ethic of Virat Kohli, saying that young captain Shubman Gill should chase that same drive to take his own game to the next level. Shastri said Kohli's excellence stems not just from talent, but from a daily routine of hard work, discipline, and an unyielding focus on the "little things" that often go unseen—the kind of habits that build champions over time. Shastri made these remarks during commentary on the first ODI between India and New Zealand in Vadodara, where Gill and Kohli batted together early in the innings. He didn't dwell on technique or batting mechanics; instead, he talked about Kohli's obsession with cricket, pointing out how the veteran goes



above and beyond in training, fielding drills, and fitness work, day after day. "That kind of 'single-minded hunger,'" Shastri said, sets a standard that rising stars like Gill can learn from as leadership responsibilities grow. "The single-

mindedness, the hunger. The willingness to push that body to the limits. And I have seen that in my time when I was with the team, his work ethics probably second to none. I have seen just the way he goes about his job.

CARRICK FAVOURITE FOR MAN UTD CARETAKER ROLE



Michael Carrick has emerged as favourite to be appointed Manchester United caretaker head coach, according to sources close to the process. Club chiefs are hoping to have an appointment in place for when players return to training on Wednesday. While a final decision is yet to be reached, talks are said to have progressed with the 44-year-old over the position. Carrick previously had a three-game stint as United's temporary boss following Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's dismissal in 2021. He won two and drew one of those matches but left after Ralf Rangnick's arrival as interim manager. Solskjaer held face-to-face discussions with the club on Saturday about a return. United sacked Ruben Amorim as manager after 14 months in the job on 5 January. Darren Fletcher, a former United and Scotland midfielder, was initially handed temporary responsibility for first-team affairs following Amorim's departure. United suffered an FA Cup

third-round defeat at the hands of Brighton on Sunday in what looks set to be Fletcher's second and final game in charge. He led the side to a draw at struggling Burnley in the Premier League last Wednesday. Former England midfielder Carrick played 464 games in all competitions for United between 2006 and 2018, having been signed from Tottenham by Sir Alex Ferguson. He has been out of work since he was sacked by Championship club Middlesbrough last June after two and a half years in charge. Carrick guided Boro to the Championship play-offs in the 2022-23 campaign, only for them to lose to Coventry in the semi-finals. His side then narrowly missed out on the top six in successive campaigns, resulting in Carrick losing his job. Wallsend-born Carrick does not boast the same managerial experience as Solskjaer, given he has had only one permanent role with Middlesbrough

Washington Sundar Ruled Out Of New Zealand ODIs Due To Injury. This Star Receives Maiden Call-Up

Indian cricket team all-rounder Washington Sundar was ruled out of the ongoing ODI series against New Zealand due to injury, BCCI confirmed on Monday. Sundar reported an acute onset discomfort in his left lower rib area while bowling during the first ODI at the BCA Stadium, Vadodara, on Sunday. The BCCI said that he will undergo further scans, following which the BCCI Medical Team will seek expert opinion. Ayush Badoni received his maiden call-up as he was named replacement for the all-rounder. The BCCI said that Badoni will link up with the squad in Rajkot ahead of the second ODI encounter on Wednesday. India registered a four-wicket win after successfully chasing



down a target of 301 in 49 overs against New Zealand in Vadodara on Sunday, with captain Shubman Gill and Virat Kohli playing pivotal roles in the run chase. Gill led from the front with a composed 56 off 71 balls, which included three fours and two sixes, anchoring the innings at the top. He found solid support in Kohli, who was the stand-

out performer of the chase, scoring a fluent 93 off 91 deliveries to steer India close to the target. Reflecting on the win, Gill emphasised the importance of contributing during a chase and staying mentally grounded. "Always feels great to chip, especially when you're chasing. Staying in the present is most important, esp for ath-

letes. That's what I try to do," Gill said after the match, as quoted from ESPNcricinfo. The India skipper was full of praise for Kohli, acknowledging the difficulty of batting on the surface. "At the moment, Kohli's making batting look easy, it's tough to start on these pitches. Tough to replicate what he does. Hope he keeps piling on runs," he added. Gill also spoke about the team's bowling combinations and the decision-making around squad rotation, given the limited number of ODIs. "Arshdeep did well last series, (Mohammed) Siraj wasn't there, we want to keep rotating as there aren't that many ODIs," he said, explaining the rationale behind giving opportunities to different players.

