

OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

25-01-2026

Total pilgrims: 84,014

Tonsures: 35,131

Hundi kanukalu: 3.69CR

Waiting Compartments..Out side line at Octopus Building (Near Gogabam Dam circle).

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens) ..20 H

TO BOOK YOUR ADS CALL

99484 80279, 73307 78889



Rahul Gandhi invites citizens to share air pollution impact stories on ‘Awaaz Bharat Ki’



WORLD | NEWS
German defense minister urges Trump to apologize for Afghanistan remarks

SPORTS | NEWS
India not far from hosting its first-ever Asian Winter Games: Ice skater Vishwaraj Jadeja



IN BRIFS

Gold Prices Hit Rs 1.6 Lac For The First Time Ever



New Delhi (TSIT): Gold has shattered records by surging past \$5,000 per ounce (Rs 1.58 lakh per 10 grams) for the first time ever, marking a historic milestone in one of the most breathtaking rallies in precious metals history. Silver has followed suit, hovering around or above \$100- \$105 per ounce, with sharp gains extending from its already strong 2025 performance. The development has propelled precious metals to rival major tech stocks in total market value, as investors flock to gold and silver amid global uncertainty. As of Monday, January 26, spot gold climbed to an all-time high of \$5,092.71 per ounce. The current live spot price is hovering around \$5,086 to \$5,097 per ounce. This surge is driven by tensions between the US and NATO over Greenland, adding to financial and geopolitical uncertainty.

Chinese manja claims life of 5-yr-old girl in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD (TSIT): Banned Chinese manja claimed another life in Telangana, with a five-year-old girl becoming the latest victim in Hyderabad on Monday. The incident occurred in the Kukatpally area in Telangana when the girl was riding a motorcycle with her father and sister. According to police, the manja of a flying kite got entangled around her neck and caused a deep cut. Nishvika Aditya (5) died on the spot due to profuse bleeding. She was sitting in front of her father, who was driving the bike while her sister was riding pillion. They were coming to Kukatpally from Khajipalli in Medchal-Malkajgiri district. Police registered a case and took up the investigation. This is the second such incident in Telangana in less than two weeks. A 35-year-old man in Sangareddy district lost his life in a similar incident on January 14. Avidesh, a migrant worker from Uttar Pradesh, was riding a motorcycle when the manja got entangled around his neck. He suffered a deep cut and died on the spot. More than a dozen people were injured by Chinese manja in Hyderabad and its outskirts this month.

CM Revanth begins executive education at Harvard University

Hyderabad (TSIT):

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy began his executive education at the famed Kennedy School at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, with program orientation and cohort introduction. The program, “Leadership in the 21st Century”, began on Sunday afternoon local time with the session on “Analysing Authority and Leadership”, according to a statement from the Chief Minister’s Office. Monday morning classes started from 7 a.m. with the cohort taking on several different classes, large class case analysis, and consultative group work. Classes will close late evening, around 6 p.m. Meanwhile, winter emergency is on in the entire area, with a raging snow storm Fern, marked by snowfall in excess of 2 feet (24 inches) and temperatures below -20 degrees Celsius in the Boston area. The Chief Minister had left for the United States last week after attending the



World Economic Forum annual meeting at Davos, Switzerland. Revanth Reddy is claimed to be the first Chief Minister in independent India to enrol for a program in the Ivy League. The program is titled, “Leadership for the 21st Century” (chaos, conflict, and courage). He will attend classes till January 30. CMO had earlier said that he will undertake classes, assignments and submit homework, and execute

group projects with fellow global participants. The class will have students from over 20 countries spread across five continents. The Chief Minister will receive program course certification from Harvard, the first for any current Chief Minister in office in Indian history. Opposition BJP criticised Revanth Reddy enrolling for the program, questioning the timing and financial prudence of the move. BJP State chief spokesperson N. V. Subash remarked that leadership is not acquired through short-term courses but demonstrated through governance, accountability, and results on the ground. "Shouldn't such academic pursuits have been completed earlier in life?" he asked, adding that the Chief Minister's primary classroom today should be the state he governs, not an overseas campus. Subash further questioned whether the trip reflects a prioritisation of personal aspirations over public responsibilities.

Hyderabad / Amaravati (TSIT): Patriotic fervour marked 77th Republic Day celebrations on Monday in the Telugu states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Governors of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh led the celebrations by hoisting the national flag at the main official functions in their respective states. Ministers and top officials led the celebrations held in the districts. Flag hoisting at government offices, educational institutions, public places and in residential areas marked the occasion. Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma unfurled the tricolour at the main ceremony held at Parade Grounds, Secunderabad. He reviewed a colourful parade by the contingents of armed forces, police and paramilitary forces and took the salute. As Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is on a visit to the US, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka accompanied the Governor in paying tributes at the Martyrs’ Memorial. The Governor hosted At Home at Lok Bhavan in the evening. Deputy Chief

India, EU concludes negotiations for FTA successfully



NEW DELHI (TSIT) : India and the European Union (EU) have successfully concluded negotiations for the proposed free trade agreement, which will help boost two-way commerce and strengthen economic ties between the two sides, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said on Monday, January 26. He said the trade deal from the Indian perspective is balanced and forward-looking, which will help in the better economic integration of

India with the EU.It will propel trade and investments in both economies, he said. “Negotiations have been successfully concluded. The deal has been finalised,” Agrawal said.Legal scrubbing of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) text is underway, and the endeavour will be to complete the processes and sign the pact at an early date, he said. The deal is expected to be signed this year, and it may come into effect early next year.

Patriotic fervour marks R-Day celebrations in Telugu states



Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, Chief Justice of Telangana High Court Aparesk Kumar Singh, Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar, Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy, State ministers, and leaders of Congress, BRS and BJP attended the event. Telangana Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar and Legislative Council Chairman Gutta Sukhender Reddy hoisted the flag at the ceremony held at the Legislature complex. Chief Justice Aparesk Kumar Singh hoisted the national flag during the Republic Day programme held at Telangana High Court. In Andhra Pradesh, the main

official function to mark Republic Day was held for the first time in the state capital, Amaravati. Governor S. Abdul Nazeer hoisted the national flag and reviewed the parade. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, ministers and top officials attended the ceremony. The Governor hosted ‘At Home’ in the evening at Lok Bhavan in Vijayawada. Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, ministers, leaders of various political parties and top officials were present. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu hoisted the national flag at his official residence.

Republic day: DRDO unveils long range anti-ship hypersonic missile

NEW DELHI (TSIT): The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) showcased several of its path-breaking innovations aimed at strengthening national security during the 77th Republic Day Parade at Kartavya Path. The display highlighted India’s growing indigenous defence capabilities, with a focus on advanced missile systems and cutting-edge naval technologies. Among the key systems showcased were the Long Range Anti-Ship Hypersonic Missile (LR-AShM) and the DRDO tableau themed ‘Naval Technologies for Combat Submarines’.



The LR-AShM, along with its launcher, was presented during the parade as a major milestone in India’s hypersonic weapons programme. The weapon system has been designed to meet the coastal

battery requirements of the Indian Navy and significantly enhance maritime strike capabilities. The LR-AShM is a hypersonic glide missile capable of engaging both static and moving targets.

NEW DELHI (TSIT): India ushered in its 77th Republic Day on Monday with a grand display of its cultural heritage, economic growth and military might that included warplanes, indigenously-built missiles, newly-raised units and lethal weapons used during Operation Sindoor. President of the European Council Antonio Costa and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen graced the celebrations as chief guests, marking a significant diplomatic moment alongside the military display. The annual military parade reflected India’s strategic autonomy and diverse sources



ing of its defence hardware with Russian-origin platforms showcased alongside

US-manufactured ones. Although the overarching theme of the event was 150

years of ‘Vande Mataram’, the Indian military’s Operation Sindoor too found prominence at the parade on the Kartavya Path, the centrepiece boulevard of the national capital. The parade commenced with the President Droupadi Murmu taking the salute shortly after she, Costa and von der Leyen, flanked by the Indian president’s bodyguards, arrived at the Kartavya Path in a traditional buggy. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, several other Union ministers, the country’s top military brass, foreign diplomats and senior officials were among the spectators.

Rahul Gandhi invites citizens to share air pollution impact stories on ‘Awaaz Bharat Ki’



NEW DELHI (TSIT): Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Sunday urged citizens across the country to share their personal stories on how air pollution is affecting their health and the well-being of their loved ones through a portal titled ‘Awaaz Bharat Ki’.

