OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

23-01-2026
Total pilgrims: 69,726
Tonsures: 27,832
Hundi kanukalu: 4.12CR
Waiting Compartments...Out side line at Silathoranam

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens).. 24H

VOL No. XIV | ISSUE No. 23

CHENNAI I BENGALURU I HYDERABAD I VIJAYAWADA I KOCHI

THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES

Essence of the South

NATIONAL DAILY NEWSPAPER

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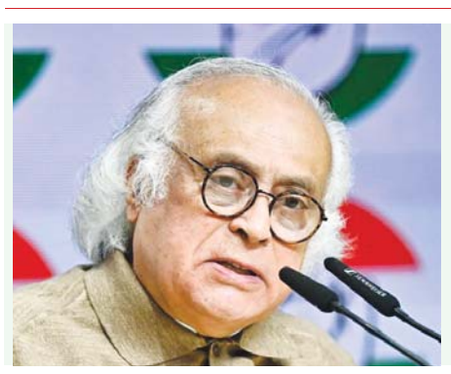
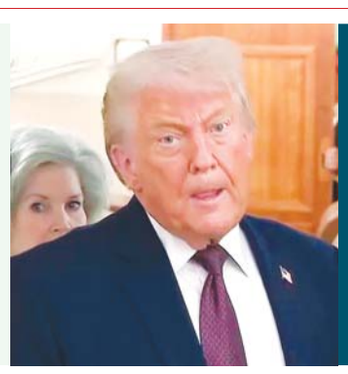


Jairam Ramesh recalls signing of Constitution, highlights its artistic and democratic legacy



WORLD | NEWS

Toll in Iran's protest crackdown reaches at least 5,002 dead as Trump says US 'armada' approaching

SPORTS | NEWS

Dhoni back in the nets as CSK icon gears up for IPL 2026

INBRIFS

Indian-origin man shoots dead wife, 3 relatives in US over family dispute

New York (TSIT) A 51-year-old Indian-origin man has been arrested for allegedly shooting dead his wife and three relatives purportedly due to a family dispute in the US state of Georgia. Vijay Kumar was taken into custody a short distance from the residence in Lawrenceville city where the shooting occurred on Friday, Gwinnett County Police said in a social media post. Gwinnett County Police identified the victims as Kumar's wife Meenu Dogra, 43, who is an Indian national, and the relatives Gourav Cumar, 33, Nidhi Chander, 37, and Harish Chander, 38.The Consulate General of India in Atlanta, expressing grief over the shooting, said the alleged shooter has been arrested and all possible assistance was being extended to the bereaved family."We are deeply grieved by a tragic shooting incident linked to an alleged family dispute, in which an Indian national was among the victims. The alleged shooter has been arrested, and all possible assistance is being extended to the bereaved family," it said on X.

Landslides, snowfall disrupt rail traffic on Kalka-Shimla route

Shimla, Jan 24 (TSIT) Rail traffic on the historic route was severely disrupted on Friday following rain and snowfall that triggered landslides and the fall of trees and boulders on the track. Train movement was halted for extended periods in forested stretches near Sanwara, Kumarhatti, and Jatog, causing cascading delays throughout the day.

According to railway officials, three trains reached three to four hours behind schedule, while one train was delayed by about an hour. The Himalayan Queen, which departed with an initial delay of 35 minutes, remained stranded in the Sanwara forest for nearly half an hour and ultimately reached Shimla around an hour late. The late arrival of up trains led to corresponding delays in down services towards Kalka. The first train of the day, the 52457- Kalka–Shimla Express, departed at its scheduled time of 3:30 am but was held up between Dharampur and Kumarhatti for around 50 minutes, reaching Shimla at 9:50 am, about an hour late.

Trade agreements opening up new opportunities for youth: PM Modi

NEW DELHI (TSIT) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said India was entering into trade and mobility agreements with various nations to create new opportunities for the youth both within the country and abroad. Modi made these remarks at the 18th Rozgar Mela where he handed over 61,000 appointment letters for various government jobs electronically.

"India is signing trade and mobility agreements with several countries. These trade agreements are bringing new opportunities for the youth of the nation," Modi said, addressing the Rozgar Mela at 45 locations across the country via video conferencing.

Modi said India had the maximum number of youngsters in the world and his government was making efforts to create new opportunities for the youth within the country and abroad.

A PMO statement said the Rozgar Mela was a key initiative aimed at translating this vision into action in line with the prime minister's commitment to accord the highest priority to employment generation.

Remarks come at the 18th Rozgar Mela where Modi hands over 61,000 appointment letters for various government jobs electronically

Since its inception, more than 11 lakh recruitment letters have been issued through Rozgar Melas organised across the country, it said. The 18th Rozgar Mela was organised at 45 locations across the country, and newly recruited candidates, selected from all parts of India, joined various ministries and departments of the government. The new appointees will be serving in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Financial Services, Department of Higher Education, among others.

No political interference in SCCL, site visit norm pre-dates Congress: Bhatti

Hyderabad: Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Saturday, January 24, refuted the allegations of irregularities in Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), saying that the site visit certificate system was in place long before the Congress came to power in Telangana and there was no political interference in tender allocation.Holding a press meet at Jyotirao Phule Bhavan and Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, the Deputy CM demanded managing director of ABN Andhra Jyothi, Vemuri Radhakrishna, retract his statements on SCCL, warning defamation charges otherwise.

On January 18, Bhatti had announced that SCCL would cancel the mining tender for the Naini coal block after a report by the news agency alleged he had a role in awarding the contract to certain companies.

The Deputy CM condemned the reports, saying that they damage the morale of nearly 42,000 permanent employees and 30,000 outsourcing workers of Singareni."For whose pleasure and to please whom Radhakrishna wrote those articles is known only to him....I have been in politics for 40 years.

An attack on my personality, which is built on high ethical values, is unjustified. I have personally witnessed the hardships, blood, and sweat of Singareni workers. I will not allow vultures, predators, or powerful interests to descend on Singareni." Bhatti said. The previous day, Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader Harish Rao wrote to Union Coal Minister Kishan Reddy asking for a CBI probe into the SCCL tender cancellation.

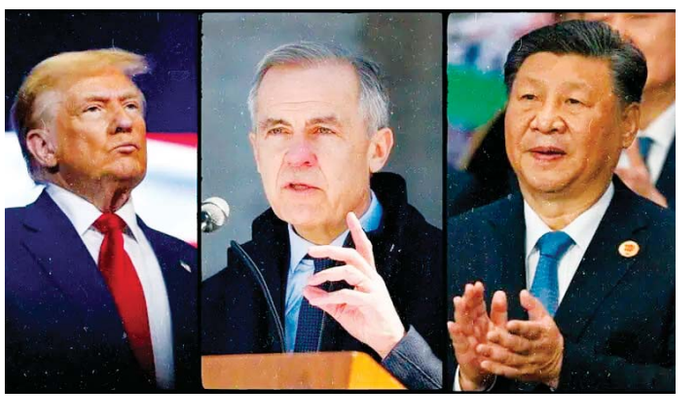
Trump threatens Canada with 100 pc tariffs over new trade deal with China

WASHINGTON (TSIT): President Donald Trump on Saturday, January 24, threatened to impose a 100 per cent tariff on goods imported from Canada if America's northern neighbour went ahead with its trade deal with China.

Trump said in a social media post that if Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney "thinks he is going to make Canada a Drop Off Port' for China to send goods and products into the United States, he is sorely mistaken."While Trump has waged a trade war over the past year, Canada this month negotiated a deal to lower tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles in return for lower import taxes on Canadian farm products.

Trump initially had said that agreement was what Carney "should be doing and it's a good thing for him to sign a trade deal."Carney's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Trump's threat came amid an escalating war of words with Carney as the Republican president's push to acquire Greenland strained the NATO alliance. Trump had commented while in Davos, Switzerland, this week that "Canada lives because of the United States." Carney shot back that his nation can be an example that the world does not have to bend toward autocratic tendencies.



Trump later revoked his invitation to Carney to join the president's "Board of Peace" that he is forming to try to resolve global conflicts.

Trump's push to acquire Greenland has come after he has repeatedly needled Canada over its sovereignty and suggested it also be absorbed the United States as a 51st state.

He resumed that this week, posting an altered image on social media showing a map of the United States that included Canada, Venezuela, Greenland and Cuba as part of its territory.In his message Saturday, Trump continued his provocations by calling Canada's leader "Governor Carney." Trump had used the same nickname for Carney's predecessor, Justin Trudeau, and his use of it toward Carney was the latest mark of their soured relationship.Carney has not yet reached a deal with Trump to reduce some of the tariffs that he has imposed on key sectors of the Canadian economy.

India-EU FTA: EU Foreign Policy Chief Kaja Kallas arrives in India to push "mother of all deals"

NEW DELHI (TSIT): European union foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas arrived in New Delhi on Saturday on her first official visit to India, as Brussels and New Delhi move to deepen cooperation on security, trade and defence.Welcoming her visit, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said it comes at an opportune moment to further strengthen the India-EU Strategic Partnership, building on the momentum of regular high-level engagements.

"A warm welcome to EU HRVP kajakallas on her first official visit to India as the EU High Representative/Vice-President. The visit comes at an opportune moment to further strengthen the India–EU Strategic Partnership, building on the momentum of regular high-level engagements," he posted on X.

India and the European union are on the cusp of what's being called the "mother of all deals", a historic trade agreement that would create a massive market of 2 billion people, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said. Speaking at the World Economic Forum, von der Leyen emphasised that the new deal will involve almost a quarter of the global GDP, putting both India and the EU as prominent players of the 21st century. Speaking in the European Parliament a few days earlier, Kallas said Europe is ready to advance a new agenda with India and announced that the EU has agreed to move forward with the signing of a new Security and Defence Partnership.

European Council President António Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen will be the Chief Guests at India's 77th Republic Day celebrations on January 26, 2026. The two leaders will be on a State Visit to India from January 25–27, 2026, at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and will co-chair the 16th India-EU Summit on January 27.

8 Maoists, including woman, surrender before police

Peddapalli : In a boost to the state's efforts to curb leftwing extremism, eight Maoists, including a woman, surrendered before the Ramagundam Commissionerate police on Saturday.The surrendered cadres were associated with various Maoist front organisations such as militia units, courier networks, cultural teams and local committees.

The surrendered Maoists were identified as Darmaji Srikanth, Podium Kamulu, Mudiam Joga, Kunjam Lakke, Modam Bheema, Kunjam Unga, Mudikam Sukram and Mudiam Mangu.Except Srikanth, all belong to Gampur village under Gangeluru police station limits in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh and were active in Bijapur and bordering areas of Telangana. Srikanth, a native of Chegyam village in Velgatur mandal of Jagtial district, had worked as a Maoist courier in 2019 and was arrested by Vajedu police in 2024.After his release, he rejoined the banned outfit in Chhattisgarh and later functioned as a courier to senior Maoist leaders Kankanala Raji Reddy, Azad and Damodar.

Major fire breaks out at Nampally, people feared trapped

HYDERABAD (TSIT): A major fire broke out at a furniture store in Nampally in Hyderabad on Saturday, January 24, with at least 2-3 people feared to be trapped inside.The fire occurred at Batcha Furniture Shop, located on the ground floor of a four-storey building, where scrap material had been stored. The blaze was reportedly triggered by accident.

According to the fire control room, 17 fire tenders have been deployed at the scene. No casualties have been reported so far, however rescue teams faced difficulties getting to the victims due to heavy smoke.The victims are suspected to be trapped on the second cellar and efforts are underway to reach them. Traffic disrupted, public asked to postpone Numaish visitHyderabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar also visited the site to supervise the rescue operation. Traffic in the area has come to a standstill, and the public has been advised to postpone their visit to Numaish for the day to avoid inconvenience. The traffic police have reported slow vehicular movement from the High Court backside gate, Delhi Gate, Nayapool, Afzal Gunj Law and Order Police Station, OGH Bus Stop, Sultan Bazar, Begum Bazar, MJ Market, Ajanta Gate, and Gandhi Bhavan (left turn via Ek Minar Road).

ICC drops Bangladesh from T20 World Cup, brings in Scotland; informs all member nations

New Delh The International Cricket Council (ICC) has pushed Bangladesh out of the upcoming T20 World Cup, bringing in Scotland after BCB refused to let its team travel to India citing security concerns in the wake of Mustafizur Rahman's ouster from IPL. Scotland's entry ended the month-long suspense after Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) repeatedly insisted that their matches be shifted to Sri Lanka and even suggested their group being swapped with Ireland.

The Irish Cricket board however categorically dismissed the suggestion.At the ICC Board meeting, Bangladesh were taken to the cleaners with an overwhelming 14-2 verdict in favour of the 'Tigers' travelling to India for their games.

ICC gave BCB a 24-hour deadline to change its stance but with Asif Nazrul being adamant, the cricket crazy nation's hopes of playing the T20 World Cup went up in smoke.It has been learnt that top ICC officials including chairman Jay Shah were in Dubai on Friday and late evening an e-mail was sent to BCB chairman Aminul Islam Bulbul informing him about global body's decision."An e-mail was sent last evening to BCB chairman intimating him that his board didn't get back to ICC officially after the 24-hour deadline that was given to them to decide if they wanted to come to India," an ICC source said on condition of anonymity."BCB did a press conference in Dhaka before officially intimating the global body which is a violation of protocol. They have been categorically told that they are being replaced. Scotland is the new team in the World Cup."ICC also intimated all the participating member nations separately about Bangladesh being dropped from the tournament.

PM Modi reiterates commitment to keep empowering the girl child

New Delhi, Jan 24 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Saturday, commemorated the National Girl Child Day by highlighting the decade-long efforts of the Union government in creating a conducive environment for girls' well-being and their contribution towards Viksit Bharat.

In a message on social media platform X, PM Modi said, "On National Girl Child Day, we reaffirm our unwavering resolve to ensure that the girl child leads a life of dignity, opportunity and hope."

The Prime Minister added, "Over the last 10 years, we have focused on better education, skilling and healthcare for the girl child. This has ensured an environment where the girl child can flourish and effectively contribute towards a Viksit Bharat."

On an earlier occasion, PM Modi had reiterated the Union government's commitment to keep empowering the girl child and ensure a wide range of opportunities for her.

"India is proud of the accomplishments of the girl child across all fields. Their feats continue to inspire us all," he said.

"Our government has focused on sectors like education, technology, skills and healthcare which have contributed to empowering the girl child. We are equally resolute in ensuring no discrimination happens against the girl child," the Prime Minister added.

The National Girl Child Day is celebrated annually on January 24, to highlighting the rights, education, health, nutrition, and overall welfare of girls.

Initiated in 2008 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the day serves as a platform to raise awareness about gender discrimination, promote equal opportunities, and foster an environment where girls can thrive as empowered citizens.

"It underscores the critical role of girls in shaping a brighter, more equitable future for the nation. This, in turn, aligns effectively with India's vision of women-led development and Viksit Bharat by 2047," a statement said.