BCB Breaks Silence On Bangladeshi Umpire Officiating During 1st India vs New Zealand ODI

A Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) official stated that umpire Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid Saikat did not need a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the board to officiate in the first ODI between India and New Zealand in Vadodara on Sunday. Saikat's involvement in the match comes as the BCB has requested the International Cricket Council (ICC) to shift its T20 World Cup 2026 matches out of India, citing "security concerns." While the BCB remains steadfast in its stance regarding the T20 World Cup, Umpire Department Chairman Iftekhar Rahman clarified that Saikat's role was purely



contracted umpire, the BCB has no authority to prevent him from officiating matches in India. "He (Saikat) is an ICC-contracted umpire, and we are stating clearly that he is not contracted with us (BCB)," Iftekhar told Cricbuzz. "Our contract stipulates

that whenever he has an ICC assignment, he is automatically on leave from his duties with us. I don't need to issue any NOC. The contract states that if he has any ICC engagement, he must be automatically released. I have no authority to decide whether to

grant permission or not," he added. Implications for the T20 World Cup Saikat and Gazi Sohel are expected to feature as match officials during the upcoming T20 World Cup. It is likely that the ICC will cite Saikat's current presence in India in its response to the BCB's "security concerns," using it as a precedent to encourage the Bangladesh team to travel to India for the tournament. BCB President Aminul Islam Bulbul confirmed that the board has yet to receive a response from the ICC regarding its concerns about playing in India. He reiterated that the BCB's position remains

'PGA TOUR FACES HUGE DILEMMA OVER KOEPKA RETURN'



How should the PGA Tour react to Brooks Koepka's application to rejoin its lucrative and prestigious circuit of tournaments? Within days of leaving the breakaway LIV Golf League, the five-time major champion signalled his intention to switch back to the leading establishment tour by reapplying for membership on 9 January. Koepka, 35, left LIV one year early, wanting to spend more time with his family. But the Floridian, who remains eligible for all four majors courtesy of his 2023 US PGA Championship victory, is clearly keen to rejoin the tour he dramatically left four years ago. And for the PGA Tour this provides a huge dilemma. 'Get Koepka back ASAP' Koepka is the past decade's most prolific winner of men's majors and an attractive draw for sponsors, television and fans alike. Such appeal brought a gargantuan signing on fee from the Saudi Arabia-backed LIV organisation

and his 2022 departure was a hammer blow for the PGA Tour. Of course they would love to have him back and readmitting Koepka would help the established order administer a painful retaliatory jab that could set up a potential knockout blow to the disrupting upstarts. By welcoming back someone with two US Opens and three US PGAs to his name, the PGA Tour might provide an encouraging return path for other stars such as Bryson DeChambeau and Jon Rahm when they near the end of their LIV contracts. "Does it make sense if Brooks wanted to play the PGA Tour again to get him back as soon as possible? Absolutely," Masters champion Rory McIlroy recently told the Palm Beach Post. "What Brooks has done in the game of golf, it would be good for everyone to have him back." But McIlroy added: "You can't treat one person differently from how you treat others."

Prime Video Unveils the Gripping Trailer of its Latest Telugu Crime Thriller Movie Cheekatilo