‘Awaaz Bharat Ki’ is an initiative launched by Rahul Gandhi to offer a direct platform for people to convey their thoughts, suggestions and concerns to his office, according to details available on its official website. In a post on X, Gandhi highlighted the human and economic cost of worsening air quality, saying, “We are paying a heavy price for air pollution with our health and with our economy. Crores of ordinary Indians bear this burden every day.”Underlining the urgency of addressing the issue,

he said that the most vulnerable sections of society are suffering the worst consequences.

“Children and the elderly suffer the most. Livelihoods, especially of construction workers and daily wage earners, are severely impacted. This crisis cannot be forgotten until next winter. The first step towards change is to raise our voices,” Gandhi said. Calling on people to participate, he added, “Share your story of how air pollution has affected you or your loved ones at Awaaz Bharat Ki. Your voice matters, and it is my duty to raise it.” The appeal comes at a time when New Delhi and several surrounding cities have been grappling with severe pollution levels over the past few months, leading to serious respiratory and other health-related problems among residents. Dense smog and persistently high pollution levels have made it increasingly difficult for people, particularly children and the elderly, to

step outdoors.Over the past few months, schools in the national capital have also been forced to shift to online classes on multiple occasions due to the Air Quality Index plunging into the ‘severe’ category.

In December last year, residents of Delhi staged protests against rising pollution levels and demanded a concrete action plan to tackle the crisis.More than a hundred protesters, including students, activists and concerned citizens, gathered at Jantar Mantar, urging both the State and Central governments to take immediate steps to curb deteriorating air quality in the national capital. The Congress party, during the Winter Session of Parliament last year, repeatedly raised the issue of air pollution in both Houses. The party leaders also held protests, carrying placards and demanding accountability from the ruling dispensation over the worsening environmental and public health situation.

ED attaches fresh PACL assets worth over Rs 1,986 crore

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday said it has attached fresh properties worth over Rs 1,986 crore as part of its money laundering investigation against Chandigarh-based PACL (Pearls Group), accused of orchestrating a Rs 48,000 crore Ponzi scheme.

The latest action has taken the total value of assets attached so far in the case to Rs 7,589 crore.

In a statement, the agency said it has provisionally attached 37 immovable properties, located in Punjab’s Ludhiana and Jaipur in Rajasthan, valued at Rs 1,986.48 crore, under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

A part of the alleged illicit funds generated from this fraud was used for the acquisition of these 37 assets, it said.The ED probe stems from a CBI case

against PACL Ltd, its late promoter Nirmal Singh Bhangoo and some others.

Bhangoo died in August 2024. The accused entities and individuals of PACL operated an “illegal” collective investment scheme, fraudulently mobilising over Rs 60,000 crore from lakhs of investors across India under the guise of sale and development of agricultural land, as per the ED. Investors were induced to invest through cash down payment and instalment payment plans and were made to sign “misleading” documents, including agreements, powers of attorney, and other instruments, it said.“In the majority of cases, no land was ever delivered, and approximately Rs 48,000 crore remains unpaid to investors,” the agency said. Three charge sheets have been filed by the ED till now as part of this case registered in 2016.



Banks to go on nationwide strike on Jan 27, Unions seek 5-day work week

New Delhi (GNS): Banking operations of public sector banks across the country are likely to be impacted on Tuesday with the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) deciding to go ahead with a nationwide strike on January 27 to press for the immediate implementation of a five-day work week. The strike call by the UFBU, an umbrella body of nine unions representing officers and employees, comes after a conciliation meeting on January 23 with the chief labour

Chandrasekhar said, “This movement is not against customers, but for a sustainable, humane, and efficient banking system. A rested banker serves the nation better. A balanced workforce strengthens financial stability. 5-Day banking is not a luxury; it is an economic and human necessity.” Services such as cash deposits, withdrawals, cheque clearances, and administrative work are expected to be hit at branches of public sector banks (PSBs), including State Bank of



commissioner failed to yield a positive outcome. With banks remaining closed on January 25 (Sun) and January 26 (Republic Day), the strike on Tuesday will result in a disruption of branch-level services for three consecutive days. “Despite detailed discussions during the conciliation proceedings, there was no assurance on our demand. Hence, we have been compelled to proceed with the strike action,” All India Bank Employees Association (AIBEA), a constituent of UFBU, General Secretary C H Venkatachalam told PTI.All India Bank Officers’ Confederation (AIBOC) General Secretary Rupam Roy said the decision to declare all Saturdays as holidays was agreed between the Indian Banks’ Association and UFBU during the wage revision settlement in March 2024.“It is unfortunate that the government is not responding to our genuine demand. There would be no loss of man-hours as we have agreed to work an extra 40 minutes daily from Monday to Friday,” he said.

MS Admissions 2026-27

According to another UFBU constituent National Confederation of Bank Employees (NCBE) General Secretary L

India (SBI), Punjab National Bank (PNB), and Bank of Baroda.

However, operations at major private sector lenders like HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, and Axis Bank are expected to remain largely unaffected as their employees are not part of the unions that will be going on strike. Digital banking services, including UPI and internet banking, will continue to function, though ATM cash availability could face localised issues due to logistical delays.

Several public sector lenders, including banking giant SBI have informed stock exchanges about the potential impact. “We advise that while the bank has made necessary arrangements to ensure normal functioning in its branches and offices on the day of strike, it is likely that work in the bank may be impacted by the strike,” SBI said in a regulatory filing on Friday.The unions are demanding the declaration of all Saturdays as holidays, a key point that was reportedly agreed upon during the 12th Bipartite Settlement signed with the Indian Banks’ Association (IBA) in March 2024 but is awaiting government notification. Currently, banks remain open on the first, third, and fifth Saturdays of every month.

Kerala CM Vijayan slams Centre, calls for unity on Republic Day



Thiruvananthapuram (GNS): Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Monday, January 26, targeted the Centre, saying the spirit of the Constitution and democratic values were facing unprecedented challenges, and called for unity to defend secularism and federalism on the occasion of Republic Day.Extending Republic Day greetings, Vijayan said in a Facebook post that the day renewed the proud memories of India becoming a sovereign, democratic republic, even as conscious attempts were being made to undermine the principles of secularism and federalism enshrined in the Constitution. He said the Constitution was not merely a legal document, but the soul of the idea of India that celebrates diversity and guarantees equal justice.

The chief minister said the occasion called for vigilance against forces attempt-

ing to weaken the vision of “unity in diversity” and impose a monolithic ideology.

“The federal concept of a strong Centre with empowered states is facing serious challenges. We should stand together against policies that aim to weaken federalism by curtailing the financial powers of states and turning constitutional institutions into political tools,” he said.

Vijayan said Kerala’s alternative development models based on decentralisation of power and people’s participation provided strength to the struggle to protect constitutional values. Calling for renewed commitment to secularism and democracy, he said the politics of division must be countered with love and fraternity.

“Let us move forward together in this struggle to protect India—for a New Kerala and a progressive India,” he said.

Reliance stays away from Russian oil, public sector firms lap it up

Betul (GNS): Reliance Industries Ltd, India’s biggest buyer of Russian crude oil, has not bought any barrels from the Kremlin in January so far, while state-run refiners have stepped up imports prompted by discounts hitting some USD 7 per barrel, almost triple the level seen in mid-2025.Reliance, which was touted as the world’s biggest buyer of seaborne Russian oil at around 600,000 barrels per day in 2025, did not buy any Russian crude oil in first three weeks of January, industry sources said, and ship-tracking data showed.

HPCL-Mittal Energy Ltd — a joint venture of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd and the London-based Mittal Group of steel czar Lakshmi Mittal — Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd and HPCL too did not pick up any Russian crude.

However, state-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) bought an average of 470,000 bpd, its highest ever, data from maritime intelligence firm Kpler showed. IOC had bought 427,000 bpd in December 2025.