"National Girl Child Day provides an opportunity to address persistent inequalities faced by girls, including gender biases, female foeticide, challenges related to the child sex ratio, child marriage, and barriers to education and health," it added.

"It emphasises changing societal attitudes to value and respect girls as equals, thereby promoting their holistic development," it said.

Key focus areas include advancing girls' education, skill development, digital inclusion, participation in STEM fields, mental health support, safety from violence, and opportunities for leadership roles.

A statement by the Ministry of Women and Child Development said that significant progress has been made through sustained efforts, particularly under the "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" (BBBP) scheme, with the Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) rising from around 918 in 2014-15 to 930 in 2023-24 at the national level.

Vizhinjam Port is Kerala's largest-ever private investment: Karan Adani

Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 24 (IANS) Karan Adani, Managing Director of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ), on Saturday, said the Vizhinjam International Seaport is the largest investment ever committed by any business house in Kerala and will see an additional investment of Rs 16,000 crore. Speaking at the foundation stone-laying ceremony of Vizhinjam Port Phase-2, Karan Adani said the port has already made a global mark within a short period of commencing operations.

"In just 15 months of commercial operations, Vizhinjam became the fastest Indian port to handle one million TEUs, firmly placing Kerala on the global shipping map. Today, as we lay the foundation for Phase-2, we are not merely expanding a port -- we are expanding a national capability," he said.

Adani announced that Phase-2 will see an additional investment of Rs 16,000 crore, taking the total committed investment to Rs 30,000 crore. With this expansion, the port's capacity will scale up from 1 million TEUs to 5.7 million TEUs by 2029.

Samriddhi Yatra: CM Nitish Kumar launches, inaugurates projects worth Rs 152 cr in Vaishali

Patna, Jan 24 (IANS) As part of his Samriddhi Yatra, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar visited Vaishali district on Saturday, where he laid the foundation stone for 25 development schemes worth Rs 54 crore and inaugurated 103 schemes worth Rs 98 crore.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha, Minister Bijendra Prasad Yadav, Minister Vijay Kumar Choudhary, Minister Lakhendra Kumar Roshan, JD-U state president and MLA Umesh Singh Kushwaha, MLAs Awadhesh Singh, Sanjay Kumar Singh, Siddharth Patel and Mahendra Ram, along with senior state government officials and other dignitaries.

During his visit, Nitish Kumar inspected the emergency ward of the Government Medical College in Mahua and visited stalls showcasing local start-ups, innovations and various departmental initiatives.

He also reviewed the desilting work of the Via River and observed an exhibition highlighting schemes announced under the Samriddhi Yatra. The Chief Minister later distributed cheques to beneficiaries of various development and welfare schemes. Addressing the public gathering, Nitish Kumar highlighted the achievements of his nearly 20-year tenure and contrasted the current situation with the period prior to 2005.Referring to the previous RJD-led governments, he said that Bihar lacked roads and basic infrastructure and that people were afraid to step out of their homes after sunset.

Congress leaders openly blaming 'immature' Rahul Gandhi for poll debacles: BJP

New Delhi, Jan 24 (IANS) The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), on Saturday, trained its guns on Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, alleging that his party members openly call him "immature" and the person responsible for the party's near-100 electoral defeats.

Pradeep Bhandari, BJP National Spokesperson, in a post on social media platform X, said, "No one in the Congress takes Rahul Gandhi seriously!"

"Shakeel Ahmad, a former Union Minister, calls 'virtual Congress President' Rahul Gandhi 'coward' and 'immature', and predicts that under him the Congress will not even be able to emerge as the third largest party nationally!" Bhandari said, attaching a video clip of Ahmad.

Bhandari captioned the message, "Congress exposes Rahul Gandhi, who is about to complete his century of defeats."

The BJP leader, in a video statement, said Congress leaders believe that the issues raised by Rahul Gandhi fail to have a connection with the public.

"The Congress leaders agree that the entire issue of Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls raised by Rahul Gandhi is a flop show," Bhandari said.

The BJP leader hit out at Rahul Gandhi for what called his "hypocrisy" over democracy, alleging that the LoP has failed to introduce democracy in his own party.

"Shakeel Ahmad has claimed that Rahul Gandhi has installed Mallikarjun Kharge as a dummy Congress President... in reality, the LoP Rahul Gandhi does not believe in organisational democracy," Bhandari said.

He added that more and more Congress leaders have started admitting in public that Rahul Gandhi has reduced the party into a failed organisation as he alone is responsible for the 95 electoral defeats that the grand old party has tasted under his stewardship.

Tharoor stands firm on Ops Sindoor, dismisses rift talks with Cong leadership

Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 24 (IANS) Senior Congress leader and Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor on Saturday said there was no change in the stand he had taken on "Operation Sindoor" and that he had no regrets about expressing a principled difference of opinion, firmly rejecting suggestions that he had acted against the party line in Parliament.

Speaking at the Kerala Literature Festival (KLF) in Kozhikode, Tharoor said that throughout his parliamentary career, he had never taken a position contrary to the official stand of the Congress. He clarified, however, that the only instance of a principled disagreement was in the context of Operation Sindoor, which he described as a matter of national security rather than partisan politics.

Tharoor's remarks came amid speculation about differences between him and the party leadership, particularly following his absence from a key Congress meeting in Delhi. Addressing the broader narrative, he underlined that matters of national security must be approached with clarity, responsibility, and a sense of national interest.

Referring to a column he had written in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, Tharoor reiterated that such attacks must not go unpunished and that India was entitled to respond firmly. At the same time, he cautioned against being drawn into a prolonged conflict with Pakistan. India, he said, should remain focused on development and avoid long-term military entanglements, advocating instead for limited and targeted military action against terror camps. Noting that the government later adopted a similar approach, Tharoor said this validated the core argument he had made.

When we celebrate 100 years of independence, UP will become a fully developed state: HM Shah

New Delhi, Jan 24 (IANS) Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday participated in the 'Uttar Pradesh Diwas' celebrations and said that when the nation celebrates 100 years of its Independence on August 15, 2047, Uttar Pradesh will emerge as a fully developed state and play an integral role in building a Viksit Bharat.

Addressing the gathering, Union Home Minister Amit Shah congratulated the people of Uttar Pradesh on the state's foundation day.

He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken the initiative to realise the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat', and under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the double-engine government has resolved to build a 'Viksit Uttar Pradesh'.

"Today, we once again reaffirm this resolution. On August 15, 2047, when the country celebrates 100 years of its Independence, Uttar Pradesh will become a fully developed state and an inseparable part of Viksit Bharat. Uttar Pradesh is not only the heartbeat but also the soul of India, and it is steadily transforming into the growth engine of the nation," HM Shah said.

The Union Home Minister further said that Uttar Pradesh will become the engine of Viksit Bharat.

"This is the sacred land where Lord Ram, Lord Krishna, Baba Vishwanath, Mahavir, and Lord Buddha sanctified the soil with their presence," he added.

Highlighting the transformation of the state, Amit Shah said that there was a time when Uttar Pradesh was viewed merely as a labour-supplying state.

"Today, it has become a driving force of India's economy. Congress, the Samajwadi Party, and the Bahujan Samaj Party reduced Uttar Pradesh to a 'Bimaru' state. The BJP government changed this narrative and transformed it into a breakthrough state, ensuring that development reached every village," he said.

Referring to the Rashtra Prerna Sthal, where the 'One District, One Cuisine' event was organised, Shah said that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had informed him that the site earlier had a garbage mountain spread across 65 acres.

National Girl Child Day: India advancing towards an equitable society, says govt

New Delhi, Jan 24 (IANS) India is advancing towards an equitable society with no gender discrimination and equal opportunities for girls, said the government.

Initiated in 2008 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), the day serves as a platform to raise awareness about gender discrimination, promote equal opportunities, and foster an environment where girls can thrive as empowered citizens. The day also aligns effectively with India's vision of women-led development and Viksit Bharat by 2047.

The government has, through different initiatives, supported by community participation, NGOs, schools, and Anganwadis, made measurable gains in girls' survival, education, and empowerment. "National Girl Child Day 2026 serves as a reminder of the importance of empowering girls and fostering an environment of equality and opportunity. Through multi-sectoral awareness campaigns, policy enforcement, and community engagement, India continues to build momentum towards gender equity and societal attitudes," said an official statement."With the ongoing commitment from government, civil society, and communities, India is advancing towards an equitable society where every girl child is valued, protected, and empowered to realise her full potential," it added. The government has addressed persistent inequalities faced by girls, including gender biases, female foeticide, challenges related to the child sex ratio, child marriage, and barriers to education and health.

Snowfall in J&K brings roadblocks, power cuts; BRO works to make Srinagar Airport operational

Srinagar, Jan 24 (IANS) Significant snowfall and rainfall occurred in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) during the last 24 hours. Air and surface transport remained disrupted throughout the day on Friday and the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) said on Saturday morning that its men and machinery were working to remove the accumulated snow and ice to make the Srinagar International Airport operational today.

No flight operation could take place from the airport yesterday as the Srinagar-Jammu Highway also remained closed.

Traffic was also suspended on the Srinagar-Leh Highway and the Mughal Road yesterday and till now there is no official word on resuming traffic on these highways.

Due to the gusty winds that went ahead of the rain and snowfall in J&K, most of the electricity supply network was disrupted, but the ground staff and engineers of the electricity corporation worked overnight to restore more than 60 per cent of the supply till Friday evening.

The MET department said on Friday that the Western Disturbance (WD) that caused the precipitation has now moved out of J&K.

Protium | **PROTIUM FINANCE LIMITED**
(Erstwhile Growth Source Financial Technologies Limited)

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

POSSESSION NOTICE- (U/S 13(4) & As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

WHEREAS, the undersigned, being the Authorized Officer of **Protium Finance Limited** (erstwhile Growth Source Financial Technologies Ltd.) (hereinafter referred to as "**Protium Finance Limited**"), under the provisions of the **Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) (the "SARFAESI Act"), and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002,** issued a **Demand Notice dated 30th Oct 2025**, calling upon the **Borrowers Emayam Offset Through Its Proprietor Rajasekaran Mohanasundaram S/o Rajasekaran**, and the **Co-Borrowers: 1. Rajasekaran Mohanasundaram S/o Rajasekaran, 2. Ganesan Dhanapriya W/o Rajasekaran Mohanasundaram**, in respect of the **LOAN ACCOUNT BEARING NO. GS088EEL1638581**, to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice, being **INR 58,97,878.52/- (Rupees Fifty Eight Lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Eight And Fifty Two Paise Only)** as on 30th Oct 2025, within 60 (Sixty) days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Symbolic Possession** of the property described hereinbelow, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, on this **24th Jan' 2026**.

The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property, and any dealings with the property shall be subject to the charge of **Protium Finance Limited** for an amount of **INR 58,97,878.52/- (Rupees Fifty Eight Lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Eight And Fifty Two Paise Only)** together with further interest thereon, and all costs, charges and expenses 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 MORTGAGED PROPERTY – (As Per Document No. 3282/2009 Sale Deed) All The Piece And Parcel Of The Immovable Property Residential Site Bearing S.F.No.190B, S.F.No.190A2A Is Totally P.Ac.5.58 Extent Of Land Providing Roads And Formed Layout Is Approved By Town And Country Planning Under File No.2092/89 Under Ma.Va./Na.U.Ka.No.820/89. In That House Site No.73 Belonged To Me By Way Of Sale Deed, In This, House Site No.73 Eastern Portion Vacant Land Is Situated At Periyasemur Village, Erode Taluk, Surampatti S.R.D., Erode R.D., Admeasuring And Bounded As Under: North To Reserve Site, East To House Site No.73 Western Portion Vacant Land Belonged To B.Anand @ Murugananthan, South To 40 Feet Width East-West Length Road, West To House Site No.72. In This, Admeasuring East-West On The Both Sides 5.33 Mt. (17-1/2 Feets) Each, North-South On The West 15.40 Mt. (50-1/2 Feets) On The East 15.55 Mt. (51 Feets), I.E., Totally Measuring 82.52 Sq.Mt. Or 888-1/4 Sq.Ft. Entire Extent Of Land, For This Pathway Rights Through The Entire Roads In The Layout To Be Used As Common Rights Etc. There Is No Building In The Said Land. For This New R.S.No.414/3, 5, 6, 7, 8, In This, The Land Situated In R.S.No.414/5. Together With All Other Rights, Buildings, Improvements, And Easements Appurtenant Thereto. This Property Situated In Periyaseamur 3rd Grade Municipality Ward No. 13, Bharathiyar Nagar, Now This Property Situated In Erode Corporation Limit.

Date: **24th Jan' 2026** — **Sd/-, For Protium Finance Limited**
Place: **Erode, Tamil Nadu** — **Authorised Officer**

TN Guv Ravi insults position he holds by not reading speech in Assembly: CM Stalin

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Saturday claimed that Governor R N Ravi "insulted" the gubernatorial position he holds, by not reading out the speech at the commencement of the Assembly session.

Stating that he was constrained to criticise the Governor for his actions, the chief minister said many governors that Tamil Nadu has seen in the past were not like Ravi.

"I am facing the crisis that was not witnessed during the tenures of former chief ministers C N Annadurai, M Karunanidhi, M G Ramachandran and J Jayalalithaa...Governor (Ravi) is insulting the position he holds by not reading the speech at the start of the Assembly session and insisting upon playing the national anthem at the start of the Assembly session," the chief minister said in his reply to the motion of thanks to the Governor's address, in the Assembly.

Governor R N Ravi declined to deliver the customary speech prepared by the state government on the first day of the current Assembly session on Tuesday, claiming there were "inaccuracies" in the text. Speaker Appavu had read out the Tamil version of the text.

The National Anthem, Stalin said, was always played at the conclusion of the Governor's speech in TN Assembly and Tamil Thai Vazhthu (Mother Tamil invocation) was played at the commencement. "We are not inferior to anyone in patriotism, and no one needs to teach us," Stalin said and added that the crisis was something not new to

him. "I have faced numerous challenges in the past and overcame them," he said.

In his reply, which was received by the Treasury Benches with loud thumping, the Chief Minister said, "In the last five years, this Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin lived for the people and formulated plans for their well-being and developed Tamil Nadu as a whole. This is a fact. I can understand that the opposition parties are unable to bear this".Expressing "pain" that the Governor, who ought to work for the welfare of Tamil Nadu, continued to work against the state and also against "us who strive for the people," he said the Governor's walkout was strange. "This act was tantamount to insulting the office he holds and an act of desecrating the Constitution of India itself, while holding a responsible position," he said.For the last three years, the Governor has repeatedly cited the same reason and staged a walkout from the Assembly without reading the speech prepared and delivered by a government elected by the people, and this Assembly has to consider that as a challenge to democracy.

"This is a government elected by crores of people, and a government that meets the aspirations of crores of people," Stalin, who is also the president of the DMK, said. As per the tradition of the Tamil Nadu Assembly, 'Tamil Thai Vazuthu' was sung before the Governor commenced his speech, and the National Anthem was sung at the conclusion of the speech, the chief minister explained.

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Though he was supposed to respond to the debate on the motion of thanks to the Governor's address to the House, he was constrained to explain to the Governor, Stalin said and described this as a crisis that former chief ministers did not face during their term in office.