A Prime Original movie, Cheekatilo is an edge-of-the-seat crime thriller, directed by Sharan Kopishetty, produced by D. Suresh Babu under the banner of Suresh Production Pvt Ltd, and written by Chandra Pemmaraju and Sharan Kopishetty Prime Video, India's most-loved entertainment destination, today unveiled a riveting trailer of Cheekatilo, an emotionally-charged Telugu crime suspense drama. Against the backdrop of a dynamic, fast-growing Hyderabad, the narrative follows Sandhya, a true crime podcaster portrayed by SOBHITA Dhulipala as she uses her podcast to uncover the two-decade-old secrets of a long-dormant serial killer. Directed by Sharan Kopishetty and produced by D Suresh Babu under the banner of Suresh Productions Pvt Ltd., the thrilling narrative is written by Chandra Pemmaraju and Sharan Kopishetty. The movie stars Sobhita Dhulipala and viswadev Rachakonda ,in lead roles, alongside Chaitnaya visalakshmi ,Esha Chawla , Jhansi,Aamani and Vadmamani Srinivas in pivotal roles. The Telugu movie will premiere exclusively on Prime Video across India and in over 240 countries and territories worldwide, on January 23. The trailer for Cheekatilo offers a gripping glimpse



into Hyderabad's underbelly, where Sandhya—a criminology graduate and true crime podcaster—is drawn into a dangerous game of cat and mouse. The shocking murder exposes a trail of past crimes, setting off a tense pursuit of truth and justice. Using her podcast as an investigative tool, Sandhya attempts to challenge and draw out a cold-blooded killer. As the tension escalates, the narrative builds toward a chilling revelation. But will the truth come to light, or will Sandhya become the killer's next victim? Packed with suspense and emotion, the trailer sets the stage for a nerve-racking hunt that begins January 23, only on Prime Video. Sharan Kopishetty, director and co-writer of Cheekatilo, shared, "Directing Cheekatilo has been a

deeply rewarding journey—one that pushed me to explore the darker, more human layers beneath a seemingly straightforward crime story. At its heart, this movie is more than a crime suspense—it is a reflection on resilience, the fight against silence and power, and the courage it takes to bring justice to the front. With the trailer now out, audiences can glimpse the tense, suspenseful world we have created. Partnering with Prime Video has been immensely rewarding, allowing us to bring this vision to a global audience, united by our commitment to bold, authentic, and relatable storytelling. The film's talented cast, with their exceptional performances, has been central in shaping this vision. I can't wait for viewers to experience it when it

premieres exclusively on Prime Video on January 23." Sobhita Dhulipala, who plays the lead character of Sandhya in Cheekatilo, shared, "Playing 'Sandhya' has been a superb experience - she's a front-footed young woman who is an independent thinker, deeply committed to standing by her belief system no matter the resistance. Her choices are shaped by a unique stubbornness that has a history of its own. Playing a character rooted in the by-lanes of Hyderabad and other Telugu localities and coming from a cultural background as my real self, the integration between the character and my own expression was seamless and utterly enjoyable. Grateful for this wonderful experience and our exceptional cast and crew - everyone brought their heart to the set every single day. Being part of a Prime Original project is special in many ways. From Made in Heaven to now Cheekatilo, it has been an intentional and inspiring journey—our shared growth, commitment towards entertaining storytelling as well as the keenness to push the envelope each time is a rare joy. Looking forward for the audiences to see a different side of me as Sandhya when the movie premieres exclusively on Prime Video on January 23"

Mana Pandaga, Mana Entertainment, Mana Telugu ZEE5, Unveils Sankranthi Campaign with Rocking Star Manchu Manoj

Telugu ZEE5 has unveiled a Sankranthi brand film featuring Rocking star Manchu Manoj, celebrating the spirit of the festival while reinforcing the platform's promise of delivering entertainment that truly belongs to Telugu audiences. With the communication line 'Mana Pandaga, Mana Entertainment, Mana Telugu ZEE5,' the campaign reflects the platform's deep cultural connection with the region and its viewers. Set in a traditional village manduva house during Sankranthi, the brand film captures the warmth, humour, and emotional bonding of a festive family gathering. The narrative follows Manoj's journey from a bus ride back to his village to a lively homecoming filled with playful moments, and humorous banter between family members. The story culminates in a high-energy celebration, highlighting Telugu ZEE5 as the go-to entertainment companion for the year. Directed by Sai Marthand and DOP by Suriya Balaji, known for their work in series 'Little Hearts', the film blends festive nostalgia with contemporary storytelling, using its content offering with a diverse slate of films and series that cater to a wide range of audience preferences. The platform has already made its mark with popular titles such as Beauty, Nayanam, Bhairavam, Sankrantiki Vasthunam, Kishkindapuri, and Hanuman. Looking ahead, Telugu ZEE5 is set to bring major releases including films starring Chiranjeevi