State-owned Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) bought 164,000 bpd this month, up from 143,000 bpd in December 2025. Russian oil firm Rosneft-backed Nayara Energy, which has been cut from other suppliers after the European Union slapped sanctions on it, continued to source crude from Russia, buying some 469,000 bpd this month. Indian imports of Russian oil dipped slightly to 1.1 million bpd in the first three weeks of January from 1.2 million bpd in December. The volumes in both months are much lower than November’s 1.84 million bpd, reflecting the impact of US sanctions on Rosneft and Lukoil, Russia’s two biggest oil exporters, that came into effect from November 21. Kpler analyst Sumit Ritolia said India’s Russian crude purchases in January 2026 and across Q1 2026 are expected to average around 1.2 million bpd and 1.3-1.5 million bpd, respectively. “Nayara, BPCL and IOC bought fresh cargoes in January

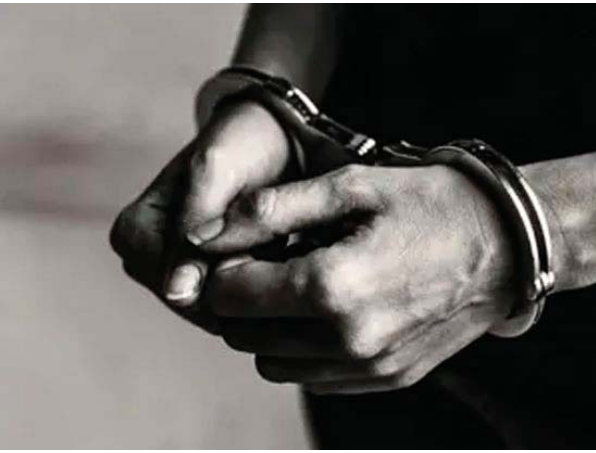


2026, with others (RIL, MRPL, HMEL) staying out as of now,” he said. Indian refiners are currently sourcing Russian crude through a mix of channels, but the trend for most buyers has shifted toward newer non-sanctioned intermediaries rather than clean, direct liftings from the major Russian producers.

“Direct deliveries linked to Rosneft and Lukoil are still taking place, but they are increasingly concentrated with Nayara, which has continued lifting Russian barrels given its different risk posture and Russian linkage, while other Indian refiners are more selectively buying through non-sanctioned trading entities that have emerged over the last 2-3 months to keep flows moving in a more compliance-friendly structure (for example Alghaf marine, rusexport, etc and other newly active intermediaries),” he added. Close to 60 per cent of India’s Russian imports in January went to state-run refiners IOC and BPCL, and the rest to Nayara Energy.In January, Rosneft supplied 130,000 bpd oil to India while Lukoil shipped 103,000 bpd. Unsanctioned Surgutneftegas and RusExport shipped the bulk of oil, Kpler data showed. A Reliance spokesperson had earlier this month stated that the company did not receive a single Russian cargo in January, while its purchases in December were half those in November. HMEL perhaps stopped purchases of Russian crude oil because of the potential impact on the global operations of Mittal Group. HMEL averaged 153,000 bpd of Russian oil imports in 2025.

Bihar teacher arrested for raising pro-Pakistan slogans during Republic Day ceremony

Patna, Jan 26: In a shocking incident from Supaul district, Bihar, a government school teacher was arrested for allegedly raising slogans in support of Pakistan’s first Governor-General, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, during the Republic Day flag-hoisting ceremony. The event took place at Abhuwar High School under Kishanganj block as part of the 77th Republic Day celebrations. The accused, Mohammad Mansoor Alam, reportedly chanted “Long Live Mr Jinnah” during the ceremony, which was captured on a mobile phone. The video quickly went viral on social media, sparking outrage among residents and the school community.Teachers, students, and attendees immediately objected to the



remarks. Following the incident, the school headmaster filed a formal complaint with the local police. Students later confirmed in their statements that the teacher had urged children to chant slogans such as “Long Live Mr

Acting on the complaint and evidence, Supaul police arrested Alam. Superintendent of Police Sharath R.S. stated, “The accused has been arrested based on the complaint and evidence. Such activities during a national festival are extremely serious. Strict legal action will be taken as per the law.” He added that a thorough investigation is ongoing to examine all aspects of the incident.

The incident has triggered widespread anger among locals and school authorities, with many calling it an insult to the national spirit of Republic Day and demanding strict action. Police have assured the public that the matter will be handled firmly and without leniency.

Uttarakhand temples to restrict entry to Hindus only, BKTC confirms

Dehradun, Jan 26: The Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple Committee (BKTC) announced that entry to the sacred Badrinath and Kedarnath temples, part of the revered Char Dham circuit, will soon be restricted exclusively to Hindus. This move will apply to all temples managed by the committee, the BKTC said.

BKTC president Hemant Dwivedi confirmed that non-Hindus will no longer be allowed to enter any temple under the committee’s jurisdiction. He added that a formal proposal to enforce the restriction will be presented to the temple committee board in its upcoming



meeting. Badrinath temple is scheduled to reopen on April 23 after a six-month winter closure, while the reopening date for Kedarnath will be

announced during Maha Shivratri.

Gangotri and Yamunotri, the other two shrines of the Chota Char Dham circuit, are set to

reopen on April 19, coinciding with Akshaya Tritiya. The announcement comes amid ongoing debates in Uttarakhand over limiting non-Hindu access at major religious sites. Earlier this month, posters declaring Haridwar’s Har ki Pauri as “off-limits for non-Hindus” sparked controversy. The posters, installed by the Shri Ganga Sabha, labeled the area as a “Hindu zone” and carried the message, “Non-Hindus Prohibited Entry Zone.” The Sabha, however, said the aim was to raise awareness about legal rules and prevent disputes, not to discriminate.

Ta.MA.Sha Veg Café celebrates Republic Day with special initiative for children

Hyderabad, January 26, 2026: Marking India's 77th Republic Day, Ta.MA.Sha Veg Café celebrated the occasion with a heartfelt social initiative dedicated to children in Hyderabad, reflecting the spirit of unity, care, and community service.

The initiative was led by Founder Mr. Mahender Vyas and Co-Founder Mr. A.K. Solanky, in collaboration with NextGen Hope & Kalyan Sanstha, under the guidance of its Founder and Chairperson Ms. Aarohi Rawat. The programme aimed to create a joyful and meaningful



experience for children through fun-filled activities, learning opportunities, and nourishment.

As part of the celebration, children participated in interactive games and were introduced to Pickleball, a rapidly grow-

ing global sport, encouraging physical fitness and healthy lifestyle habits. The event also featured nutritious Asian vegetarian meals curated by Ta.MA.Sha Veg Café, highlighting the brand's commitment to mindful eating

and wellness.

Adding to the joy, each child was gifted school bags and notebooks as a symbol of encouragement, education, and hope for a brighter future.

Speaking on the occasion, the founders stated that giving back to society is a core value of the brand and reaffirmed their commitment to community welfare through such meaningful initiatives.

Through this Republic Day initiative, Ta.MA.Sha Veg Café reinforced its values of compassion, sustainability, and conscious living, extending its impact beyond food to create positive change in the community.

Nuvama Delivers Steady 9M FY26 Performance; Wealth Business Records Strong Double-Digit Growth

Mumbai: Nuvama Wealth Management Limited (NSE, BSE: NUVAMA), one of India's leading wealth management firms, reported a resilient financial performance for the quarter and nine months ended 31 December 2025, driven by strong momentum in its wealth businesses and steady client engagement. For 9M FY26, Nuvama reported a consolidated operating Profit After Tax (PAT) of Rs.780 crore, marking a 7% year-on-year growth. Consolidated revenues rose 8% YoY to Rs.2,297 crore, while operating profit before tax increased 6% YoY to Rs.1,035 crore, reflecting the strength of its diversified business platform. During Q3 FY26, revenues

stood at Rs.755 crore, up 4% YoY, while operating PAT increased 4% YoY to Rs.262 crore. Profit after tax for the quarter was marginally impacted by a one-time statutory adjustment related to new labour codes. The Wealth Management business remained the key growth engine. Revenues grew 21% YoY to Rs.1,245 crore in 9M FY26, while profit before tax rose 23% YoY to Rs.427 crore. Client assets stood at Rs.3.29 lakh crore at the end of Q3, registering 6% YoY growth. Both Nuvama Wealth and Nuvama Private reported strong net flows, supported by higher participation in managed products, lending momentum, and annuity-style ARR revenues. The Asset

Management business continued to scale, with management fees growing 30% YoY in 9M FY26. Assets under management reached Rs.12,605 crore, while the Commercial Real Estate strategy AUM grew 72% YoY to approximately Rs.3,000 crore. The company also received in-principle approval to sponsor a mutual fund and plans to launch schemes in the coming year, subject to regulatory clearances. Asset Services revenues grew 7% QoQ in Q3, aided by improved client engagement and market share gains across domestic and international segments. While Capital Markets revenues declined 21% YoY, the Fixed Income business remained stable, support-

ed by strong FPI flows and rising domestic participation. Commenting on the performance, Ashish Kehair, MD & CEO, Nuvama Group, said the company's organically scaled, diversified platform has enhanced resilience and positioned it for growth across market cycles. He highlighted strong profit growth in wealth businesses, meaningful expansion in asset management, and early signs of recovery in capital markets volumes. Overall, Nuvama's 9M FY26 performance underscores the strength of its integrated business model, disciplined execution, and continued focus on scaling client-centric wealth and investment platforms.