"Then the Governors might have had differences, but they did not act in a way that would lead to a conflict. In that sense, I stand as one who has faced excessive trials. For me, trials are not new; I have risen overcoming trials. Those who criticise me may derive pleasure but they can't harm me," he said. Though he was supposed to respond to the debate on the motion of thanks to the Governor's address to the House, he was constrained to explain to the Governor, Stalin said and described this as a crisis that former chief ministers did not face during their term in office.

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No hurry on alliance, will decide at appropriate time: DMDK's Premalatha

CHENNAI: DMDK general secretary Premalatha Vijayakanth on Saturday said there was enough time for elections in Tamil Nadu and the party would forge an alliance at the appropriate time.

Dismissing speculation about delays, she said her party was in no hurry to announce an alliace and blamed the media for being overly eager.

Speaking to reporters, she said, "There is no delay in forming an alliance. Have they (Election Commission) announced the date for the polls in Tamil Nadu? Have political parties announced list of the candidates contesting in constituencies? See, we have enough time. Only press people are eager to know about the alliance." Describing the DMDK

"like a child" to her, Premalatha said, "As a mother I know my responsibilities. Therefore, we will announce our decision at the right time."Asked about the NDA kickstarting its election campaign in Tamil Nadu on January 23, she said the alliance is yet to be finalised.

"I was told that some more political parties are expected to join NDA alliance." Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks in the election campaign that countdown has begun for exit of the DMK government, she said, "A new political party will form the government post elections. We hope it provides good governance for the people of Tamil Nadu." The DMDK unsuccessfully contested the 2021 assembly elections with the TTV Dhinakaran led Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam.

Drizzle brings chill to Chennai; light to moderate rain likely till morning

CHENNAI: Chennai woke up to drizzling rain and cooler weather on Saturday morning, with the Regional Meteorological Centre stating that light to moderate rainfall was likely to continue in the city and various parts of the state till 10 am.

According to the RMC, isolated places in Chennai, Chengalpattu, Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Villupuram, Cuddalore, Mayiladuthurai,

Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur and Thanjavur districts are likely to receive light to moderate rain. Similar conditions are expected in Puducherry and the Karaikal region during the same period.Several parts of coastal Tamil Nadu and the delta region received rainfall over the last 21 hours. As per RMC data recorded till 5.30 am, Mahabalipuram in Chengalpattu district received the highest rainfall of 7 mm, followed by Cuddalore with 6 mm. Nungambakkam and Karaikal recorded 5 mm each, while Nagapattinam received 4 mm. Taramani recorded 3.4 mm of rainfall.

Antibiotics and 6 other medications linked to disrupted gut microbiome

The study, published in the American Society for Microbiology's Journal mSystems, found that, in addition to antibiotics, antidepressants, beta-blockers, stomach acid reducers, and anti-anxiety drugs, these substances could continue to disrupt the microbiome long after use.Babak Firoozi, MD, board certified gastroenterologist at MemorialCare Orange Coast Medical Center in Fountain Valley, CA, welcomed the study, but urged caution when interpreting the findings: "The methodology was robust, and convincingly linked changes in gut microbiome to medication uses, but this was not a controlled trial. There are far too many variables that cannot be accounted for, such as environmental factors, diet, geographic location. The most surprising finding is how many classes of drugs appeared to have influence on the gut biome."The researchers utilized data from 2,509 adults in the Estonian microbiome cohort, a component of the Estonian biobank — a population-based databank of volunteers in Estonia. The volunteers, who were ages between 23 and 89 years, provided blood, cheek swab, and stool samples. The researchers then used shotgun metagenomics sequencingTrusted Source on the stool samples to analyze the make-up of their gut microbiomes.

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on X@SCRailwayindia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

Tender Notice No.56/2025 Dt. 23.01.2026. PUB/181226

Supply Of Stores Items. E-Procurement Tender Notice:- The Following Tenders Have Been Floated Online. Tenders Are Requested To Visit The Website **www.ireps.gov.in** And Submit Their Offers Online. The Tender Description, Qty, EMD, SD May Be Seen In Website. Offers Submitted Manually Will Not Be Accepted. Offers By Post Will Not Be Entertained. Tender Closing Time Is 14.30 Hrs Of The Due Date Of The Tender. "For All Indigenous Offers, EMD Will Be Accepted Only Via Online System as Available On **www.ireps.gov.in."**

Tender No.	Brief Description
LN265054	Supply and fitment of Upholstery fabric
80255027	Hydraulic oil shell Tellus S2 Vx68
29255018A	Supply installation and commissioning
30253796C	Bottom side wall sheet
29261471	Metalized Carbon Strips suitable for high reach pantographs
25264617	AOH Replacement kit for single bottle VCB
37255004	Set of springs for wagons of CASNUB 22RFT bogie
33255012	Improved high tensile tight lock centre buffer coupler
42261003	18/20W LED (Indoor) tube light
LV255516	Mechanical toe load measuring device as per RDSO specification no. TM/SM/14(Rev 01 of 2005)
66259750	Procurement of spares for Track Machines
66259592	Track Machine spares for Plasser Make
31253270D	Horizontal Damper
29265001	3D Adjustable 360 Rotational Modified Driver seat
31253258B	Brake PAD FOR TRAINSET
66259680	Track machine spares of Plasser make
66259419	Procurement of different types of valves for track machine

Note; Due dates of tender opening SL.No.01 on dt. 30.01.2026. SL.No. 02 & 3 on dt. 09.02.2026. SL.No. 04 & 5 on dt. 12.02.2026 SL.No. 06 & 07 on dt. 13.02.2026. SL.No. 08 & 09 on dt. 16.02.2026. SL.No. 10 on dt. 17.02.2026 SL.No. 11 TO 13 on dt. 18.02.2026 SL.No. 14 & 15 on dt. 19.02.2026. SL.No. 16 & 17 on dt. 23.02.2026

Beside Above Mentioned Tenders There Are Other Tenders Having Value Above Rs. 50 Lakhs for details Please Visit Railway Website Above.

Principal Chief Materials Manager/ Secunderabad.

TENDER NOTICE PUB/181726

On behalf of the President of India, The Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer / RYPS, South Central Railway, Wagon Workshop, Guntupalli-521241 invites e- tender.

Tender No. M244-BOBRN-01-Dt 23-01-26, **Description:** Rehabilitation of BOBRN wagons at the premises of Wagon Workshop, Guntupalli, S.C. Railway. **Quantity :** 330 Wagons, **Period of Completion:** 24 Months. **Tender Value:** Rs. 27,72,42,866.16/- (Rupees Twenty seven crore Seventy two lakh forty two thousand eight hundred sixty six and paise sixteen only). **EMD:** Rs. 15,36,200.00 (Rupees Fifteen lakh Thirty six thousand and Two hundred only). **Cost of Tender document :** Free of Cost **Offer Validity:** 90 Days from the date of opening. **Type of tender:** Works Tender governed by IRGCC-2022. **System of Tendering:** Open Tender - Two Packet. **Similar nature of work:** Applicable. **Permissibility of Participation of Joint Venture Firms:** Permitted. **Applicability of Price Variation Clause:** Applicable. **Bid Capacity :** Applicable. **Time & Date of Tender closing:** 15-00 Hrs. of Dt. 26.02.2026. Tender document and Corrigendum: visit website **http://www.ireps.gov.in Postal Address for correspondence :** Chief workshop Manager, Wagon Workshop, Guntupalli-521241, NTR District, Andhra Pradesh.

Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer Wagon Workshop/Guntupalli

E-Tender No. ELS/BZA-eTN-18-2025-26 Dt. 23.01.2026 PUB/181826

For and on behalf of the President of India, the undersigned invites E-Tender for the following work up to 15:00 hours on 16.02.2026.

Sl.No.: 1, **Tender No.:** B/E.221/TRS/RC/567 E Tender ELS-BZA-eTN-18-2025-26 Dt. 23.01.2026, **Details of work, Name of the Work:** Welding of Bogie cracks, Bogie liners and other welding activities at Electric Loco shed, Vijayawada.-Reg. **Period of Completion :** 24 Months, **Tender value:** Rs.1,37,30,351.72, **EMD :** Rs.2,18,700/-, **Cost of Tender document :** 0, **Tender closing Date & Time :** 16.02.2026 15.00 Hrs.

1) Tender conditions/ other particulars such as the details of Name of work in full, the similar nature the above work, eligibility Criteria etc., are available in the Tender documents published in website at **www.ireps.gov.in.** 2) The prospective tenderers are advised to visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** before the date of tender closing to note any changes/ corrigenda for any tender. 3) The Tender Notice is also displayed in the Notice Beard located in the office of Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Traction Rolling Stock, Electric Loco Shed, Vijayawada which can be seen. 4) The Railway reserves the right to cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereto.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRS) Electric Loco Shed, Vijayawada A2300

For further tender conditions/ details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

Protium **PROTIUM FINANCE LIMITED**
(Erstwhile Growth Source Financial Technologies Limited)
Registered & Corporate Office Address: 7th Floor, Block B2, Phase – I Nirlon Knowledge Park, Pahadi Village, Off. Western Express Highway, Cama Industrial Estate, Goregaon(E), Mumbai- 400063, Maharashtra.

POSSESSION NOTICE- (U/S 13(4) & As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

WHEREAS, the undersigned, being the Authorized Officer of **Protium Finance Limited** (erstwhile Growth Source Financial Technologies Ltd.) (hereinafter referred to as "**Protium Finance Limited**"), under the provisions of the **Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) (the "SARFAESI Act"), and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002,** issued a **Demand Notice dated 27th Oct 2025**, calling upon the **Borrowers Smart Tech Printing Through Its Partners Shanmugapriya D/o Chithirai Pandian & Thangajayamurugan S/o Balu**, and the **Co-Borrowers: 1. Chithirai Pandian C S/o Chellasamy, 2. Thangajayamurugan S/o Balu, 3. Shanmugapriya W/o Thangajayamurugan**, in respect of the **LOAN ACCOUNT BEARING NO. GS009MF02358426**, to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice, being **INR 46,10,637.59/- (Rupees Forty Six Lakh Ten Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Seven And Fifty Nine Paise Only)** as on 27th Oct 2025, within 60 (Sixty) days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Symbolic Possession** of the secured asset described hereinbelow, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, on this **24th Jan' 2026**.

The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said secured asset, and any dealings with the secured asset shall be subject to the charge of **Protium Finance Limited** for an amount of **INR 46,10,637.59/- (Rupees Forty Six Lakh Ten Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Seven And Fifty Nine Paise Only)** together with further interest thereon, and all costs, charges and expenses 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 MORTGAGED PROPERTY – Supplier/OEM Name Anush Textile Solutions Description Dopsing Oval Screen Printing Machine 16 Colour, 52 Pallet, Pallet Size-73/110 Cm, Printing Size-68/90 Cm, Flashcure-16 Nos Squeegee Floodbar-16 Sets Quantity 1 Invoice No. & Date 119/24-25 dated 24.07.2024.

Date: **24th Jan' 2026** **Sd/-, For Protium Finance Limited**
Place: **Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu** **Authorised Officer**

OMKARA ASSETS RECONSTRUCTION PRIVATE LIMITED
Corporate Office: Kohinoor Square, 47th Floor, N.C.Kelkar Marg, R.G.Gadkari Chowk, Dadar (West), Mumbai - 400028 | **Tel.:** 022-26544000 | **Email:** mumbai@omkaraarc.com
www.omkaraarc.com | **CIN:** U67100TZ2014PTC020363

[Appendix - IV-A] [See proviso to rule 8 (6) r/w rule 9(1)]
PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
DATE OF E-AUCTION: 16.02.2026

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) read with Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the below mentioned Borrower and Guarantor(s) named hereinafter that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the **SYMBOLIC** possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Omkara Assets Reconstruction Pvt. Ltd. **("OARPL")** (acting in its capacity as a Trustee of Omkara PS 25/2019-20 Trust). **OARPL** is a Company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 and registered with Reserve Bank of India as an Asset Reconstruction Company and having its registered office at 9, M.P Nagar, 1st Street, Kongu Nagar Extn, Tirupur 641607 and Corporate office at Kohinoor Square, 47th Floor, N.C. Kelkar Marg, R.G. Gadkari Chowk, Dadar (West), Mumbai - 400028. Further, the assignor bank i.e. State Bank of India vide Deeds of Assignment dated 20.09.2016 assigned the entire outstanding debt of **M/s. Tiruppur Surya Hitech Apparel Pvt. Ltd** guaranteed by 1. Mr. K.Kuppusamy 2. Ms. K. Radhambikai 3. Mr. K. Karthik 4. Mr. S. Hariharasivasubramanaian 5. Ms. K. Suriya 6. Ms. K. Palanathal along with the underlying securities to OARPL acting in its capacity as Trustee of Omkara PS 25/2019-20 Trust respectively

Pursuant to the assignment agreement, OARPL has stepped into the shoes of the assignor banks and is entitled to recover dues and enforce the securities. The Secured Assets will be sold in exercise of rights and powers under the provisions of sections 13 (2) and (4) of SARFAESI Act; on "As is where is", "As is what is", "Whatever there is" and " Without recourse Basis" on **16-02-2026** at 02:00 PM (last date and time for submission of bids is **13-02-2026** by 05:00PM), for recovery of amount shown below in respective column due to OARPL and it's consortium members as Secured Creditors from the Borrower and Guarantors shown below.

The Reserve Price and the earnest money deposit of respective property has been mentioned below in respective column.

The description of Borrowers and mortgagors with description of the immovable property and known encumbrances (if any) are as under: -

Name of Borrower and Guarantors	Outstanding Dues as on 31.12.2025 in Rs.	Date of Demand Notice	Dates of Symbolic Possession
Borrower: M/s. Tiruppur Surya Hitech Apparel Pvt. Ltd (dissolved) **Guarantors:** 1. Mr. K. Kuppusamy 2. Ms. K. Radhambikai, 3. Mr. K. Karthik 4. Mr. S. Hariharasivasubramanaian 5. Ms. K. Suriya 6. Ms. K. Palanathal	**Rs. 432,06,44,144** (Four Hundred Thirty Two Crore Six Lakh Forty Four Thousand One Hundred Forty Four Only)	**20.09.2016**	**07.01.2017**

Lot No.	Description of immovable property	Mortgagor	Area	Inspection Date & Time	Reserve Price (Rs. lakhs)	EMD (Rs. lakhs)	Bid Increment Amount (Rs. lakhs)
1.	Land bearing SF No. 663, TS No. 1163/28/2, Block No. 8, located at Pillaiyar Kovil Thotta Vedukal, Thottipalayam Village (Surya Nagar), Tirupur Taluk & District (Known encumbrances are mentioned in the detailed terms & conditions)	Mr. K. Kuppusamy	admeasuring 0.86 Cents of land with 24,024 Sq. ft. building,	09-02-2026 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM	393	40	5

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer to the link provided in http://omkaraarc.com/auction.php

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

1. The auction will be conducted 'ONLINE' through OARPL's approved service provider M/s. C-1 India Pvt Ltd., Gurgaon. E -Auction tender document containing online e-auction bid form, Declaration, General Terms & conditions of online auction sales are available in website https://www.bankeauctions.com (Support mail Id support@bankeauctions.com support mobile No. +91-7291981124/25/26).
2. The intended bidders who have deposited the EMD and require assistance in creating Login ID & Password, uploading data, submitting bid, training on e-bidding process etc., may contact e-Auction Service Provider "M/s. C1 India Pvt. Ltd", Tel. Helpline: +91-7291981124/25/26, Helpline E-mail ID: support@bankeauctions.com , Mr. Bhavik Pandya, Mobile : 8866682937 E mail maharashtra@c1india.com.
3. For any property related query or inspection of property schedule, the interested person may contact the concerned Authorized Officer: **Aniket Joshi (Mob. No. 9869026887) (Email ID aniket.joshi@omkaraarc.com) & Akshay Shah (Mob. No. 9833505891) (Email ID akshay.shah@omkaraarc.com)** or at address as mentioned above in office hours during the working days.