and Nayanthara's starrer 'Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu', and Ravi Teja's featuring Bhartha Mahasayulaku Wignapathi, and Gurram Papireddy ensuring a steady flow of high-impact entertainment for its viewers. Speaking about the campaign, Anuradha Guru, Business Head – Telugu ZEE5, said, "At Telugu ZEE5, our focus is on bringing a diverse mix of entertainment that truly reflects the tastes of Telugu audiences, from rooted family dramas and festive entertainers to gripping thrillers and big-ticket star films. With our previous and upcoming films featuring stars like Chiranjeevi, Nayanthara, and Ravi Teja, we are building a strong, consistent content pipeline. This Sankranthi campaign reflects

what we stand for: culturally rooted stories, mass entertainment, and content that families can enjoy together on Mana Telugu ZEE5." Actor Manchu Manoj, the face of the Sankranthi campaign, shared, "Sankranthi is all about family, laughter, and togetherness. This film brought back memories of the fun, light-hearted roles I've enjoyed earlier, and it felt refreshing to revisit that space. I loved how naturally the story captures the festive mood, and being part of a Zee5 Telugu campaign that celebrates family emotions made it even more special." With its culturally rooted storytelling, strong content lineup, and festive brand communication, Telugu ZEE5 continues to strengthen its position as a platform

that celebrates Telugu entertainment in all its forms, making this Sankranthi truly special for its audiences. About ZEE5: ZEE5 is Bharat's largest homegrown video streaming platform and the multilingual storyteller for millions of entertainment seekers. ZEE5 stems from the stable of ZEE Entertainment Enterprises Limited (ZEEL), a Global Content Powerhouse. An undisputed choice of video on demand platform for consumers, it offers an expansive and diverse library comprising 4,071+ films, 1,800+ TV shows, 422+ web originals, 4,492+ music videos, and over 1.35 lakh hours of on-demand content. The content is now offered to our varied audience through 7 personalized and hyper-local subscription packs spread across 12 languages - Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Bengali, Malayalam, Kannada, Marathi, English, Oriya, Bhojpuri, Gujarati, and Punjabi. This encompasses our large repertoire of Originals, Indian and International Movies, TV Shows, Kids shows, News and Live TV. A strong deep-tech stack, stemming from partnerships with global tech disruptors, enables ZEE5 to deliver a seamless experience across multiple devices, ecosystems, and operating systems.



“Nenu Ready Teaser Promises a Wholesome Summer Comedy Riot”

Presenting An Absolute Fun Riot- Havish, Thrinadha Rao Nakkina, Nikhila Koneru, Harniks India LLP's Nenu Ready Fun-Filled Teaser Unveiled, Theatrical Release In Summer Young hero Havish teamed up with director Thrinadha Rao Nakkina for an out-and-out entertainer Nenu Ready. Kavya Thapar is the leading lady opposite Havish in the film being produced by Nikhila Koneru under the Harniks India LLP banner. After making initial buzz with its posters and title glimpse, the makers today unveiled the teaser, which

was earlier screened with Prabhas' Raja Saab in theatres. The teaser sets up a fun-filled premise. A responsible middle-class Andhra guy working in a private company gets engaged to a middle-class Telangana girl, leading to a hilarious clash of cultures and lifestyles. Thrinadha Rao Nakkina once again proves his knack for crafting wholesome entertainers, generating comedy through relatable situations- like the bride's family being hardcore non-veg lovers while the groom's side sticks to strict vegetarianism.

Archana Puran Singh diagnosed with ‘rare’ health condition, breaks down

Mumbai: In her latest London vlog, Archana Puran Singh, known for her infectious laughter on The Kapil Sharma Show, shared a deeply personal moment with her fans. Her son, Ayushmaan Sethi, paid tribute to her resilience amid her health struggles. Ayushmaan expressed his pride in his family, including his parents, brother, and even their dogs. However, it was Archana who topped the list, bringing her to tears. Ayushmaan's Praise for Archana Ayushmaan praised his mother for her strength and determination in the face of a tough year.