SBI Hyderabad LHO Celebrates 77th Republic Day with '150 Years of Vande Mataram' Theme

Hyderabad: State Bank of India, Local Head Office (LHO), Hyderabad, celebrated the 77th Republic Day with patriotic fervour, adopting the theme "150 Years of Vande Mataram." Shri S. Radhakrishnan, Chief General Manager, SBI Hyderabad Circle, unfurled the National Flag at the Northern Lawns of the LHO premises. Addressing the gathering, Shri S. Radhakrishnan conveyed his Republic Day greetings and called upon the LHO team to draw inspiration from the Prime Minister's vision of excellence, emphasizing that "excellence is a habit." He stated that the Local Head Office sets the benchmark for the entire circle and urged all branches, ATMs and Customer Service Points (CSPs) to consistently deliver a superior customer experience in line with SBI's global reputation as the Best Consumer Bank. He noted that this cultural shift is crucial to achieving the Chairman's strategic goal



of increasing SBI's market share by one percent in every district across Telangana.

The CGM stressed the importance of operational efficiency and zero tolerance for infrastructure downtime, stating that malfunctioning facilities such as ATMs, air condi-

tioners and passbook printers directly impact staff productivity. He advocated aggressive migration of routine transactions to alternate channels such as CSPs, contact centres, YONO and Internet Banking, highlighting that the circle operates over 6,000 CSPs

and ATMs compared to 1,200 branches. He set an ambitious target of 95-98 percent ATM uptime and directed branches to ensure CSPs function effectively and generate sustainable business.

Concluding his address, Shri S. Radhakrishnan underscored the need for "360-degree professionalism" and strong ethical standards. He emphasized mutual respect within the "SBI Family" and urged employees to adopt a vigilant approach towards fraud prevention, following a "see something, say something" principle.

The celebrations were attended by General Managers, senior executives, staff members and their families. The programme concluded with vibrant cultural performances by staff members, felicitation of employees' children for excellence in academics, sports and arts, and honouring Bank Armed Guards for their exemplary service and commitment.

LIC Zonal Manager Puneet Kumar Unfurls National Flag on Republic Day

Hyderabad: Sri Puneet Kumar, Zonal Manager, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), South Central Zone, unfurled the National Flag at the Zonal Office premises in Hyderabad, marking the 77th Republic Day celebrations.

Addressing employees and agents on the occasion, Sri Puneet Kumar reflected on India's journey since becoming a Republic and highlighted

the importance of unity and rapid development for the nation. He stated that technological advancements in LIC have significantly improved customer service delivery, enabling policyholders to access services in minimal time.

While acknowledging the role of technology, he emphasized that the essence of human interaction remains vital and should not be overlooked. He urged LIC employees

and agents to work with honesty and dedication, stating that such commitment is essential for strengthening the nation.

Sri Puneet Kumar also noted that LIC is continuously developing new insurance and investment products to meet the evolving needs of customers. He called upon LICians to focus on three key principles — My LIC, My Country, and My Earth — and appealed to all to avoid the use of plas-

tic and actively protect the environment. He further propagated the concept of Make in India.

Senior officials including Sri P. P. Kelkar, Executive Director (Audit), Central Office, Mumbai; Sri M. Ravi Kumar; Sri S. Sarvana Ramesh; Sri G. S. Sastry; Sri A. A. M. Hilali, along with employees from the Zonal Office and Hyderabad Divisional Office, were present during the celebrations.

FROM CHICKEN BIRYANI TO IDLI: HOW VIJAYAWADA SWIGGY'D IN 2025

Vijayawada, January 2026: Known for its bold flavours and rich culinary heritage, Vijayawada showcased a vibrant mix of tradition and modern food preferences in 2025, according to the Vijayawada Edition of "How India Swiggy'd". From indulgent biryanis to simple breakfast staples, the city's food habits reflected both comfort and experimentation.

Chicken Biryani emerged as the undisputed favourite with 7.78 lakh orders, followed by Idli with 3.2 lakh orders and Veg Dosa with 2.7 lakh orders. Dessert lovers leaned towards classics, with Chocolate Cake and Apricot Cake topping the charts, while traditional sweets like Gulab Jamun, Kaju Barfi and Boondl Ladoo also featured among the top choices.

Breakfast orders remained light and traditional, led by Idli and Veg Dosa, while snack-time cravings between 3 pm and 7 pm saw Chicken Biryani dominating with nearly 218



orders every evening. Late-night orders grew by 47.7% year-on-year, once again led by Chicken Biryani, followed by burgers and fried chicken items.

The city also showed a growing appetite for regional cuisines, with Bengali cuisine emerging as the fastest-growing at over 35% YoY, followed by Punjabi cuisine. Affordable dining

struck a chord through Swiggy's 99 Store, where Chicken Biryani, Veg Dosa, Idli and Veg Burger were most ordered.

Travel-time food delivery saw a sharp rise, with Food on Train orders at Vijayawada Junction increasing by 233%, the highest in the country. Corporate food orders through DeskEats highlighted

Chicken Popcorn as the top choice, while high-protein food emerged as a strong category with 1.3 lakh orders.

Quick delivery via Bolt remained popular, with Chicken Biryani leading orders, and Apricot Delight topping dessert choices. Dining out also surged in 2025, with Vijayawada customers saving Rs. 90 lakh through Swiggy Dineout, a 276% increase over the previous year, and premium dining gaining momentum.

Commenting on the trends, Sidharth Bhakoo, Chief Business Officer, Swiggy Food Marketplace, said that Vijayawada struck a fine balance between classic favourites and national trends, embracing food as an emotion across daily meals and celebrations.

Overall, Vijayawada's food story in 2025 reflected evolving tastes, convenience-driven choices, and an enduring love for iconic dishes, reinforcing the city's dynamic and flavour-rich culinary identity.

AP Grameena Bank Celebrates 77th Republic Day in Guntur

Guntur (TSIT): Andhra Pradesh Grameena Bank celebrated the 77th Republic Day with great pride and patriotic fervour at its Head Office premises in Brodipet, Guntur. The celebrations were attended by Head Office staff, Heads of Departments, the General Manager (HR), General Manager (IT), and Vigilance Incharge Mr. Harish Betha. The programme was graced by the presence of the Chairman of the Bank, Sri K. Pramod Kumar Reddy. On the occasion, Chairman Sri K. Pramod Kumar Reddy unfurled the National Flag and addressed the gathering. In his speech, he highlighted the theme of this year's Republic Day and emphasized the enduring values enshrined in the Constitution, including unity, national integrity, and nation-building. He remarked that Republic Day is not only a moment of pride for the nation but also a reminder for every citizen to uphold their duties and responsibilities towards the coun-



try. Vigilance Incharge Mr. Harish Betha also addressed the staff, stressing the importance of celebrating national and patriotic occasions at the workplace. He stated that as an organization owned by the Government of India, Andhra Pradesh Grameena Bank must set

an example by making such celebrations meaningful and inspiring, reflecting its commitment to national values. The event concluded with the collective singing of "Vande Mataram," filling the premises with a strong sense of patriotism and national pride.

NMDC Celebrates 77th Republic Day, Reaffirms Commitment to Responsible Mining

Hyderabad, January 26, 2026: India's largest iron ore producer and responsible miner, NMDC, celebrated the 77th Republic Day with patriotic fervour at its corporate office in Hyderabad and across its mining projects nationwide, reaffirming its commitment to sustainable mining and nation-building.

NMDC Chairman and Managing Director Shri Amitava Mukherjee unfurled the National Flag at the Head Office in the presence of senior management and employees. The celebrations were attended by Shri Vinay Kumar, Director (Technical); Shri Joydeep Dasgupta, Director (Production); Smt. G. Priyadarshini, Director (HR); Shri C. Neelakanta Reddy, CVO; and other senior officials and staff.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Amitava Mukherjee highlighted NMDC's growth journey rooted in responsibility and innovation. He stated that NMDC is emerging as a global benchmark in responsible mining and is set to contribute over 50 million tonnes in FY25 towards India's infrastructure development. He informed that as of December 2025, NMDC produced 36.9 million tonnes of iron ore, registering a 20 percent increase over the corresponding period last year. He also announced the



commencement of mining operations at the Tokisud North Coal Block in Jharkhand in January 2026, marking NMDC's entry into a new commodity and geography. He added that NMDC's people-centric culture earned it the prestigious Great Place to Work Certification.

As part of the celebrations, NMDC organised Republic Day Runs across its projects in Chhattisgarh and Karnataka, symbolising unity, fitness, and collective progress. The runs at the Bachel and Kirandul projects were graced by NMDC Brand Ambassador and two-time World Champion boxer Ms. Nikhat Zareen, who inspired participants with her presence.