STATUTORY NOTICE FOR SALE UNDER Rule 8(6) read with Rule 9(1) OF STATUTORY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002.

This notice is also a mandatory Notice of fifteen (15) days to the Borrower/Guarantors of the above loan account under Rule 8(6) & 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 and provisions of Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, informing them about holding of sale through Public Auction on the above referred date and time. In case of default in payment, the property shall at the discretion of the Authorized Officer/Secured Creditor be sold through any of the modes as prescribed under Rule 8 (5) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Sd/-
Aniket Joshi - Authorized Officer,
Omkara Assets Reconstruction Pvt Ltd.
(Acting in its capacity as a Trustee Omkara PS 25/2019-20 Trust)

Date: 25.01.2026
Place: Mumbai

VASTU HOUSING FINANCE **VASTU HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LTD**
Unit 203 & 204, 2nd Floor, "A" Wing, Navbharat Estate, Zakaria Bunder Road, Sewri (West), Mumbai 400015. Maharashtra. CIN No.: U65922MH2005PLC272501

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred to him under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice calling upon the borrowers mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in therespective notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on me under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the date mentioned below.The borrower and guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Limited Branch for an amount metioned as below and interest thereon, costs etc.

S N	Name of Borrower, Co-Borrower & LAN No.	Date & Amount of Demand Notice	Description of Property	Date & Type of Possession
1	Paramathma A, Thamizhmozhi P LP0000000196823	25-Aug-25 Rs. 626399/- as on 19-Aug-25	All the part and parcel of proprety located at New Natham S.No-303/1 [Old Natham S.No208/3B] and total extent of 1334 Sq.Ft or 123.9 Sq.Mt, plot 07, Veeracholapuram Village, Tirukovilur taluk, Villupuram Regd.District, Aragandanallur SRO "Karuppan Nagar" Boundaries as follows: North – Arumugam property South – Road East – Plot No 8 West – Road	Symbolic Possession Taken on 20-01-2026
2	K Saravanan, K Loganayaki MLP000000236703	13-Oct-25 Rs. 789985/- as on 10-Oct-25	OldS.No-332/1F1 AfterSubDivision332/1FIB Attached With Acc House ThumbipadiVillage,Kadayampatti Taluk, Salem West Regd.Kadaiyampatti, Salem, Tamil Nadu, District, OmalurSRO 636305 Admeasuring 0.04Cents	Symbolic Possession Taken on 21-01-2026
3	Balakrishnan Palani, Palani Mayapandithar HL0000000134625 & LP0000000130952	23-Jul-25 Rs. 1057555/- & Rs. 819963/- as on 09-Jul-25	All that Piece and Parcel of Land and building situated at No.240/2, ThanthoniAmmanKoil Street, Thiruppukkuzhi Village, Kanchipuram Taluk, Kanchipuram District comprised in Punjal S.No.406/1 of house site property bearing Plot No.13, measuring 1320 Sq.ft., situate within the Sub-Registration District of Thamal and the Registration District of Kanchipuram; Bounded on the North by: Plot No.14 belongs to D.K.Pachaiyappan South by: ArumugaPandithar's property East by Pattai of Thanthoniamman Koil Street West by: Vaiyapuri's property Measuring East to West On the Northern Side 66 feet On the Southern Side 66 feet 22 feet North to South:On the Eastern Side On the Western side 22 feet Admeasuring total extent 1320 Sq.ft., and in which constructed a RCC Roof house building with all accessories etc., Boundaries as follows: North – Pachaiyammal Plot South – Arumugapandi Plot East – Thanthoniamman Kovil Street West – Vaiyapuri Land	Symbolic Possession Taken on 21-01-2026

Date : 25.01.2026
Place : Salem, Chennai Nelson Manickam Road
Authorised Officer
Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd

Zoho chooses Kumbakonam for ERP foray, Zoho Pay rollout on cards

KUMBAKONAM: Zoho Corporation on Friday formally entered the enterprise resource planning (ERP) market with the launch of Zoho ERP, while signalling that Zoho Pay will roll out soon, founder and chief scientist Sridhar Vembu said, positioning payments as the next layer on top of the company's enterprise software stack.

The ERP platform was launched from Kumbakonam, in Vembu's hometown, reinforcing Zoho's long-held belief that world-class software can be built far from India's metros. Part of the ERP product team operates from Zoho's regional office in Kumbakonam, which has seen rapid expansion in recent years.

From a 20-member team in 2020, Zoho has scaled the Kumbakonam facility by transforming marriage halls into workplaces, to around 200 people, as part of its effort to replicate the Tenkasi model of decentralised product development. Two such facilities are already in operation where even a Zoho School of Technology operates, providing opportunities for undergrads to take up on the job training with stipends of Rs 10,000. These undergrads are from in and around Kumbakonam as they chart out their career path with an assurance of being absorbed in Zoho itself.

Vembu said plans are underway to develop a full-fledged campus in the region with capacity for up to 2,000 employees, depending on market adoption. ERP is a massive global opportunity, but it is also one of the hardest software categories to build. That's why only a few players dominate the world. It takes long-term R&D, engineering depth and trust

Vembu

Zoho's ERP foray is the culmination of nearly 18 years of work in finance and operations software. As per Sivaramakrishnan Iswaran, global head, Zoho's Finance and Operations Business Unit and CEO of Zoho Payment Technologies, the push was driven by a clear market gap. "Most global ERPs are retrofitted for India. They are not designed for evolving regulations like GST and e-invoicing," he said. "Enterprises want something powerful, customisable and affordable, without the heavy consulting-led cost structures."

Unlike stitched-together platforms, Zoho ERP is built as a unified system, embedding finance and operations by design, while integrating seamlessly with Zoho's CX and workplace products. The initial rollout will focus on manufacturing, retail, distribution and non-profits, sectors where Zoho already has strong customer demand.

Nokia plans GCC, research expansion in Karnataka

BENGALURU: Nokia Corporation, one of the world's leading telecommunications tech companies, has expressed interest in establishing a global capability centre and additional research centres in Karnataka, Minister MB Patil said on Friday.

Nokia, which has had a long-standing presence in the state for over 25 years and operates its largest global research centre in Bengaluru, has held discussions on expanding its operations across the state, including in tier-2 cities, he said.

During meetings with senior Nokia officials on the sidelines of the ongoing World Economic Forum (WEF) summit in Davos, the state government assured full support for the company's future expansion plans, Patil said in a statement.The minister also reiterated the state government's commitment to supporting the World Economic Forum's 'Yes-BLR UpLink' initiative, which aims to develop the 'Yes Bengaluru' programme on sustainable urban development into a globally recognised platform for government-industry collaboration.

The industries minister said the initiative was discussed in detail during a meeting with John Dutton, Head of UpLink at the World Economic Forum.

According to the minister, discussions were also held with global cybersecurity major Cloudflare regarding its potential participation in the 'KWIN City' project and future expansion opportunities in the state. Cloudflare's Global Strategy Head, Stephanie Cohen, described Karnataka as one of the "world's best destinations for attracting advanced technologies," Patil added.

Gold Outperforms as Equity Momentum Softens, Signalling a Strategic Shift in Markets: PL Asset Management

Mumbai, January 24, 2026: PL Asset Management, the asset management arm of PL Capital Group (Prabhudas Lilladher), in its latest report 'PMS Strategy Updates and Insights', noted that Indian equity markets are navigating a phase of consolidation marked by global uncertainty, uneven participation and cautious investor sentiment. While domestic macro fundamentals remain structurally strong, near-term equity performance has been constrained by external headwinds, resulting in market returns being driven by a narrow set of stocks rather than broad-based participation. Market breadth has remained persistently weak over the past year, with a limited group of large-cap stocks supporting headline indices even as broader participation stayed muted. Technical indicators suggest that only a small proportion of stocks have consistently traded above their long-term moving averages, highlighting the fragility beneath index-level resilience. This divergence indicates that while Indian equities remain fundamentally sound, the market has yet to transition into a durable, broad-based uptrend.

This consolidation was also evident across major equity style factors. Value and High Beta strategies posted positive returns in 2025, while Momentum underperformed, highlighting a market driven more by selectivity than by sustained trends. Value stocks drew investor interest due to compelling valuations and stable earnings visibility, serving as a preferred refuge amid elevated volatility. High Beta strategies delivered modest gains, indicating calibrated risk-taking rather than a broad risk-on stance. Meanwhile, repeated trend reversals limited the effectiveness of momentum-based approaches, reflecting narrow market breadth and fragmented leadership. Overall, investor behaviour in 2025 leaned toward caution, with capital favouring stocks that combined valuation support with controlled risk. The style factor landscape in 2025 was defined by the strong performance of contrasting factors, driven largely by sector- and stock-specific moves. Market breadth remained narrow and momentum was weak, reinforcing a selective and low-risk appetite investing environment.

Against this backdrop, precious metals have significantly outperformed Indian equities, reinforcing their role as effective portfolio stabilisers during periods of equity consolidation. Gold and silver have benefited from a combination of global factors, including sustained central bank demand, currency volatility and persistent geopolitical uncertainty. Silver has additionally been supported by its dual role as a precious and industrial metal amid constrained supply conditions.

PL Asset Management's analysis indicates that Indian equities are currently trading near multi-cycle relative lows compared with gold and silver. Historically, such valuation divergences between financial and real assets have coincided with phases where diversification beyond pure equity exposure has helped investors preserve capital and manage volatility more efficiently. Importantly, this does not signal a structural shift away from equities, but rather highlights the importance of balance during transitional phases of the market cycle.

Market sentiment indicators suggest that the worst of pessimism may be behind us. Internal sentiment and risk metrics point to a gradual improvement from recent cycle troughs, supported by resilient domestic macro data and an improving earnings outlook. Notably, the high–low beta spread turning positive towards the latter part of 2025 indicates early signs of risk appetite returning, although the recovery is expected to be measured rather than linear. Mr. Siddharth Vora, Head - Quant Investment Strategies & Fund Manager, PL Asset Management, said, "Markets are currently in a phase where outcomes are being driven more by asset allocation than by broad-based equity rallies. While India's long-term growth fundamentals remain intact, near-term volatility is inevitable. Gold and silver have once again demonstrated their relevance as portfolio stabilisers, helping investors manage risk and stay invested through periods of market consolidation."

The firm's Risk-o-Meter analysis further supports this view, indicating that sentiment may have moved past peak pessimism. After remaining elevated through much of 2023 and early 2024, the indicator has begun to trend upward, suggesting a transition from fear-driven behaviour toward selective risk-taking. Historically, such inflection points have marked early stages of stabilisation rather than the end of volatility, reinforcing the need for disciplined positioning.Looking ahead, Indian equities are expected to benefit from a gradual recovery in domestic earnings and potential global capital rotation as valuations in AI-led global markets normalise. However, until market breadth improves meaningfully and volatility moderates, diversified asset allocation remains critical. Portfolios that combine equities with precious metals are better positioned to smooth return profiles while retaining exposure to long-term growth opportunities.

Motorola elevates the flagship segment in India with Motorola Signature

Mumbai (TSIT) - Motorola, India's leading AI smartphone brand, announced the launch of Motorola Signature in India, setting a new benchmark in ultra-premium flagship smartphones with sophistication and luxury personified. Designed for consumers who seek uncompromising excellence, Strengthening this premium ecosystem further, Motorola also introduced the moto watch powered by Polar, delivering segment-leading wellness tracking in a timeless watch design.

Designed with an uncompromising focus on craftsmanship and sensorial refinement, the motorola signature features a luxuriously refined, ultra-thin design crafted from brushed aircraft-grade aluminium and rich fabric-inspired finishes. Measuring just 6.99 mm thin and weighing a mere 186g, the device delivers a naturally comfortable in-hand feel while maintaining a perfectly balanced frame with soft, contoured edges for all-day ease and confidence. The design is elevated through signature CMF execution, with thoughtfully curated textures and finishes that enhance both look and feel, reinforcing a distinctly modern and ultra-premium aesthetic.

Extending the experience beyond hardware, motorola signature introduces India's first smartphone with exclusive Signature Club privileges, delivering a 24/7, on-demand privilege access service seamlessly integrated into the device. Every motorola Signature user receives a complimentary one-year Signature Club app subscription, unlocking curated support across travel, golfing, wine and dining, art and culture, shopping, and business services, alongside everyday lifestyle assistance such as wellness sessions, pet care, laundry, and event coordination. To welcome users into the experience, Signature Club also offers an exclusive Welcome Offer, where the first service is complimentary, up to INR 6,000^^. Designed to complement modern, aspirational lifestyles, Signature Club elevates smartphone ownership with unmatched convenience, personalized support, and premium experiences — whenever they're needed.

The motorola signature comes with moto ai 2.0, delivering next-level intelligence with instant access through a dedicated AI key. It brings Next Move contextual suggestions that understand what's on your screen and offer the right actions in real time, along with creative tools like AI Image Studio, Sketch to Image, Style Sync, Text to Sticker, and avatar creation. Productivity is elevated with Catch Me Up 2.0, Pay Attention live transcriptions, AI Playlist Studio, Global Search, Auto Screenshot Blur, and seamless cross-device task flow via This On That. Features such as Remember This and Recall act as a smart memory vault, while Perplexity integration enables instant exploration, planning, and contextual recommendations. With the freedom to choose between motoAI, Copilot, Perplexity, and Google Gemini, users experience truly versatile, intelligent assistance.

Speaking on the launch, Mr. T.M. Narasimhan, Managing Director, Motorola India, said, "With the Motorola Signature, we are creating a new benchmark for ultra-premium smartphones in India, one that goes far beyond specifications. This launch reflects our commitment to combining world-class innovation, refined design, and meaningful experiences that truly elevate everyday living. By bringing together breakthrough camera technology rated for gold standards by DXOMARK, flagship performance, exclusive Signature Club privileges first time in Indian smartphone industry, and a wellness-focused ecosystem with the moto watch powered by Polar, we are delivering a holistic premium offering crafted for consumers who seek distinction, performance, and purpose in everything they choose."