He spoke about how Archana broke her hand and developed a rare condition, Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS), which left her hand permanently damaged. Despite the pain, Archana shot for several movies and a web series, working tirelessly for 30 consecutive days without complaints. Ayushmaan also admired her for starting a YouTube channel at the age of 60, which he described as incredible. Archana's Emotional Response Visibly moved by her son's words, Archana choked up as she responded, "I am so proud of

you. You didn't even mention yourself." She shared that while her children sometimes made her cry out of frustration, these were happy tears, filled with pride and gratitude. Archana's Health Struggles In 2025, Archana suffered a severe injury on the set of a film, which later developed into CRPS. The pain and slow recovery were documented in her vlogs, where she shared her struggles and determination to stay positive despite the challenges. The Family's Day in London After the emotional moment, the family ventured out to Borough

Market in London to sample local delicacies.



Priyanka Chopra Jonas makes stylish red carpet appearance at Golden Globes 2026

Los Angeles: Actor Priyanka Chopra Jonas and her husband, singer-actor Nick Jonas, turned heads as they arrived on the red carpet of the Golden Globe Awards 2026. Jonas wore a double-breasted tuxedo with subtle pinstripes, opting for a polished and understated silhouette that stood out for its sharp tailoring. At the ceremony, Chopra Jonas presented the award for Best Performance by a Male Actor in a Television Series – Drama alongside global pop star Lalisa Manobal, popularly known as Lisa of South Korean girl band BLACKPINK. The duo announced actor Noah Wyle as the winner for his performance in medical drama series "The Pitt". The Golden Globe Awards 2026 are being held at the Beverly Hilton in Los Angeles, honour outstanding achievements in film and television and have drawn leading names from the global



entertainment industry. On the work front, Chopra Jonas has an impressive slate of projects ahead. Chopra Jonas was most recently seen in the Hollywood action comedy "Heads of States", co-starring Idris Elba and John Cena. She will next feature in the pirate action film "The Bluff", in which she stars opposite "The Boys" actor Karl urban. The movie will be released on Prime Video in February. The actor will also be seen in "Judgement Day", starring alongside Will Ferrell, Zac Efron, Regina Hall, Jimmy Tatro, Billy Eichner and Michael Peaa, among others. Besides, Chopra Jonas is set to make her much-anticipated return to Indian cinema with "Varanasi", the next feature project from ace filmmaker S S Rajamouli. She is part of an ensemble cast which also includes Telugu superstar Mahesh Babu and acclaimed actor Prithviraj Sukumaran.

Isha Malviya set to venture into Bollywood with a major film project

Mumbai: If industry buzz is to be believed, actress Isha Malviya might be on the verge of stepping into the biggest phase of her career yet. The young actress, who rose to fame with her show Udaariyaan, according to reports is all set to venture into films. IANS has exclusively learnt that the production house and the film's details are being kept tightly under wraps, adding to the growing curiosity around the project. Insiders reveal to IANS, that this is not just any film, but a high-scale project that could mark Isha's transition into Bollywood in a big way. A source close to the development shares with IANS, "Isha Malviya is expected to begin shooting for a big project soon. Preparations are already underway, and if things fall into place, this could mark her major Bollywood debut." The secrecy around the project

is also being maintained deliberately, as the makers reportedly want to unveil everything at the right time. Over the past few weeks, fans have noticed Isha's packed schedule, frequent meetings and a visible shift in her public appearances, further fuelling speculation that something big is in the pipeline. An official confirmation from the makers or Isha herself is awaited. Talking about Isha Malviya, the actress post Udaariyaan rose to fame with her stint on the reality show Bigg Boss season 17. She is currently seen in the fun cooking reality show Laughter Chefs. Isha also featured in singer Sanju Rathod's song, Ek Number, that had taken the internet by storm in 2025. The secrecy around the project is also being maintained deliberately,

as the makers reportedly want to unveil everything at the right time.