Further strengthening community engagement, NMDC, in association with The Hindu, organised chess competitions for students to encourage strategic thinking and sportsmanship. Employees' games were also conducted, and winners were felicitated during the ceremony. Republic Day celebrations across NMDC locations reflected the organisation's unwavering commitment to India's growth, sustainable mining practices, employee well-being, and an inclusive future, as NMDC continues to mine responsibly while powering the nation's progress.

German defense minister urges Trump to apologize for Afghanistan remarks



BERLIN: German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius has called on US President Donald Trump to apologize for remarks suggesting that America's NATO allies in Afghanistan avoided frontline service, joining a chorus of criticism from European politicians and army veterans.

Trump caused deep offense among US allies when he told Fox Business Network last week that the US had "never needed" the transatlantic alliance and accused allies of staying "a little off the front lines" in Afghanistan.

"It's just not right and it's disrespectful to talk about the dead of your allies in that way. They all stood there, at the side of the United States. To claim something else today is simply not true," he told a talk show on Germany's ARD public broadcaster late on Sunday. Thousands of German troops took part in NATO's Operation

Enduring Freedom and Resolute Support missions in Afghanistan and 59 were killed. The operations were launched following the Al-Qaeda attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001. Pistorius said he would bring up the issue the next time he spoke

ments from other European politicians including British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who called Trump's remarks "frankly appalling," in a departure from his usual avoidance of direct criticism of the US president. Trump on Saturday praised "brave" British soldiers, though he made no apology for his earlier comments and he did not mention the sacrifices of other NATO allies. Britain lost 457 service personnel in Afghanistan.

Trump administration officials have been critical of European countries for failing to meet NATO spending targets and for being too dependent on the US for their own defense. Pistorius, who has been leading a drive to rebuild Germany's armed forces, said Europe had to accept it could not depend on the

Pistorius said he would bring up the issue the next time he spoke with US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and he urged Trump to apologize

with US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and he urged Trump to apologize.

"That would be a sign of decency, respect and also insight," he said. His comments follow similar state-

US as it had over the past 70 years but that the German military was on an "excellent path" to achieving its goals of being back up to strength by 2029.

Indonesia receives first Rafale advanced fighter jets from France, official says

JAKARTA: Indonesia has received three Rafale fighter jets from France in the first deliveries from a multi-billion-dollar defense deal between the two countries, a defense ministry official told Reuters on Monday, marking a major upgrade to the country's aging military hardware.

Jakarta, France's main arms client in Southeast Asia, has placed orders for as many as 42 Rafales, built by Dassault Aviation, as well as French frigates and submarines, as the archipelago steps up defense spending under President Prabowo Subianto, a former special forces commander. "The aircraft have been handed over and are ready for use by the Indonesian Air Force," Defense Ministry spokesperson Rico Ricardo Sirait said in



a message in response to a Reuters query — the first confirmation that Indonesia has possession of the advanced military aircraft after striking an \$8 billion deal with France in 2022 and expanding it last year.

Sirait said the three aircraft arrived on Friday and were stationed at Roesmin Nurjadin Air Base in Pekanbaru, located on the western island of Sumatra. Three more jets are expected to arrive later this year, he added. Indonesia has been

one of the biggest players on the international fighter jet market as it looks to upgrade its aircraft, setting aside big budgets for defense spending. It has been considering a number of options alongside the Rafales, including China's J-10 fighter jets and US-made F-15EX jets. For the longer term, it has also signed a contract to buy 48 KAN fighter jets from Turkiye, a fifth-generation aircraft powered by General Electric F-110 engines that are also used in fourth-generation Lockheed Martin F-16 jets.

EU countries give final approval to Russian gas ban

BRUSSELS: European Union countries on Monday gave their final approval to the bloc's plan to ban Russian gas imports by late 2027, allowing it to pass into law. The policy makes legally-binding the EU's vow to cut ties with its former top gas supplier, nearly four years after Russia's 2022 full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Ministers from EU countries approved the law at a

meeting in Brussels on Monday, although Slovakia and Hungary voted against.

Hungary said it would take the case to the European Court of Justice. The ban was designed to be approved by a reinforced majority of countries, allowing it to overcome opposition from Hungary and Slovakia, who remain heavily reliant on Russian energy imports and want

to maintain close ties with Moscow. Under the agreement, the EU will halt Russian liquefied natural gas imports by the end of 2026 and pipeline gas by 30 September 2027.

The law allows that deadline to shift to November 1 2027, at the latest, if a country is struggling to fill its gas storage caverns with non-Russian supply ahead of the winter heating season.

Only 4% women on ballot as Bangladesh prepares for post-Hasina vote



DHAKA: As Bangladesh prepares for the first election since the ouster of its long-serving ex-prime minister Sheikh Hasina, only 4 percent of the registered candidates are women, as more than half of the political parties did not field female candidates. The vote on Feb. 12 will bring in new leadership after an 18-month rule of the caretaker administration that took control following the student-led uprising that ended 15 years in power of Hasina's Awami League party. Nearly 128 million Bangladeshis will head to the polls, but while more than 62 million of them are women, the percentage of female candidates in the race is incomparably lower, despite last year's consensus reached by political parties to have at least 5 percent women on their lists.

According to the Election Commission, among 1,981 candidates only 81 are women, in a country that in its 54 years of independence had for 32 years been led by women prime ministers — Hasina and her late rival Khaleda Zia.

According to Dr. Rasheda Rawnak Khan from the Department of Anthropology at Dhaka University, women's political participation was neither reflected by the rule of Hasina nor Zia.

"Bangladesh has had women rulers, not women's rule," Khan told Arab News. "The structure of party politics in Bangladesh is deeply patriarchal."

Only 20 out of 51 political parties nominated female candidates for the 2026 vote. Percentage-wise, the Bangladesh Socialist Party was leading with nine women, or 34 percent of its candidates.

The election's main contender, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, whose former leader Zia in 1991 became the second woman prime minister of a predominantly Muslim nation —

after Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto — was the party that last year put forward the 5 percent quota for women.

For the upcoming vote, however, it ended up nominating only 10 women, or 3.5 percent of its 288 candidates. The second-largest party, Jamaat-e-Islami, has not nominated a single woman.

The 4 percent participation is lower than in the previous election in 2024, when it was slightly above 5 percent, but there was no decreasing trend. In 2019, the rate was 5.9 percent, and 4 percent in 2014.

"We have not seen any independent women's political movement or institutional activities earlier, from where women could now participate in the election independently," Khan said. "Real political participation is different and difficult as well in this patriarchal society, where we need to establish internal party democracy, protection from political violence, ensure direct election, and cultural shifts around female leadership." While the 2024 student-led uprising featured a prominent presence of women activists, Election Commission data shows that this has not translated into their political participation, with very few women contesting the upcoming polls.

"In the student movement, women were recruited because they were useful, presentable for rallies and protests both on campus and in the field of political legitimacy. Women were kept at the forefront for exhibiting some sort of 'inclusive' images to the media and the people," Khan said. "To become a candidate in the general election, one needs to have a powerful mentor, money, muscle power, control over party people, activists, and locals. Within the male-dominated networks, it's very difficult for women to get all these things."

Ex-Philippine leader Duterte to face ICC hearing Feb 23

THE HAGUE: Former Philippines president Rodrigo Duterte will face a hearing at the International Criminal Court next month, judges ruled on Monday, rejecting arguments the 80-year-old was unfit to take part.

Duterte will face a so-called "confirmation of charges" hearing starting February 23, where judges decide whether the prosecution's allegations are strong enough to proceed to trial.

"Having regard to the relevant legal principles, the medical assessment of the independent experts... and all of the relevant circumstances of the case, the Chamber was satisfied that Mr. Duterte is



able effectively to exercise his procedural rights," the court said.

Duterte is "therefore fit to take part in the pre-trial proceedings," the ICC added. ICC prosecutors have charged Duterte with three counts of crimes against humanity, alleging his involvement in at least 76 murders as part of his "war on drugs."

The first count concerns his alleged involvement as a co-perpetrator in 19 murders carried out between 2013 and 2016 while Duterte was mayor of Davao City. The second count relates to 14 murders of so-called "High Value Targets" in 2016 and 2017 when Duterte was president. And the third charge is

about 43 murders committed during "clearance" operations of lower-level alleged drug users or pushers.

These took place across the Philippines between 2016 and 2018, the prosecution alleged.

In October, the court had already rejected a defense plea for early release, arguing he posed a flight risk and could be in a position to influence witnesses if freed.

Duterte was arrested in Manila on March 11, flown to the Netherlands that same night and has been held at the ICC's detention unit at Scheveningen Prison since. He followed his initial hearing by video link, appearing dazed and frail and barely speaking.