ASUS Records Strongest Growth Momentum in South India,Delivers 25% YoY Growth in 2025 and 40% cumulative growth from year 2023 – 2025

Hyderabad, 24th January 2026 – ASUS, a Taiwanese tech giant, today announced strong performance across the South region, delivering sustained growth over the last three years and reinforcing its position as one of the fastest-growing PC brands in the market. Between 2023 and 2025, ASUS recorded ~40% cumulative growth in the South, maintaining a consistent upward trajectory despite a challenging and volatile market environment.

In 2025, ASUS registered 25% year-on-year growth across the South region, significantly outperforming the broader industry. As per GFK, in 2023–2024, even though the overall market TAM declined post the pandemic surge, ASUS continued to grow its share — demonstrating stronger brand pull, robust channel strength, and clear category leadership.

"Every region in India requires a tailored go-to-market strategy that is built keeping in mind the different nuances but unified with a vision to extend state-of-the-art technology to our customers. From AI PCs and premium gaming and consumer notebooks, our efforts have been focused on making the right technology accessible to more consumers. We are elated to shared that ASUS in southern markets of India has witnessed a consistent and strong growth that has defied market volatility. As we move forward in 2026, our priority remains building scale, with a sharper focus on AI PCs and premium segment." said Arnold Su, Vice President, Consumer & Gaming PC, System Business Group, ASUS India

Among southern states, Tamil Nadu emerged at the top contributing 35% of the South region's overall growth driven by strong offline presence and exclusive store performance. Kerala followed closely with 25% YoY growth, supported by robust festive demand and channel-led execution, while Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka contributed steady gains of 23% and 8% YoY, respectively.

From a category standpoint, consumer notebooks (NB) continued to be the primary growth engine, contributing 57% of total volumes, followed by gaming PCs (NR) at 40%. Gaming notebooks performed particularly well in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, reinforcing ASUS' leadership in the high-performance and enthusiast segments.

Performance during the quarter was further supported by strong festive demand across key states, alongside ASUS' extensive retail network, which helped drive higher share gains across regional markets. With India continuing to be a high-experience market where touch-and-feel interactions strongly influence purchase decisions, ASUS further elevated its retail strategy by introducing the brand's gaming-first premium experience format, ROG Labs, in Bengaluru. Despite a declining market TAM, ASUS grew faster than the industry and consistently gained share, reinforcing its position as one of the fastest-growing PC brands in South India.

Amazon to lay off around 16,000 employees in new job cut plans

CHENNAI: Amazon has decided to lay off about 16,000 employees as part of efforts to reduce its administrative costs, said a Daily Thanthi report.Starting from January 27, 2026, roughly 14,000 to 16,000 employees will be laid off.

The US-based e-commerce company is among the world's largest firms. Amid economic pressure and the impact of artificial intelligence on business, many companies have been reducing their workforce, and Amazon has continued with layoffs in recent years.Between 2022 and 2023, Amazon had cut around 27,000 employees for various reasons, and on October 14, 2025, it eliminated about 14,000 positions. With the latest round of layoffs, Amazon plans to cut a total of about 30,000 corporate jobs in its 30-year history.

Protium | **PROTIUM FINANCE LIMITED**
(Erstwhile Growth Source Financial Technologies Limited)

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

POSSESSION NOTICE- (U/S 13(4) & As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

WHEREAS, the undersigned, being the Authorized Officer of **Protium Finance Limited** (erstwhile Growth Source Financial Technologies Ltd.) (hereinafter referred to as "**Protium Finance Limited**"), under the provisions of the **Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) (the "SARFAESI Act"), and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002,** issued a **Demand Notice dated 7th Nov 2025**, calling upon the **Borrowers Vijayakumar Tex Through Its Proprietor Rangappachety Sivanantham Lakshminarayanan S/o Sivanantham**, and the **Co-Borrowers: 1. Rangappachety Sivanantham Lakshminarayanan S/o Sivanantham, 2. Rangappachettiyar Sivanantham Muniraj S/o Sivanantham, 3. Varadharaj Megala D/o Varadharaj, 4. Lakshami Narayanan Shanthi W/o Rangappachety Sivanantham Lakshminarayanan**, in respect of the **LOAN ACCOUNT BEARING NO. GS088EEL1768950**, to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice, being **INR 36,41,285.31/- (Rupees Thirty Six Lakh Forty One Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Five And Thirty One Paise Only)** as on 7th Nov 2025, within 60 (Sixty) days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Symbolic Possession** of the property described hereinbelow, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, on this **24th Jan' 2026**.

The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property, and any dealings with the property shall be subject to the charge of **Protium Finance Limited** for an amount of **INR 36,41,285.31/- (Rupees Thirty Six Lakh Forty One Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Five And Thirty One Paise Only)** together with further interest thereon, and all costs, charges and expenses 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 MORTGAGED PROPERTY – As Per Document No. 1946/1996 Sale Deed All The Piece And Parcel Of The Immovable Property Residential Site Bearing Natham Survey No.626/1 Part, Kumarapalayam Municipal Ward B Block 8 T.S.No.29, In This J.K.K. Road, Komarapalayam Municipality, Ward No. 26 At Present New Ward 17, Door Nos. 54, 54A Is Situated At Komarapalayam Amani Village, Komarapalayam S.R.D., Namakkal R.D. Within The Following Boundaries: East To: 'B' Schedule Property Of Kandasamy Chettiyar, North To: East-West Common Lane, South To: Property Belonged To R.A. SubramaniaChettiyar, West To: House Of I.M. Nagappa Chettiyar, In This Admeasuring East-West On The Both Sides 24-3/4 Feet Each, North-South On The East 32-3/4 Feet, North-South On The West 25-1/2 Feet, I.E., Totally Measuring 721 Sq.Ft. Entire Extent Of Plinth Area Along With R.C.C. Terrace Building Therein Measuring 63 Sq.Mt., Build 11 Years Before, For This Including Entire Door, Frame, Windows Etc. Again, On The Upstairs Of The Said Property Along With A.C.C. Sheet Building Therein An Extent Of 37 Sq.Mt., And R.C.C. Terrace Building Therein Measuring 22 Sq.Mt., Build 11 Years Before, Including Door, Frame, Windows Etc. For The Said Property Electric Connection No. Sc.Nt.210 And It's Entire Wiring, Deposits, Entire Eastern Side Walls, North And Western Side Wall To Be Use As Common Rights, Municipality Water Tap Connection Etc. For This Pathway Rights Through The Common Lane Via, Passage And Entire Easement Rights Etc.

Date: **24th Jan' 2026** — **Sd/-, For Protium Finance Limited**
Place: **Namakkal, Tamilnadu** — **Authorised Officer**

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Editorial

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

Davos and India's image

In recent years, Indian participation in the World Economic Forum at Davos has acquired a familiar, ritualistic ring to it. Indian politicians and corporate head honchos make a beeline for their share of the limelight on the global stage, which is dominated by leaders and billionaires from powerful countries.This year, too, it was no different. The political delegation comprised some savvy, English-speaking Union ministers and half a dozen chief ministers. While BJP CMs Devendra Fadnavis and Himanta Biswa Sarma, and leader of its ally the TDP and Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu were there to scout potential investors, Congress and DMK chief ministers of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu gave it a miss, but the CM of Jharkhand made it to Davos in Switzerland.

Each year, national leaders mainly strive to position India as a major foreign investment destination. This year, they wanted to bring the world around to accepting India's transition from an "emerging" economy to a "pivotal" global force. As expected, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw reiterated India's growth projections in the wake of varying degrees of caution or skepticism expressed by some international agencies. Whether there were takers or not depends on their perception about the health of democracy, policy-to-practice conversion, effective governance and ease of doing business, and many of them are unlikely to be swayed by India's claims and perception management and narrative control at home.

WHILE BJP CMS DEVENDRA FADNAVIS AND HIMANTA BISWA SARMA, AND LEADER OF ITS ALLY THE TDP AND ANDHRA PRADESH CM CHANDRABABU NAIDU WERE THERE TO SCOUT POTENTIAL INVESTORS, CONGRESS AND DMK CHIEF MINISTERS OF KARNATAKA AND TAMIL NADU GAVE IT A MISS, BUT THE CM OF JHARKHAND MADE IT TO DAVOS IN SWITZERLAND.

Another area where the Indian delegation had to do damage control was with regard to the characterisation of India as a "second-tier AI power". The popular perception is that compared to the US and China, India is trailing in the global AI race when it comes to building sovereign AI models that match the scale, complexity and efficiency of global models. Ashwini Vaishnaw made a valiant effort to refute this and managed to extract some kind of validation from IMF MD Kristalina Georgieva, who said she was impressed by India's approach to staying competitive in the realm of AI.The chief ministers, on the other hand, try to secure investment commitments and strategic partnerships for their respective states. The state delegations face the onerous task of convincing investors to make impressive announcements, and the flavours of the season were artificial intelligence, scalable high-tech manufacturing and digital infrastructure. States like Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat and Maharashtra have a historical edge over other states due to their robust, industry-friendly ecosystems, including skilled labour. States like Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Assam, however, struggle to compete despite generous financial support from the Centre. It is far more difficult to convince foreign investors who need to loosen their purse strings than voters who are more receptive to election campaign messaging. These states need to achieve and demonstrate visible change on the ground, especially with respect to developing a highly skilled talent pool and the prevalence of a cosmopolitan culture, to change investor perception.

Phone call marketing makes life miserable

- DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH

Mobile phones were once considered the most powerful means of convenience, security, and connectivity. They bridged distances, saved lives in emergencies, and facilitated communication. However, over time, these same mobile phones have become a source of stress, frustration, and mental disturbance for millions. The biggest reason for this is rampant phone call marketing, which has made life miserable for the common man.

The day often begins with a call from an unknown number. As soon as we wake up, the phone rings, offering a loan, an insurance policy, a credit card, or a "limited-time" investment offer. Whether it's an office meeting, an online class, or an important conversation at home—phone call marketing has no understanding of time or circumstances. When asked, we get the same rehearsed answer—"Sir/Madam, just two minutes." But we don't realize when those two minutes swallow up significant portions of our day. The most worrying aspect is how callers get our mobile numbers. We have neither personally provided them with our numbers nor explicitly authorized any services, yet they speak with complete confidence. Sometimes they even know our name, profession, and needs. This situation is not just a call marketing problem, but a blatant violation of personal data security and privacy. In today's digital age, mobile numbers have become not just a means of communication but a commercial commodity.

The government and regulatory bodies have enacted regulations and implemented services like "Do Not Disturb," but in practice, their effectiveness appears to be limited. Calls continue to come even when numbers are registered on DND. The complaint process is so complex and lengthy that ordinary people become frustrated and choose to remain silent. This frustration further fuels the problem. The impact of phone call marketing isn't limited to simply wasting time. It gradually leads to mental stress and irritability. Every unknown number raises a sense of apprehension—maybe it's another useless call. The fear of missing an important call persists. This confusion profoundly impacts a person's peace of mind. Many people become so bothered by the constant calls that they become irritated with their mobile phones. This problem is even more serious for the elderly and those with less technical savvy. They often fall prey to these calls and are often scammed. Incidents of fraud involving millions of rupees are being reported under false pretenses related to investments, prizes, KYC updates, or bank account details. The line between call marketing and fraudulent calls has become so blurred that it's difficult for the average person to distinguish between them.

Time is life's most valuable asset, but call marketing openly disrespects it. Calls that arrive early in the morning or late at night are proof that rules are confined to paper only. This problem is even more acute for working people. A ringing phone during a meeting not only distracts attention but also damages professional image. Putting the phone on silent runs the risk of missing important calls, and not keeping it on silent leads to the hassle of unwanted calls.

It's also important to understand that the caller isn't always at fault. Employees working for telemarketing companies are often under immense pressure. They must make a set number of calls daily, and if they don't meet the target, they face the threat of losing their job. Low pay and an uncertain future force them to stick to this work. They speak according to a set script, no matter how angry the other person may be.

But the real responsibility behind these employees' compulsion lies with the system, which, in the pursuit of profit, tramples on human privacy, time, and peace of mind. Companies know that if even one person in a hundred falls into their trap, their objective is achieved. This is why call marketing has become an organized industry, where ethics and sensitivity have no place.

While India has regulations to regulate telemarketing, their effective enforcement is severely lacking. While there's talk of fines and bans, there's little visible change on the ground. Many calls originate from internet calling or foreign numbers, which are not subject to local regulations. This misuse of technology further complicates the problem. This problem is also affecting social relationships. A person who is repeatedly disturbed becomes irritable, which affects both family and workplace. A phone ringing suddenly while spending time with children or talking to the elderly disrupts the atmosphere. Gradually, people stop picking up unknown calls altogether, which can sometimes lead to missing important and even emergency calls.

The digital age has given us freedom of expression and a wealth of convenience, but responsibility and control are equally important. When technology makes life stressful rather than easier, it's natural to question where we're headed. Allowing apps without reading them, sharing mobile numbers on every website, and ignoring privacy terms—all these habits contribute to the problem of call marketing.

It is now imperative to take concrete steps towards a solution. Personal data security must be given top priority, and strict penalties must be ensured for violations. Systems like DND must be made truly effective to provide relief to consumers. Companies that repeatedly violate the rules must face strict action, not just warnings.

Additionally, consumers must be vigilant. Disallowing unnecessary apps, being wary of suspicious calls, and reporting fraud—these are small but important steps. Only an aware consumer can hold this system accountable. Ultimately, it must be understood that phone call marketing is no longer just a commercial activity, but has become a serious social problem. It invades our privacy, wastes time, and robs us of our peace of mind. The purpose of technology should be to simplify, secure, and improve life, not to make it more difficult. Until the system, companies, and consumers—all three—jointly fulfill their responsibilities, this problem will continue to plague the lives of ordinary people.

(The Writer, is a poet and social thinker.)
PhD (Political Science)

The Troubled Indian Republic: The Harsh Reality of 2026

-DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

As Republic Day, 2026, approaches, a patriotic frenzy sweeps across the nation. A grand parade on Rajpath, drone shows, military parades—everything dazzling. The President's speech, the Prime Minister's message, and essay competitions in schools. But behind the scenes of celebration, India's republic is struggling. Fifty-seven years later, evils like corruption, violence, rape, and communal hatred continue to ravage society. India, once the world's most populous nation, is shrouded in economic splendor, yet shrouded in the darkness of poverty and inequality. Under the guise of democracy, authoritarian tendencies are flourishing. Youth suffer from unemployment, and farmers are joining the suicide statistics. Women's insecurity is at its peak, and the justice system has collapsed. Republic Day should now be an occasion for reflection—where did we go wrong? Is our Constitution still relevant, or has it become irrelevant over time?

The Republic of India was born in 1950. The Constitution, drafted by Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, established lofty ideals—equality, liberty, and fraternity. But fifty-seven years later, the reality is stark. The economy is said to be the world's fifth largest, but eighty-five percent of wealth is concentrated in the top one percent of the rich. More than seventy billionaires together possess more wealth than the national budget. Multidimensional poverty engulfs twenty-one percent of the population. Forty-six percent of families in rural India lack basic amenities. Urban slums are growing, while luxury towers are sprouting in metro cities. This inequality has led to a social explosion. The female-to-male ratio is nine hundred twenty per thousand, and thirty-five percent of children are stunted due to malnutrition. NFHS-6 data is a warning—India's future cannot be built on nutrition-deprived generations.

Corruption has become a cancer of this republic. India slipped to the 85th position in Transparency International's 2025 index. Corruption is rampant from politics to bureaucracy, from business to judiciary. The electoral bond scam created a new controversy in the 2026 elections. Deepfakes of artificial intelligence made the campaigning more complicated. Corporate money bought the parties. From road construction to airport, every contract is a victim of commission. DBT saved five lakh crores, but Aadhar data leak, PAN card fraud created new problems. Bribery is common at the lower level from peon to police station in-charge. This corruption is hollowing out the roots of democracy.

Criminalization of politics is a serious crisis. In the eighteenth Lok Sabha, more than two hundred and fifty MPs are facing criminal cases. Those accused of murder, kidnapping, and rape are becoming MLAs. Money and muscle power have distorted the election process. The source of forty percent of the estimated election expenditure of one lakh crore is unclear. Distribution of cash, rivers of liquor, buying and selling in the name of voter slips. Casteism has gripped politics. Yadav-Jat in Uttar Pradesh, Kurmi-Rajput in Bihar, caste politics in every state. Communalism has fueled communal riots. In 2025, riots broke out in Uttarakhand and Manipur. Polarization on social media is at its peak—from WhatsApp forwards to Twitter trends, the poison of hatred.

Women's insecurity is a stigma for the republic. From the Nirbhaya case to Hathras and Unnao, rape incidents are not stopping. Eighty-six cases are registered every day, the actual figures are double. Atrocities on Dalit women have doubled. Stalking in cities, fear of Khap Panchayats in rural areas. Expenditure of ten thousand crores of Nirbhaya Fund is negligible. Fast-track courts are inadequate, cyber cell is inactive. Sexual harassment has increased at the workplace, from Bollywood to corporate, Me-Too movement has stopped. Gender discrimination persists in education and employment. School dropout rate of girls is high. This insecurity is keeping half the population of the society tied down.

The justice system has collapsed. Four lakh fifty thousand cases are pending, judge-population ratio is nineteen per ten lakh. It takes an average of ten years in the High Courts. Injustice equals delay in justice. Lawyers' strikes, shortage of judges, complex laws. E-court project in limbo. Police reforms are nominal - colonial mentality prevails. Bribery in police stations, torture in custody is common. Even after the formation of SIT, SIT reports are suppressed. Khap Panchayats have taken the law into their hands. Patriarchy is crushing democracy in families. Regionalism is intensifying - TMC in Bengal, LDF in Kerala against the Centre. Southern states are bent on rebellion in the name of language reservation. Separatism is simmering in the North-East.

Youth unemployment at 23 percent. Those who do not get into civil services from IIT-IIM turn to startups. But most of the unemployed rural youth are skillless. Farmer crisis deepens-demand for minimum support price hanging in balance. Series of suicides due to debt in Punjab-Maharashtra. Floods and droughts destroyed crops. Farmers on the streets even after MSP law was enacted. Pollution fatal-AQI of Delhi crosses 500. Yamuna-Ganga black. Climate crisis, flood-drought compound. Naxalism active in Chhattisgarh-Jharkhand. Terrorism spread from Jammu-Kashmir to Kerala. Misuse of UPAPA, Information Technology rules on freedom of expression. Journalists in jails, social media censorship.

Is a solution possible? DBT has benefited corruption, but artificial intelligence monitoring and blockchain voting are essential. Full Nirbhaya Fund expenditure, 1,000 fast-track courts. Cybercrime cells in every district. PM Vishwakarma, 4-phase self-reliance, 150 million jobs. Expansion of Skill India. 'Samvidhan Yatra' promotes communal harmony—a curriculum on unity is mandatory in schools. Election Reform Bill—criminal candidates banned for life, state funding transparent. Audit of political parties. E-courts three phases, 50,000 new judges. Maximum judicial time limit. Police reforms—CCTV mandatory in police stations. NITI Aayog two phases to address regional imbalances, special package for southern states. Nation-building internships—one year of service for every youth. Panchayati Raj empowerment—National Women's Reservation for the Seventy-third Amendment. 30% target for electric vehicles, Namami Gange two phases to accelerate. Development package for Naxalite areas.

Mere parades and flag hoisting on Republic Day are not enough. Problems must be acknowledged. Formal democracy was saved, now ensure real social justice. Youth power must come forward to make India a world leader. Diversity must become a strength. Dr. Ambedkar's Constitution must come alive, emerging from the thorny bushes. Otherwise, the republic will become a mere sham. Jai Hind, Jai Bharat!

US warship makes first call at Cambodia's Chinese-renovated naval base

REAM: A US warship on Saturday made a port call at a Cambodian naval base for the first time since Chinese renovations that have raised concerns in Washington, AFP journalists saw.

The United States has said Ream Naval Base, off Cambodia's southern coast, could give China a key strategic position in the Gulf of Thailand near the disputed South China Sea, which Beijing claims almost in its entirety. The littoral combat ship USS Cincinnati (LCS-20) docked Saturday morning at one of the base's piers 150 meters (yards) away from a pair of Chinese warships.

"It is our privilege and our honor to be here as the first US naval vessel to moor pierside at Ream Naval Base, and we hope this is the beginning of a longstanding tradition and friendship," Andrew J. Recame, the ship's commanding officer, told reporters.

Cambodian leaders have repeatedly denied that the base is for use by any single foreign power, following US media reports in 2022 saying the new facilities at Ream — originally built partly with US funds — would be exclusively for the Chinese navy.

Ream base said in a statement that the five-day US visit would "promote cooperation between the two countries," and that it showed Cambodia's "commitment in implementing an open policy, transparent and cooperation with international partners."

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet and a delegation from China's People's Liberation Army inaugurated the base in April last year. Hun Manet denied the new and improved facility would be for Beijing's "exclusive" use, saying ships from other countries would be allowed to dock. Two weeks after its inauguration, two Japanese warships were the first vessels to dock at the base.

Beijing has since 2022 been contributing to a revamp of the Ream Naval Base, which was originally built partly using US funds. Western concerns about the base go back as far as 2019, when The Wall Street Journal reported on a secret draft deal allowing China to dock warships there.

In late 2023, Chinese warships first docked at the 363-meter (1,190-foot) pier, on Cambodia's sole coastline in the south of the country between Thailand and Vietnam. A US warship docked in the commercial Sihanoukville port in 2024 in the first American military port call in Cambodia in eight years. On Saturday morning, AFP journalists saw two Chinese warships still docked at the base.

Cambodia has long been one of China's staunchest allies in Southeast Asia, and Beijing has extended its influence over Phnom Penh in recent years. Under former leader Hun Sen — Prime Minister Hun Manet's father — China poured billions of dollars into infrastructure investments, while Washington's relationship with Phnom Penh has deteriorated in recent years.

Toll in Iran's protest crackdown reaches at least 5,002 dead as Trump says US 'armada' approaching

DUBAI: The toll in Iran's bloody crackdown on nationwide protests has reached at least 5,002 people killed, activists said Friday, warning many more were feared dead as the most comprehensive internet blackout in the country's history crossed the two-week mark.

The challenge in getting information out of Iran persists because of authorities cutting off access to the internet on January 8, even as tensions rise between the United States and Iran as an American aircraft carrier group moves closer to the Middle East.

US President Donald Trump likened the carrier group to an "armada" in comments to journalists late Thursday.

Analysts say a military build-up could give Trump the option to carry out strikes, though so far he's avoided that despite repeated warnings to Tehran. Meanwhile, Iran's top prosecutor denied a claim by Trump that his intervention so far had halted the execution of 800 prisoners detained in the demonstrations, calling his comments "completely false."

"While President Trump now appears to have backtracked, likely under pressure from regional leaders and

cognizant that airstrikes alone would be insufficient to implode the regime, military assets continue to be moved into the region, indicating kinetic action may still happen," a New York-based think tank called the Soufan Centre said in an analysis Friday.The latest death toll was given by the US-based Human Rights Activists News Agency, which reported that 4,716 were demonstrators, 203 were government-affiliated, 43 were children and 40 were civilians not taking part in the protests.

It added that more than 26,800 people had been detained in a widening arrest campaign by authorities. The group's figures have been accurate in previous unrest in Iran and rely on a network of activists in Iran to verify deaths. That death toll exceeds that of any other round of protest or unrest in Iran in decades, and recalls the chaos surrounding Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Iran's government offered its first death toll Wednesday, saying 3,117 people were killed. It added that 2,427 of the dead in the demonstrations that began December 28 were civilians and security forces, with the rest being "terrorists." In the past, Iran's theocracy has undercounted or not reported fatalities from unrest. The Associated Press has been unable to independently assess the death toll, in part because of authorities cutting access to the internet and blocking international calls into the country.

Iran also reportedly has limited journalists' ability locally to report on the aftermath, instead repeatedly airing claims on state television that refer to demonstrators as "rioters" motivated by the United States and Israel, without offering evidence to support the allegation. The new toll comes as tensions remain high over Trump laying down two red lines over the protests — the killing of peaceful demonstrators and Tehran conducting mass executions. Iran's attorney general and others have called some of those being held "mohareb" — or "enemies of God."

Russian attacks on Ukraine kill 1, wound 23 ahead of second day of peace talks

KYIV: Russian attacks on Ukraine killed at least one person and wounded 23 overnight into Saturday, as negotiators from Ukraine, Russia and the United States were set to meet in Abu Dhabi for a second day of talks to end Russia's nearly four-year full-scale invasion. One person was killed and four wounded in Russian drone attacks on the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, according to Kyiv City Military Administration head Tymur Tkachenko.

In Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv, drone attacks wounded 19 people, Kharkiv Mayor Ihor Terekhov said Saturday.

The attacks came as envoys were expected to meet in the United Arab Emirates for a second day of talks on Saturday. The talks are the first known instance that officials from the Trump administration have sat down with both countries as part of Washington's push for progress to end Moscow's nearly 4-year-old invasion.

The UAE's foreign ministry said the talks are part of efforts "to promote dialogue and identify political solutions to the crisis." The White House described Friday's first day as productive.

US carries out first known strike on alleged drug boat since Maduro's capture

WASHINGTON: The US military said Friday that it has carried out a deadly strike on a vessel accused of trafficking drugs in the eastern Pacific Ocean, the first known attack since the raid that captured Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro earlier this month.

US Southern Command said on social media that the boat was "engaged in narco-trafficking operations" and that the strike killed two people and left one survivor. It said it notified the Coast Guard to launch search and rescue operations for that person.

A video accompanying the post announcing the latest strike shows a boat moving through the water before exploding in flames. The US military has focused lately on seizing sanctioned oil tankers with connections to Venezuela since the Trump administration launched an audacious raid to capture Maduro and bring him to New York to face drug trafficking charges. With the latest military action, there have been 36 known strikes against alleged drug smuggling boats in South American waters since early September that killed at least 117 people, according to announcements from the US military and Trump. The majority of those of strikes have occurred in the Caribbean Sea.

Think again: why AI is unlike previous tech booms

Concerns about an AI bubble have intensified since the start of 2026, as investors and policymakers focus on whether, and when, it might burst. But the real question is not whether current valuations are inflated; it is whether AI's emerging business model differs from those of earlier technological revolutions.

For decades, scale has been the primary driver of tech companies' performance and valuations. As apps, websites, online retailers, and social media platforms expanded their user bases, marginal costs fell, network effects took hold, and pricing power increased. Valuations came to reflect long-term growth potential rather than short-term profitability.

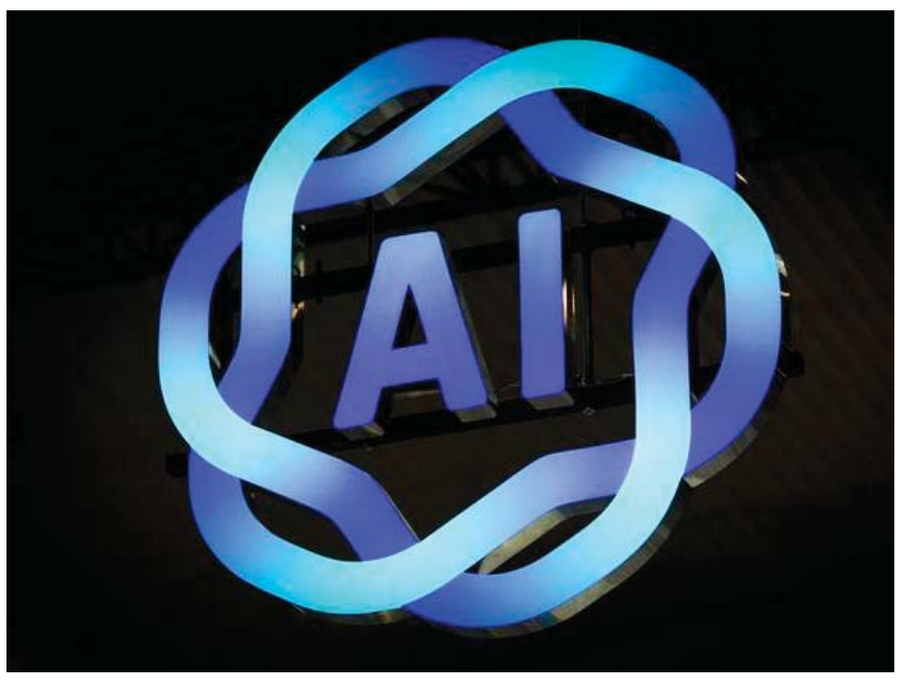
The forces that defined past tech winners are unlikely to dominate AI's rollout, because the competitive dynamics differ across six critical dimensions. First, capital expenditure is no longer a shallow moat; it is a formidable barrier. In earlier technological waves, capital requirements were largely confined to the startup phase and relatively modest. Facebook, for example, initially raised just $500,000 in seed funding.

But those earlier innovations were built on top of existing infrastructure such as Linux, Apache, MySQL, and PHP — the so-called LAMP stack — which dramatically lowered upfront costs. AI, by contrast, is extraordinarily capital intensive. Industry-wide capital investment is projected to exceed $7 trillion by 2030 as companies build data centers, expand computing capacity, and invest in specialized hardware. Unlike previous tech cycles, these investment requirements will not fade as the industry matures and may even intensify.

Political influence now matters as much as market power

Moreover, those costs may never decline meaningfully, since the lifespan of data centers is often measured in years, not decades. While cloud computing also required massive investment in general-purpose servers, AI demands entirely new infrastructure, including graphics processing units and tensor processing units, or TPUs, to handle the vast number of simultaneous calculations involved in training and running AI models. Such systems are expensive and energy intensive. A single large-scale AI training run is expected to cost over $1 billion by 2027. Only firms that can afford the entry price will survive, giving today's tech giants – with their enormous cash flows, robust balance sheets, and access to capital markets — a decisive advantage.