US' Gaza 'Master Plan' clashes with reality

Anyone who saw Jared Kushner's PowerPoint presentation in Davos last week without knowing the topic would have struggled to identify the territory to which he was referring. Many might have thought this was for North America, with shiny new office and residential blocks and a certain space-age or Hollywood sci-fi feel to the slides of the "Master Plan."

The vaulting ambition of the speaker may have impressed his father-in-law, US President Donald Trump, who is certainly familiar with the world of real estate. No doubt Trump, the freshly minted chairman of the Board of Peace, was the premier target of the messaging. It reflected much of what was released at the announcement of Trump's "Gaza Riviera" plan last February, which envisaged the Strip being entirely emptied of Palestinians. Even this version treats Gaza as a tabula rasa to impose whatever architectural fantasies its authors can conjure up. It treats the enclave as being devoid of any culture,

tradition or history.

Others have been more skeptical — and with good reason. First of all, Israel has not even adhered to the Oct. 10 ceasefire and is bombing and shelling with intensity. Second, the full entry of aid, as referenced in the Trump peace plan, has not yet been achieved. Third, the plan presumes the disarmament of Hamas, something that is far from imminent. Finally, no international stabilization force is on the horizon.

Those are the significant near-term impediments. Delivering this plan, at a time when the conflict still rages, will be nigh on impossible. Just clearing the 60 million tonnes of rubble, which is peppered with unexploded ordnance and a host of toxins, will take an age and cost a fortune.

One major element Kushner did not address was how the land would be acquired and whether owners would be compensated. One major element Kushner did not address was how the land would be acquired and whether owners would be com-



pensated. One major element Kushner did not address was how the land would be acquired and whether owners would be compensated. According to a 2015 study, about half of the land in Gaza is privately owned. Much of the land is unregistered because owners did not wish to pay tax. What is

clear is that the companies lining up to fill their coffers have no claim to the land at all.

But progress also presumes the Israeli leadership will be comfortable with this. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is still smarting from the invitation that was extended to Turkiye and Qatar to join the

executive committee of the Board of Peace. Many members of Netanyahu's Cabinet and right-wing Knesset members have dreams of inhabiting these plush new riviera residences themselves.

Israel will have to consent as the occupying power. For starters, it will have to allow in all the construction materials and abandon its restrictive dual-use list. Throughout Kushner's presentation to world leaders and the business elite, it was clear that Palestinians have had no input into these plans — and not just because the Arabic on the slides was all wrong. He did not outline how the local

Palestinians have had no input into these plans — and not just because the Arabic on the slides was all wrong.

Do Palestinians want tourism, given the beachfront is all labeled for coastal tourism? Who decided on the importance of data centers at this stage? And how many of the companies making a fortune out of this dreamworld will be Palestinian and how many will be rich businessmen with no link to Gaza at all?

The Palestinians in Gaza I have spoken to largely see this all as a sick joke. "Who is going to live in these villas and flashy apartments? Certainly not us Palestinians," sighed one woman. Another said: "What will stop Israel from bombing them again? Where will our security come from? We need that before rich houses." But there is also the issue of who will pay for it. The experts at the UN, those who actually have experience of such situations, calculate that postwar reconstruction will cost about \$70 billion. This is without the high-end infrastructure of Kushner's presentation. The

UAE has reportedly expressed an interest in funding the first planned community on the outskirts of Rafah in the south. Beyond that, it is not clear.

More alarming is who might make money out of it. This is a war zone profiteering racket. US companies are lining up at the trough. This is all premised on the naive and ill-founded belief that the entirety of Gaza's problems can be resolved with bulldozers, cranes and cement. The plan has echoes of earlier economic roadmaps for peace, but even those were not so divorced from reality. At no stage did the presentation reference a viable peace process or even mention that Gaza would be the western segment of an independent state of Palestine. It did not address a single one of the underlying causes or drivers of this 100-year-plus conflict. On this occasion, the last word goes to French President Emmanuel Macron, who was reported as saying: "Peace is not a real estate transaction. You cannot build stability on the erasure of a people's history and the privatization of their tragedy."

India not far from hosting its first-ever Asian Winter Games: Ice skater Vishwaraj Jadeja

Leh (Ladakh), Jan 26(UNI) Renowned Indian Ice skater Vishwaraj Rajen Jadeja overheard a conversation his coach Wim Nieuwenhuizen was having with someone in the Netherlands. That gentleman asked Wim, in Dutch, if Jadeja was talented. Wim replied: “No, he is not but is a Rajput. They don’t give up no matter what.” And that’s exactly what Jadeja has done over the last 18 years he has spent in ice skating. Vishwaraj Jadeja has not given up!

He has royal roots and comes from the Dhrol family – back in the day a small kingdom in the Jam Nagar district of Gujarat. His palace is now a school for women, where they need to pay just a nominal fee. Practically, free education as part of the family’s

But just because Jadeja has royal roots, that does not mean he has grown up rich. Royalty was formally abolished in India in 1971 and a very large part of their privileges were withdrawn by the government, and Jadeja was born 14 years later. Despite a modest upbringing, Jadeja, now 40, never made money more important than anything else. He embraced his grandfather’s advice to a tee: “Money comes and goes. Pursue some sport and excel at that. These things stay with you forever.” Jadeja moved to Europe in the late noughties (2000-09) to seek a career in ice skating.



Today, he is the most decorated ice skater in the country.

Over the years, he has set multiple Indian records. Among his top accomplishments, he is unofficially the only one to have ice-skated five kilometres at an altitude of 4500m at Tso Moriri Lake. This happened in 2019. A year later he won three silvers and a bronze in the Winter World Masters Games held in Austria. Last year in the Asian Winter Games in Harbin (China), Jadeja led in a team event in which India finished fifth.

This past Sunday, what was the last day of the long-track ice-skating event of the 2026 Khelo India Games at the Gupukh’s Pond in Leh (Ladakh), Jadeja finished eighth in the men’s 1000m. “I never participated before because we didn’t have safe ice tracks. But this one is good so I decid-

ed to have a go,” said Jadeja before finishing in the top-10. In his own words, he wasn’t exactly there to win, he was there to show how far he, India and ice skating had come together.

Jadeja is an optimistic man and believes if the authorities in India get a little more serious about certain things, the country can host the Asian Winter Games in the next 10-12 years. “Some of the infrastructure has been built in the last few years, particularly after the concept of Khelo India came into being. We now have two Olympic-sized artificial ice rinks in India, in Leh and Dehradun, for short-track ice skating and ice hockey. There are good skiing places too. We just need a few long-track ice skating surfaces and I think we are good to go. “With the right infrastructure in place we can produce an Olympian real

quick and once that happens, we will be considered serious in the international arena. Also, we need to focus on the coach India get a little more serious about certain things, the country can host the Asian Winter Games in the next 10-12 years.

“Some of the infrastructure has been built in the last few years, particularly after the concept of Khelo India came into being. We now have two Olympic-sized artificial ice rinks in India, in Leh and Dehradun, for short-track ice skating and ice hockey. There are good skiing places too. We just need a few long-track ice skating surfaces and I think we are good to go. “With the right infrastructure in place we can produce an Olympian real

Abhishek, Suryakumar blaze fifties as India hammer NZ to seal T20I series 3-0

GUWAHATHI: Abhishek Sharma produced a breathtaking 14-ball fifty while skipper Suryakumar Yadav continued his sublime touch with another attacking half-century as India waltzed through the chase in just 10 overs to seal an eight-wicket win over New Zealand in the third T20I, sealing the five-match series 3-0 here on Sunday.

Chasing a modest 154, India turned the contest into a one-sided exhibition of power-hitting with Abhishek remaining unbeaten on a blistering 68 off 20 balls (7x4, 5x6) and Suryakumar smashing an equally fluent 57 not out off 26 deliveries (6x4, 3x6).

The duo stitched together an unbroken 102-run stand for the third wicket in just 40 balls to finish the game with 60 deliveries to spare. Earlier, wrist spinner Ravi Bishnoi marked his return with a superb spell alongside the seasoned duo of Jasprit Bumrah and Hardik Pandya as India strangled New Zealand with disciplined bowling to restrict them to an under-par 153/9.

Abhishek’s assault was particularly stunning as the left-hander raced to a 14-ball fifty – the second fastest by an Indian in T20Is, just two balls slower than his mentor Yuvraj Singh – as he dismantled the New Zealand attack with fearless intent.