Second, AI's operating-cost structure undermines traditional economies of scale. In earlier tech cycles, marginal costs per user collapsed as platforms grew. Whether it was social media, software, or ride-sharing apps such as Uber, costs were spread across an expanding customer base, enabling platforms to sustain high margins as they scaled up. Those models were also marked by low operating expenses. Once Facebook reached sufficient scale, the marginal cost of adding users became negligible. As a result, companies paid little attention to the cost of serving each user, as it rarely threatened financial viability.



AI flips these dynamics. Controlling marginal costs is no longer optional, since large language models and other AI systems incur significant costs with every interaction, which requires billions of calculations. This is why AI firms focus on reducing per-query costs through custom hardware such as TPUs and by developing leaner, more efficient models such as China's DeepSeek.

The third area where AI departs from previous tech revolutions is in the weakness and fragility of network effects. Legacy tech platforms benefited from self-reinforcing growth. Buyers and sellers were drawn to Amazon's marketplace precisely because activity was already concentrated there.

AI users can switch easily between models, use several at once — one for text, another for images, a third for coding — or even build their own. Switching costs are low, and loyalty is weak, making network effects far less influential in determining long-term winners.

For legacy tech companies, the combination of falling marginal costs and network effects amplified the benefits of scale, fueling a race to capture as many eyeballs as possible. That strategy made sense for companies like Facebook, which created value by monetizing consumer attention through advertising. AI companies confront a different cost structure. Each new iteration of their product requires additional capital investment. Every additional user increases costs, particularly inference costs. While training expenses can be amortized across a larger user base and some economies of scale may emerge, usage growth still leads to higher operating costs.

The fourth difference lies in the shift from market fragmentation to instant saturation. Earlier tech platforms grew within largely siloed markets: Google dominated search; Amazon focused on retail. By seeking distinct niches like college students (Facebook) and professionals (LinkedIn), companies had time to mature before competition intensified. AI, by contrast, is a general-purpose technology that cuts across industries. With users able to gain access to it instantly through apps or application programming interfaces, companies no longer have the luxury of reaching maturity before competitors emerge. This dynamic gives AI the potential to disrupt not just individual sectors but every existing technology business model. Fifth, political influence now matters as much as market power. Earlier innovation waves did not require companies to engage with governments and regulators to the extent AI must. While social media platforms eventually faced scrutiny over their addictive effects, the perceived risks posed by today's emerging technologies are deeper, and, in many ways, existential, given AI's potential to cause job displacement, exacerbate inequality, and undermine democratic governance. With AI companies confronting both market forces and political pressures, firms that can shape regulation, influence public opinion, and absorb reputational risk are better positioned to succeed. Microsoft is a prime example of such a firm. In a clear effort to gain political and social legitimacy, the company recently pledged to cover the electricity costs of its data centers, so that higher prices would not be passed on to consumers. Lastly, AI may be less susceptible to winner-take-all dynamics. Scale, near-zero marginal costs, and strong network effects enabled companies such as Facebook, Google, Amazon, and Apple to dominate social media, search, e-commerce, and smartphones, respectively. The AI sector, at least initially, is unlikely to follow that pattern. Rather than converging on a single monopolistic winner, it could support multiple dominant players, each controlling its own niche. To be sure, an AI company could reach a point at which its technological lead becomes self-reinforcing and effectively insurmountable. Through continuous self-improvement and overwhelming product superiority, or even the development of artificial general intelligence, such a firm could achieve lasting market power, allowing it to dominate the field.

Until then, investors must recognize that AI follows a new strategic logic. Applying legacy technology metrics to this rapidly evolving landscape is not only counterproductive but also potentially costly. Investors who rely on past playbooks risk becoming the losers in today's AI-driven market. Consider stock-based compensation. Historically, equity incentives enabled tech companies to hire and retain talent, acquire intellectual property, and expand through mergers and acquisitions. But stock options cannot pay for data centers, computing power, or energy infrastructure. To meet these needs, AI companies require real investment, established cash flows, and reliable access to capital markets.

Similarly, investors once tolerated negative margins so long as user growth was robust and advertising revenues were growing. But the uncertainty surrounding AI and the scale of required capital expenditure limit their ability to assess when these investments will break even or how AI-driven transformations will ultimately increase margins. The result is a growing emphasis on strong balance sheets and demonstrable financial resilience. So, the race for AI leadership will not be won by the companies with the most users or fastest growth rates. Instead, the victors will be firms that can combine superior products with financial strength and political influence. In this sense, AI more closely resembles the capital-intensive industries of the mid-20th century than the asset-light tech models of recent years. With operating costs rising and consumers moving easily between models, profitability will depend on capturing elastic demand while translating political capital and regulatory influence into lasting competitive advantage.

Landslide on Indonesia's Java island kills at least 8 people, leaves more than 80 missing

JAKARTA: A predawn landslide triggered by torrential rains on Indonesia's main island of Java killed at least eight people on Saturday and left 82 missing as rescuers struggled through deep mud, searching for survivors. Days of torrential rains had caused rivers to burst their banks, tearing through Pasir Langu village in the West Bandung district of West Java province. Mud, rocks and trees tumbled down the mountainside, burying some 34 houses.Rescuers

were searching for the 82 residents feared buried under heaps of mud and debris, while 24 people managed to escape the disaster, said spokesperson Abdul Muhari of the National Disaster Management Agency.

Some eight bodies were pulled out in the worst-hit hamlet of Pasir Kuning after the 3 am landslide swept away homes and people. Television stations broadcast footage of workers and residents digging desperately in Pasir Langu, where roads and green-terraced rice fields were transformed into murky brown mud as the village was covered with thick mud, rocks and uprooted trees."Unstable soil and heavy rain continue to complicate search and rescue operations," said Teten Ali Mungku Engkun, who heads West Java's Disaster Management Office.

He said local authorities rapidly assessed the damage and deployed emergency response teams immediately after the landslide. Families living within 100 meters (yards) of the landslide zone were evacuated due to fears of further slope failures. Authorities urged residents in landslide-prone areas to remain vigilant and evacuate immediately if they hear rumbling sounds, see soil movement or believe conditions are unsafe.In December, catastrophic floods and landslides struck Sumatra, Indonesia's largest island, killing at least 1,200 people and injuring more than 7,000, the National Disaster Management Agency said. Seasonal rains and high tides from about October to April frequently cause flooding and landslides in Indonesia, an archipelago of more than 17,000 islands where millions of people live in mountainous areas or near fertile flood plains. Last January, more than 20 people were killed after being swept away in floods and landslides caused by torrential rains in Central Java province.

PV Sindhu scripts history with 500th career win at Indonesia Masters

Jakarta, Jan 23: Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu created history on Thursday by becoming the first Indian badminton player to register 500 career wins in women's singles. The landmark achievement came at the Indonesia Masters Super 500 tournament, where she defeated Denmark's Line Hojmark Kjaersfeldt in the round of 16.

Sindhu put up a composed display to secure a straight-games victory, winning 21-19, 21-18. She showed excellent control in crucial rallies, particularly in the closing stages of both games. The win marked her fifth victory in six meetings against Kjaersfeldt, underlining her dominance over the Dane.With this feat, Sindhu has joined an

elite club, becoming only the sixth women's singles shuttler in the world to reach the 500-win milestone. The list includes some of the sport's biggest names such as Ratchanok Intanon, Tai Tzu Ying, Akane Yamaguchi, Carolina Marin and Petya Nedelcheva.

Sindhu's overall career record now stands at 500 wins from 732 singles matches, translating into an impressive win percentage of around 68.3 per cent. On the BWF Tour alone, she has recorded 456 wins against 227 losses.

The challenge is set to intensify for the world No. 13 Indian in the quarterfinals, where she will face top seed and world No. 4 Chen Yu Fei of China. The Tokyo 2020 Olympic gold medallist is expected to pose a stern test as Sindhu looks to carry her momentum deeper into the tournament. In men's singles, India's Lakshya Sen continued his fine run with a dominant performance. The seventh seed crushed Hong Kong's Jason Gunawan 21-10, 21-11 in just 33 minutes. Fresh from being the only Indian to reach the quarterfinals at the India Open, Lakshya once again looked in complete control.

Sarfaraz Khan's dazzling double century puts Mumbai in command against Hyderabad

Hyderabad, Jan 23: India batter Sarfaraz Khan delivered a breathtaking batting display, smashing a fluent double century to put Mumbai firmly on top against Hyderabad in their Ranji Trophy Elite Group C match at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium on Friday.

Sarfaraz powered his way to 227 runs off 219 balls, registering the fifth double hundred of his first-class career. His commanding knock, played at a strike rate of 103.65, was studded with 19 fours and nine towering sixes, underlining his aggressive intent throughout the innings.One of the standout features of his knock was his dominance against India pacer and Hyderabad captain Mohammed Siraj, from whom he plundered 45 runs off just 39 deliveries, unsettling the opposition attack.

Walking in with Mumbai struggling at 82 for 3, Sarfaraz stitched together a crucial 249-run partnership for the fourth wicket with stand-in skipper Siddhesh Lad, who contributed a composed 104. The duo's effort propelled Mumbai past the 500-run mark and decisively swung the contest in their favour. During the innings, Sarfaraz also crossed the landmark of 5,000 first-class runs.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN: Sinner overcomes Spizzirri, Darderi upsets Khachanov to set up all-Italian affair in round-4

MELBOURNE: Jannik Sinner's Australian Open title defence was pushed to the brink on Saturday, but the World No. 2 dug deep to navigate extreme conditions and a fearless opponent, defeating American qualifier Eliot Spizzirri 4–6, 6–3, 6–4, 6–4 to reach the fourth round at Rod Laver Arena.

Sinner's resilience was tested most severely midway through the match. After splitting the opening two sets, Spizzirri surged ahead 3–1 in the third as Sinner began to visibly struggle with cramping, his movement and service motion clearly compromised in the oppressive Melbourne heat. With the Heat Stress Scale reaching Level 5, officials intervened and ordered the roof closed, triggering a temporary suspension of play.

The short interruption proved pivotal. When play resumed after less than 10 minutes, Sinner looked revitalised. Drawing on his experience and composure, the four-time major champion steadied himself, clawed back the third set, and ultimately completed the victory after three hours and 45 minutes of attritional tennis.For Spizzirri, the match represented a breakthrough moment despite the loss. Playing in the third round of a Grand Slam for the first time, and making his Australian Open main-draw debut, the American showed no hint of intimidation against a Top 10 opponent. He matched Sinner stroke for stroke from the baseline for long stretches, striking freely and taking the fight to the defending champion.

Statistically, the contest was messy and demanding. The first three sets alone lasted nearly three hours, with Sinner committing 46 unforced errors. The decisive margin came on break points: Sinner converted eight of 11 opportunities, while Spizzirri managed just six of 16, including only one from six chances in the third set, a missed opening that allowed Sinner to wrest back control while battling physical distress.

Even after the mandated 10-minute heat break following the third set, Spizzirri refused to fade, again breaking first to lead 3–1 in the fourth. But Sinner's poise under pressure proved decisive, as he reeled off games with controlled aggression to seal the win and book a fourth-round meeting with fellow Italian Luciano Darderi, their first career matchup.Darderi arrived with momentum of his own. The 23-year-old produced one of the standout results of the tournament and scripted history by upsetting 15th seed Karen Khachanov 7–6(5), 3–6, 6–3, 6–4 to reach the second week of a Grand Slam for the first time in his career. Currently ranked No. 25, the Argentine-born Italian showcased a rapidly evolving all-court game on Melbourne's hard courts, outlasting the former Australian Open semifinalist in a high-quality encounter. After edging a tense opening-set tiebreak, Darderi briefly lost momentum as Khachanov claimed the second.

Dhoni back in the nets as CSK icon gears up for IPL 2026

Ranchi, Jan 24: Former India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni has officially begun preparations for the Indian Premier League 2026, signalling yet another season with Chennai Super Kings, the franchise he has represented since the league's inception. The 44-year-old was recently spotted batting in the nets, fully padded up, in a video shared by the Jharkhand State Cricket Association (JSCA) on social media.

Welcoming their most celebrated cricketer, JSCA described Dhoni as their pride, captioning the Instagram post: "Look who is back. Pride of JSCA: Mahendra Singh Dhoni." The clip also showed Dhoni in a relaxed mood, chatting with JSCA secretary and former India batter Saurabh Tiwary before stepping into practice.

Dhoni, who stepped away from international cricket in 2020, continues to remain active in the IPL, where his association with CSK has become one of the league's most enduring legacies. Heading into his 17th season with the Chennai-based franchise, he remains a vital figure in the team's leadership group and a guiding force in the dressing room.

Under Dhoni's captaincy, CSK have lifted the IPL trophy five times, establishing themselves as one of the most successful teams in tournament history. However, the previous season proved challenging, with the five-time champions finishing at the bottom of the points table after managing just four wins in 14 matches.

Individually, Dhoni also endured a difficult campaign. The veteran finisher scored 196 runs in 13 innings at an average of 24.50 and a strike rate of 135.17, with a highest score of 30 not out. He also briefly took over the captaincy in the absence of regular skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad due to injury.

Despite the dip in recent form, Dhoni's IPL record remains exceptional. He has amassed 5,439 runs in 278 matches at an impressive average of 38.80 and a strike rate of 137.45, including 24 half-centuries and a career-best score of 84 not out.

Widely regarded as a modern-day great, the legendary wicket-keeper-batter led India across all three formats and guided the national side to historic triumphs, including the inaugural T20 World Cup in 2007 and the ODI World Cup in 2011. Dhoni's illustrious career has been recognised with the Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, and the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award. As the IPL 2026 season approaches, Dhoni's return to training has reignited excitement among fans, who will once again hope to see the iconic captain-scriptwriter produce another memorable chapter in yellow.

On Khelo India Winter Games debut, Kerala's Abhijith Amal Raj returns to ice and brings more than winning gold

- ABHIJITH WON THE FIGURE SKATING GOLD IN THE ADVANCED MEN'S CATEGORY AT KIWG 2026
- HE IS A FORMER WORLD CHAMPION IN ARTISTIC ROLLER SKATING AND ALSO AN ASIAN WINNER
- ABHIJITH HAS LAUNCHED FIGURE SKATING ACADEMIES IN KERALA AND TAMIL NADU

Leh (Ladakh), Jan. 24: When figure skating made its debut at the Khelo India Winter Games 2026 in Ladakh, it was more than the introduction of a new discipline, it was the arrival of a long-missing national platform. Standing at the centre of that moment was Abhijith Amal Raj from Kerala, who went on to win gold in figure skating-men's advance category, marking a personal milestone. Abhijith's presence in Ladakh carried weight far beyond a single competition. He is already one of India's most accomplished artistic figure skaters— a world champion in artistic roller skating, having won gold at the World Roller Skating Championship in 2019, along with Gold at the Asian Roller Skating Championships in 2023 and 2025, and the World Skate Oceania and Pacific Cup in 2023. Yet his appearance at Khelo India Winter Games 2026 represented something different, a return to figure skating on ice, and the chance to compete on a serious national stage at home.

Abhijith's journey began almost as soon as he could walk. He wore skates before he could properly speak, starting formal training at the age of three. But in coastal Kerala, ice skating was neither common nor accessible. The cost of equipment, coaching, and infrastructure quickly turned talent into a test of endurance and financial requirements.

His father chose to invest everything into his training.

By the age of nine, Abhijith already had an Arjuna awardee Anup Kumar Yama training him and later was trained by 11 times Artistic Roller Skating World Champion and international coach, Luca d'Alisera for which we had to go to Italy. That coaching costed 100 Euros an hour, four hours a day with expenses running into lakhs for just a month. To sustain this, his family sold property and moved into rented accommodation. Government support came later, but the foundation of Abhijith's career was built on years of financial strain and personal sacrifice.

Before his rise as an artistic roller skating world champion, Abhijith had already built a strong record in ice figure skating. In 2014, he won gold at the Asian Open Figure Skating Trophy in Taiwan, the Dubai Golden Cup, and the Malaysian Open National Championship, along with national titles in 2013 and 2014. He added another international gold in Malaysia in 2016 before shifting his primary focus to roller skating, where he eventually reached the top of the world podium. His figure skating gold at the Khelo India Winter Games 2026 marked a comeback to ice skating after nearly a decade.

Abhijith's story reflects the challenges faced by niche sports like figure ice skating in India. For years, meaningful progress in disciplines such as figure skating required going abroad — for rinks, coaching, and competitive exposure — an option most families could not afford. Today, at just 24, Abhijith is working to change that reality.

Along with his figure skating partner, Vacasya Lakshmi Narayanan, a gold medalist (Artistic Partner) at the Asian Roller Skating Championship, 2025, he co-founded Adler Vision, enrolling future athletes pan India based in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Since its inception two years ago, the academy has enrolled more than 100 students.

They have invited international coaches like Luca d'Alisera and Rachele Campagnol from Italy so young skaters can gain exposure without leaving the country, beginning with roller skating and with the eventual aim of transitioning athletes to figure skating on both roller and ice, and preparing them for national platforms like Khelo India.

Abhijith says that at the academy they "start with roller skating, and based on a skater's interest and performance, they can move into ice skating or continue to excel in roller skating."

"Our skaters have already participated in multiple national and state-level roller skating competitions, and with platforms like Khelo India, we plan to send select skaters to upcoming ice skating championships," said Abhijith, who was recruited by the Income Tax department of Maharashtra under sports quota in 2024.

For Abhijith Amal Raj, Khelo India is therefore not only about medals. He calls it a "prestigious championship", and says his main purpose in Ladakh is to motivate athletes at his academy and show them that meaningful national platforms. With figure skating introduced for the first time, the 6th edition of the Khelo India Winter Games featured 23 skaters from eight states with the highest from Haryana (8), followed by Andhra Pradesh (4) and Uttarakhand (4). This is an encouraging beginning for a winter sport in a largely tropical country like India.

ICC e-mails Bangladesh board about "replacing" them with Scotland from T20 WC

NEW DELHI: The ICC has officially told Bangladesh Cricket Board about replacing them with Scotland in the upcoming T20 World Cup since it refused to travel to India citing security reasons due to ouster of Mustafizur Rahaman from the IPL.

It has been learnt that top ICC officials including chairman Jay Shah were in Dubai on Friday and late evening an e-mail was sent to BCB chairman Aminul Islam Bulbul informing him about global body's decision.

"An e-mail was sent last evening to Bangladesh Cricket Board chairman intimating him that his board didn't get back to ICC officially after the 24 hour deadline that was given to them to decide if they wanted to come to India. The BCB did a press conference in Dhaka before officially intimating the global body which is a violation of protocol. They have been categorically told that they are being replaced," an ICC source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

It must be noted that it is Bangladesh's spirts ministry advisor Asif Nazrul, who has unilaterally taken a decision against national team travelling to India, citing security issues despite being given repeated assurances by the ICC.

While Cricket Scotland has maintained that they haven't received any official confirmation but it seems that it is only a matter of time before they will be given greenlight. Scotland will thus play their four group league games against West Indies (February 7), Italy (February 9) and England (February 14) in Kolkata followed by a game against Nepal in Mumbai on February 17.

Naomi Osaka withdraws from Australian Open before third-round match

MELBOURNE: Naomi Osaka withdrew from the Australian Open before her scheduled third-round match against Australian qualifier Maddison Inglis on Saturday, ending a campaign noted for fashion and friction.

The two-time Australian Open champion announced it on social media without divulging her injury, posting on Instagram that she had to withdraw "to address something my body needs attention for after my last match." "I was so excited to keep going and this run meant the most to me, so having to stop here breaks my heart," Osaka posted, "but I can't risk doing any further damage so I can get back on the court."

A year ago at Melbourne Park, Osaka retired from her third-round match against Belinda Bencic because of a strained abdominal muscle. Australian Open officials have not commented on Osaka's withdrawal Saturday. Osaka's grand entrance to the tournament earlier this week went viral, when she walked onto the court for her first-round match wearing a wide-brim hat, a

Devagudi movie trailer launched grandly, film to release worldwide on 30th

The trailer of the upcoming Telugu film Devagudi was launched grandly, creating strong buzz among film lovers. The movie is produced under the banner of Pushyami Film Makers and is presented by Bellam Sudha Reddy. Bellam Ramakrishna Reddy has written, directed, and produced the film. The trailer launch event was attended by the film's cast, crew, and several media representatives. Devagudi stars Abhinav Shaurya, Narasimha, and Anushree in the lead roles, with prominent supporting performances by Raghu Babu, Annapurnamma, and Raghu Kunche. The makers described the film as an emotionally powerful story inspired by real-life incidents. The film is slated for a worldwide theatrical release on the 30th of this month, with screenings planned across major centres in both Telugu states, including RTC Cross Roads, at normal ticket prices.

Speaking at the event, director-producer Bellam Ramakrishna Reddy expressed confidence in the film's content, highlighting its strong screenplay and emotional depth rooted in friendship, love, and family values. Hero Abhinav Shaurya shared his journey and thanked the director for giving new talent a platform, while heroine Anushree said her role carries powerful dialogues and will be well received by audiences.

Actor Raghu Kunche revealed that the film features large-scale action and chase sequences, while music director SK Madeen stated that both songs and background score will be major highlights. Cinematographer Laxmikant Kanika said the team worked passionately for two years, capturing the film in scenic natural locations.

Celebrities applaud Prime Video's Telugu crime thriller Cheekatilo

Prime Video's latest Telugu crime thriller Cheekatilo has been receiving widespread appreciation from both audiences and celebrities following its release on January 23. Starring Sobhita Dhulipala and Viswadev Rachakonda in the lead roles, the film has emerged as a gripping addition to the platform's strong lineup of regional content.After its intriguing trailer generated significant buzz, Cheekatilo premiered on Prime Video and quickly caught the attention of prominent film personalities. Actors Rana Daggubati, Sudheer Babu, Abhinav Gomatam, Sundeep Kishan, and others took to social media to praise the film, calling it engaging and a must-watch. Rana Daggubati shared the film's poster announcing its streaming, while Abhinav Gomatam described it as a "must watch." Sudheer Babu congratulated the team and wished them continued success, and Sundeep Kishan encouraged audiences to watch the thriller.Set against the dark underbelly of Hyderabad, Cheekatilo follows the story of Sandhya, a criminology graduate and true-crime podcaster, who becomes entangled in a dangerous game of cat and mouse after a shocking murder exposes a series of buried crimes. Using her podcast as a tool, she attempts to provoke and unmask a ruthless killer, leading to a tense and chilling pursuit of truth and justice.Alongside the lead pair, the film features Chaitanya Visalakshmi, Esha Chawla, Jhansi, Aamani, and Vadlamani Srinivas in key roles. With its intense narrative and strong performances, Cheekatilo continues to earn praise and is currently streaming on Prime Video.

Trimukha set for worldwide grand theatrical release on the 30th

The pan-India film Trimukha is all set for a grand worldwide theatrical release on the 30th of this month. The film stars Yogesh Kalle in the lead role, with Sunny Leone playing a pivotal character. The ensemble cast includes Akriti Agarwal, CID Aditya Srivastava, Motta Rajendran, Ashu Reddy, Sahithi Dasari, Praveen, Shakalaka Shankar, Suman, Ravi Prakash, Jeeva, Sammata Gandhi, and Gemini Suresh in key supporting roles.

Produced by Sridevi Maddali and Ramesh Maddali under the Akhira Dream Creations banner, Trimukha is directed by debutant Rajesh Naidu. Made on a large budget and shot simultaneously in five languages, the film is positioned as a true pan-India project. It will release in Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam.

The film's release date announcement press meet was held at the Hyderabad Film Chamber, where several cast and crew members shared their views. Actor Gemini Suresh described Trimukha as a strong, screenplay-driven film and praised Yogesh's dedication and passion for cinema. Actor Praveen said the film offers meaningful roles for all artistes and expressed confidence in the film's content.

Actress Sahithi Dasari stated that the film blends entertainment with thrilling elements and said director Rajesh Naidu's execution does not feel like that of a newcomer. Director Rajesh Naidu explained that the film focuses on a powerful story with an engaging first half and a gripping, intense second half, with every character carrying significance. He also highlighted Sunny Leone's performance-oriented role and the impactful characters played by Praveen and Gemini Suresh.

Hero Yogesh Kalle said Trimukha marks his debut as a lead actor and thanked the entire cast for their support throughout the journey. He added that Sunny Leone and CID Aditya Srivastava's performances would be major highlights and expressed confidence that the strong response to promotional content would translate into theatrical success.

MM Keeravani lends soulful voice to 'Jaali Padedhevvadu' from Purushaha

Marital relationship-based stories revolving around husband-wife conflicts, playful arguments, and domestic emotions have always connected strongly with audiences. Staying rooted in this timeless theme while reflecting contemporary sensibilities, the upcoming film Purushaha explores the nuances of the husband-wife bond from multiple perspectives.Presented by Battula Saraswathi, Purushaha is produced by Battula Koteswara Rao under the Kalyan Productions banner and directed by Veeru Vulavala. The film marks the debut of Pavan Kalyan Battula as a lead actor.

The makers have already generated considerable buzz with posters, first-look reveals, and a teaser that impressed audiences with its humor.Adding further depth to the narrative, the makers have now released the film's theme song, "Jaali Padedhevvadu… Magadi Meeda Jaali Padedhevvadu." The song captures the core emotion of the film with sharp humor and subtle irony, highlighting the often-overlooked vulnerabilities of men in marital relationships. The track gains a special charm with its soulful rendition by Oscar-winning composer MM Keeravani, whose voice brings empathy, warmth, and emotional resonance to the theme.

Music director Shravan Bharadwaj has composed a simple yet impactful tune that allows the lyrics and vocals to shine. Lyricist Anantha Sriram's thoughtful and witty words add depth to the song, cleverly reflecting marital dynamics, expectations, and emotional negotiations without revealing too much of the storyline.The film's technical crew includes cinematographer Satish Muthyala, editor Koti, and art director Ravibabu Dondapati. With post-production progressing at a brisk pace, the makers are expected to announce the film's release date soon.

Chai Wala title song launched, film set for release on February 6

The title song of the upcoming Telugu film Chai Wala was launched on Friday as part of the film's promotional activities. The event was attended by City Commissioner VC Sajjanar, Niloufer founder Baburao, and KIMS MD Ravi Kiran Varma as chief guests. Speaking on the occasion, VC Sajjanar urged audiences to watch the film and make it a success upon its theatrical release on February 6. Starring Shiva Kandukuri in the lead role, Chai Wala is produced by Radha V Papudippu under the Harshika Productions banner and directed by Pramod Harsha. Venkat R Papudippu serves as the co-producer, while music is composed by Prashanth R Vihari. Rajeev Kanakala, Teju Ashwini, Rajkumar Kasireddy, Chaitanya Krishna, and Vadlamani Srinivas play key roles in the film.Addressing the gathering, VC Sajjanar said tea has become an integral part of everyday life and praised the title song for its appeal. Niloufer founder Baburao described tea as an emotion and expressed happiness over the film's title, wishing the team great recognition. Several speakers highlighted the strong father-and-son emotional core of the film and its universal connect.

Hero Shiva Kandukuri said Chai Wala reflects emotions often left unexpressed within families and described the film as one that connects with everyone. Director Pramod Harsha expressed confidence in the film's success, while Rajeev Kanakala praised the strong story, performances, and technical team.Promising a heartfelt family drama rooted in emotion, Chai Wala is set for a worldwide theatrical release on February 6.

SHAH RUKH KHAN ANNOUNCES RELEASE DATE OF 'KING' WITH A 'ROAR'

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan has officially announced the release date of his upcoming film King, with an announcement video that comes packed with a powerful punch. Taking to his social media account, the actor unveiled striking visuals from the film while confirming that King will "roar" into cinemas on December 24, 2026. The first visual in the announcement video features the bold title ROAR set against a dramatic backdrop. Another frame carries the impactful line, "This Christmas, fear wears the crown," that further hints at the film's larger-than-life scale, making it more intriguing.In the video, Shah Rukh Khan is seen exuding dominance, with his rugged look in a torn white shirt and face splashed in blood. Sharing the post, the actor wrote on his , "#KING is Ready to ROAR on 24.12.2026 in Cinemas. #ItsKingTime #KingDateAnnouncement". On Shah Rukh Khan's 60th birthday in November, last year, the makers of "King" had unveiled the captivating title video from the forthcoming drama.The clip opened with a bird's-eye view of an island facili-

Second song 'Sumathi Sumathi' released from Sumathi Sathakam

The second song, 'Sumathi Sumathi', from the upcoming film Sumathi Sathakam has been officially released, further building excitement around the project. The film is set to be released through Mythri Movies Distributors and is gearing up for its theatrical arrival on February 6.

Produced by Sai Sudhakar Kommalapati under the Vision Movie Makers banner, Sumathi Sathakam is written and directed by MM Naidu. The film stars Amardeep Chowdary and Saylimchaudhri in the lead roles, with a strong supporting cast comprising Tasty Teja, Mahesh Vitta, JDV Prasad, Akella Gopi Krishna, Kiran Vijay, Mirchi Kiran, Nellore Neeraj, Malakpet Shailaja, and others.The romantic number 'Sumathi Sumathi' is penned by Krishna Madineni, sung by Gold Devaraj, and composed by Subhash Anand. The song carries a youthful and melodious vibe, with lyrics such as "Na Kutti Kutti Sumathi, Na Chitti Chitti Sumathi…" beautifully expressing the emotions of a young man in love. The visuals feature Amardeep conveying his affection through simple yet engaging dance movements, making the song instantly relatable to younger audiences.Earlier, the film's first look, teaser, and the previously released song 'Ekkade Ekkade' received a positive response, raising expectations for the movie. With cinematography by S Halesh and editing by Nahid Mohammed, the makers are confident that 'Sumathi Sumathi' will strike a chord with audiences and emerge as a chartbuster ahead of the film's release.

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