India, however, had an early hiccup as Sanju Samson’s struggles at the top continued as he was dismissed for a golden duck. Matt Henry’s first delivery brushing the thigh pad before crashing into the off-stump. Samson’s scores in the series now read 10, 6 and 0, putting further pressure



CHASING A MODEST 154, INDIA TURNED THE CONTEST INTO A ONE-SIDED EXHIBITION OF POWER-HITTING WITH ABHISHEK REMAINING UNBEATEN ON A BLISTERING 68 OFF 20 BALLS (7X4, 5X6) AND SURYAKUMAR SMASHING AN EQUALLY FLUENT 57 NOT OUT OFF 26 DELIVERIES (6X4, 3X6).

on his spot with Ishan Kishan making a strong case with his explosive batting. If that setback worried the hosts, Abhishek and Ishan quickly erased them.

Ishan, fresh from his match-winning 76 in Raipur, launched Henry for two sixes and a four in a single over, showcasing his imperious pull and lofted drives. Abhishek, who had fallen for a duck in the previous game, soon joined the carnage, dancing down the track to hammer Jacob Duffy and collecting 16 runs in an over.

India’s powerplay score swelled to 94/2 – their second-best ever, just one short of the 95 they had posted

against England – effectively putting the result beyond doubt. Ishan fell for a brisk 28 off 13 balls. But there was no respite for New Zealand. Suryakumar slipped seamlessly into top gear, piercing gaps at will and improvising with his trademark scoops and flicks as Abhishek continued to clear the ropes with ease. The pair toyed with the field and bowlers alike, wrapping up the chase in ruthless fashion to underline India’s dominance and secure an unassailable series lead.

Playing for India after nearly a year, Bishnoi, who came in for rested Varun Chakravarthy, grabbed the opportunity with both

hands, returning impressive figures of 2 for 18 while maintaining relentless control through the middle overs. India struck early inside the powerplay to put the visitors on the back foot reducing them to 36/3.

Hardik (2/23) set the tone in the opening over with a stunning backward-running catch to dismiss Devon Conway (1). He then struck in his next over as Rachin Ravindra (4) mistimed a short delivery and Bishnoi at deep square leg completed the formalities. Bumrah, introduced as second change, made an immediate impact and was again the pick of the bowling grabbing three for 17. Returning after being rested for the Raipur game, he knocked over Tim Seifert (12) with a full delivery that came in to uproot the off-stump. Bishnoi then bowled with precision, denying the batters any momentum. He prevented Glenn Phillips from reaching a deserved fifty, dismissing him for 48 with his figures reading 3-0-9-1 after operating in the fifth, eighth and 12th overs.

KIWG 2026: Army retain ice-hockey gold; Haryana crowned overall champions



Leh (Ladakh), Jan. 26: The Indian Army showcased its vast experience to clinch a thrilling 3-2 victory over a spirited Chandigarh team and retain the men’s ice-hockey gold medal at the Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) 2026, held at the NDS Stadium on Republic Day. The match-winner came just three minutes before the final hooter, providing a dra-

matic end to the Ladakh leg of the Games.

While Army celebrated ice-hockey glory, Haryana emerged as the overall champions of the Ladakh phase of KIWG 2026, driven by four gold medals from their figure skating and ice-skating contingent. Hosts Ladakh finished a commendable second overall, edging Maharashtra and Telangana on the basis of silver medals won.



Britain’s Lewis Hamilton waves to fans as he steers his Ferrari Formula One SF-26 at the Ferrari private test track, in Fiorano Modenese, Italy, Friday.....

Aryna Sabalenka beats 19-year-old Mboko, faces 18-year-old Jovic in Australian Open quarterfinals

MELBOURNE: TikTok influencer and top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka is having to work her way through some rising teenager stars in her bid for a third Australian Open title in four years.

Sabalenka held off 19-year-old Vicky Mboko 6-1, 7-6 (1) at Rod Laver Arena on Sunday to advance to a quarterfinal match against 18-year-old Iva Jovic.

The 29-seeded Jovic overwhelmed Yulia Putintseva 6-0, 6-1 in 53 minutes at John Cain Arena, the so-called People’s Court, and she secured a spot in the last eight of a Grand Slam for the first time.

Coco Gauff, who was still a teenager when she won her first major title in 2023, is back into the quarterfinals in Australia for the third straight year after a 6-1, 3-6, 6-3 win over No. 19 Karolina Muchova.

In a good omen for Gauff, her four previous wins over Muchova have been during runs to the title, including in the semifinals at the 2023 U.S. Open.

In the opening men’s match Sunday, No. 1-ranked Carlos Alcaraz continued his bid for a career Grand Slam at age 22 with a 7-6 (6), 6-4, 7-5 win over No. 19-seeded Tommy Paul to reach the quarterfinals for the third consecutive year in Australia.

He’s never gone past the last eight at Melbourne Park, the only one of the four Grand Slam venues where he hasn’t won the title. That’s a statistic he’s determined to rectify, to the point where he’s reworking his serve to a look a little bit more in style like 10-time Australian Open champion Novak Djokovic.

Jovic has been getting some good advice from Djokovic, a 24-time major



winner, during the tournament. He said he’s been happy to help an up-and-coming star with Serbian heritage. Jovic made it clear last year that she wanted a chance to play the World No. 1. Now she’ll get the chance. Sabalenka, who has joked about waiting for a formal invitation to partner Djokovic in mixed doubles at a major, breezed through the first set in 31 minutes against Mboko but had some difficulty in the second.

Mboko saved match points and played well

enough to beat many players, but not the two-time Australian Open champion. “What an incredible player for such a young age,” Sabalenka said of Mboko. “It’s incredible to see these kids coming up on Tour. I can’t believe I say that. I feel like I’m a kid!” “She pushed me so much, and I’m happy to be through,” Sabalenka added in her on-court TV interview. Sabalenka led the second set 4-1, and then failed to convert three match points while leading 5-4. Mboko slowly took

momentum and forced a tiebreaker only for Sabalenka to dominate.

It was the 20th straight tiebreak victory for Sabalenka. “I try to not to think this is a tiebreak and play point by point,” said Sabalenka, who won back-to-back titles in Australia in 2023 and 24 before losing last year’s final to Madison Keys. “I guess that’s the key to consistency.”

Sabalenka said playing the morning match at Melbourne Park came with some challenges, including shadows and bright sun. “Don’t get me wrong, I like to play the first match, but the tricky part, at some point the sun goes right into your serve point. It’s kind of like tricky. You can break the serve,” she said. “That’s what actually happened. Two breaks that she got, it was on the side when I was facing the sun. Yeah, I didn’t deal that good with

the serve. She did an incredible job serving on that side.” Jovic and Mboko were scheduled to play doubles together later Sunday on Kia Arena

against fourth-seeded Elise Mertens and Zhang Shuai. After her singles win when she broke Putintseva’s serve six times and led 6-0, 4-0 before she dropped serve herself Jovic said she’d just concentrate on her own game when she faced Sabalenka.

She saved two break points in the opening game of the match against Putintseva and was dominant throughout. She had her 31-year-old rival chastising herself during the changeovers and practicing shots trying to work out ways to get back into the match. When Jovic hit a crosscourt forehand winner to convert another break in the second set, Putintseva tossed her racket toward the ball.

Serving it up, Carlos Alcaraz advances to the Australian Open quarterfinals

MELBOURNE: No sooner had Carlos Alcaraz advanced to the Australian Open quarterfinals with a win over Tommy Paul, than attention turned to his serve. The top-ranked Alcaraz, in Australia trying to complete a career Grand Slam at the age of 22, has been remodeling it a little bit.

It worked well for him on Sunday in a 7-6 (6), 6-4, 7-5 win over No. 19-seeded Paul. There were no double-faults, he got 70% of his first serves into play and won 79% of those points. He also won 68% of points on his second serve.

The retooled start of his service motion has a familiar look, and hasn’t escaped the attention of Novak Djokovic. The 24-time major winner joked earlier in the tournament that he’d sent Alcaraz a message asking for a copyright fee.

Alcaraz was asked about it in an on-court TV interview on Rod Laver Arena, and played along, too.

“Yeah, I heard that. I have the contract over there but I haven’t seen him yet!” the Spaniard said of his exchange with Djokovic. Expanding on the theme, he said when

videos of the service motion emerged in the pre-season he checked on his phone and had a message from Djokovic which, more-or-less said: “Alright, you have to pay!”

Alcaraz said the locker room jokes keep it fun. Seeking an unprecedented 25th Grand Slam title, Djokovic has been blocked in the last two years by Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner, who have split the eight titles evenly. One missing element on Alcaraz’s tennis CV is a trophy at Melbourne Park. He has never gone past the quarterfinals. He’ll face either local favorite Alex de Minaur or No. 10 Alexander Bublik in the last eight this coming week. Paul reached the Australian Open semifinals in 2023, so had that in his favor going into the fourth-round match with Alcaraz. The pair were going shot for shot in the first-set tiebreaker when a medical episode paused their match for more than 14 minutes.

It was 3-3 when chair umpire Marija Cicak informed them that a spectator at Rod Laver Arena needed urgent medical attention.





“Rise of Gana” lyrical video song released from Sudigali Sudheer’s G.O.A.T (Goat)

Popular comedian Sudigali Sudheer is playing the lead in the upcoming film G.O.A.T (Goat), subtitled “Greatest Of All Times.” The film features Divya Bharathi as the heroine and is directed by Vedavyas. It is jointly produced by Mahateja Creations and Jaishnav Productions, with Chandrasekhar Reddy Mogulla as the producer. The movie is currently in post-production and is scheduled for release in February.

Recently, the teaser and songs from the film received an unexpected and overwhelming response. Now, the film unit has released the “Rise of Gana” lyrical video on Monday. The video song was unveiled at an event held at CMR Engineering College recently. The song, composed by Leon James, with lyrics by Kasarla Shyam, is expected to be a powerful mass number that highlights the hero’s characterization. The visuals and lyrics

are said to be highly appealing. Speaking on the occasion, the producer said that the film is being made on a grand scale without any compromise on budget and will be technically superior. He expressed confidence that this film will be a milestone in Sudigali Sudheer’s career and that every frame of the movie will be visually impressive, assuring that it will entertain audiences thoroughly.



Tollywood Stars Travel Based Adventurous Talk Show ‘Soul Trip’... Hero Vijay Datla Turns Host

Under Rizwan Entertainment presentation.. a travel-based adventurous talk show featuring star heroes is set to begin... titled ‘Soul Trip’. This adventurous talk show will entertain audiences with our Tollywood star heroes. The hero and producer Vijay Datla—who has pre-

viously worked on films like Poster and Anveshi—is now completing Season 1 of this celebrity talk show under his own banner Gandabherundam Arts, and it will soon be released on a prominent OTT platform. On the occasion of Republic Day, the poster for the ‘Soul Trip’ talk show was released.

The Padma Shri Belongs to My Telugu Audience” – RAJENDRA PRASAD

The announcement of the Padma Awards on the occasion of India’s 77th Republic Day has brought a proud moment for Telugu cinema, with veteran actor Rajendra Prasad being conferred the prestigious Padma Shri by the Government of India.

Born in Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh, Rajendra Prasad made his entry into Telugu cinema in 1977 with Sneham. Over a remarkable career spanning 48 years, he has portrayed an extraordinary range of characters, winning hearts across generations and earning the affectionate title Nata Kireeti. Expressing his heartfelt emotions after the announcement, Rajendra Prasad said the honour was a blessing from the people. He remarked:“This Padma Shri is my good fortune and the blessing of Telugu audiences. From the moment I heard the news, my heart was filled with happiness. I respectfully thank the Government of India for recognising an actor with such a great honour. I am also deeply grateful to the Andhra Pradesh Government and all elders who recommended my name. For me, this award truly belongs to the audience. For nearly five decades, they have embraced me not just as an actor, but as a member of their own family. The love with which they call me ‘our Rajendra Prasad’ is the greatest recognition of my life. The people of both Telugu states have always treated me like their own son, and I can never repay that affection.I congratulate all the distinguished personalities receiving Padma Awards this year and seek the continued blessings of my audience. As long as I live, I remain your Rajendra Prasad.” Rajendra Prasad’s Padma Shri honour celebrates not only his immense contribution to cinema but also the deep emotional bond he shares with Telugu audiences.



Manchu Manoj’s pan-India period film David Reddy unveils first-look posters



Rocking Star Manchu Manoj’s upcoming pan-India period action film David Reddy has created strong buzz with the release of its first-look posters on the occasion of Republic Day. Produced by Nallagangula Venkat Reddy and Bharat Motukuri under the banners Velvet Soul Motion Pictures and True Radix, the film is directed by Hanuma Reddy Yakkanti.

Set against the backdrop of the British era, David Reddy is being made on a large scale as an intense action-drama. The film stars Manchu Manoj in a powerful role, with Maria Ryaboshapka playing the female lead. It is being simultaneously produced in Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam, and Kannada, aiming for a wide pan-India release.

The first-look posters showcase Manchu Manoj in two striking avatars titled “Ruthless” and “Brutal,” highlighting his intense screen presence and hinting at high-octane action sequences. His transformation, body language, and fierce expressions have impressed audiences and raised expectations, with many viewing the film as a strong comeback project for the actor.

Set between 1897 and 1920 during British colonial rule, David Reddy narrates the story of a warrior who rises against oppression and fights the brutal British regime. With the unveiling of the first-look posters, the film has generated considerable excitement, and the makers have announced that more updates will be revealed soon.

Bronze statue of Sirivennela Seetharama Sastry unveiled at Anakapalli

The bronze statue of legendary lyricist and Padma Shri awardee Sirivennela Seetharama Sastry was unveiled in a grand ceremony at Gandhinagar, Anakapalli, near the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple. The programme was organized by the TANA Literary Wing – TANA World Literary Forum, with support from the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the Anakapalli Sirivennela Kalapeetham. Former Minister and Anakapalli MLA Konathala Ramakrishna presided over the event, while renowned filmmaker and writer Trivikram Srinivas unveiled the statue in the presence of Sastry’s family members. A commemorative meeting titled Sirivennela Seetharama Sastry Mahotsava Sabha was later held at the Pentakota Convention Hall.

Speaking on the occasion, Konathala Ramakrishna recalled that Sirivennela Seetharama Sastry, who was born and brought up in Anakapalli, brought national and international recognition to his hometown through his literary excellence. He said the installation of the statue at Gandhinagar, where the poet spent his early years, was a moment of pride. He also announced that the Sirivennela Seetharama Sastry Kalapeetham would institute an annual award to honour literary excellence. Trivikram Srinivas said that Sirivennela Seetharama Sastry continues to live on through his timeless words and ideas, stressing the need to preserve the legacy of great personalities to inspire future generations. Former Minister Mandali Buddha Prasad highlighted Sastry’s immense contribution to Telugu cinema and literature, noting that his songs reflected deep human values and patriotism. TANA representative Thotakura Prasad recalled Sastry’s bold transition from a telecom career to cinema and his achievement of winning three consecutive Nandi Awards. Several dignitaries, public representatives, and members of Sirivennela Seetharama Sastry’s family attended the event. Later, Trivikram Srinivas and the poet’s family members were felicitated and accorded a traditional Purna Kumbha Swagatham by the Sri Nookambika Ammavari Devasthanam, followed by darshan, Vedic blessings, and the presentation of sacred prasadam.



Kaithi 2 will happen after Allu Arjun film: Lokesh Kanagaraj

Director Lokesh Kanagaraj on Monday (January 26) clarified that Kaithi 2 with actor Karthi will be his immediate next film after his upcoming project with Allu Arjun (AA23). He was speaking at a press meet convened in the city to quell rumours circulating on social media about his projects.

Why Kaithi 2 was delayed Lokesh said the delay behind Kaithi 2 had nothing to do with his remuneration. He explained that when Coolie was releasing, he met Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan, and was invited to direct their collaboration. “Rajini sir and Kamal sir collaborating after 46 years is rare. It was an honour to be called to direct. So I told the Kaithi 2 producers that I would return after completing this film,” he said.

Lokesh said he wrote a story for nearly one-and-a-half months, and both actors liked it. However, the collaboration did not materialise. “Both had just done back-to-back action films. Rajini sir’s immediate next is Jailer 2, an actioner. Kamal sir’s next with Anbariv is also action-heavy. They were looking to collaborate on a light-hearted film, which is not my strength,” he opened up. The Rajini-Kamal film is now set to be directed by Sibi Chakravarthy of Don fame, and is backed by Kamal Haasan along with R Mahendran under their Raaj Kamal Films International (RKFI) banner. How the In the meantime, with the Rajinikanth-Kamal



Haasan project no longer on the cards and the Kaithi 2 team having allotted its slot to another director, Lokesh said he decided to honour a long-standing commitment with Mythri Movie Makers during the gap. He also added that Allu Arjun was keen on collaborating for several years, which is how AA23 took off. “That is why Kaithi 2 was delayed, not because I asked for any salary hike,” Lokesh said, putting an end to rumours and speculation. Responding to a question about the Lokesh Cinematic Universe (LCU), Lokesh said the universe was not ending, mentioning it was a term coined by fans. “I will finish the Allu Arjun film, then Kaithi 2, Vikram 2 and Rolex (based on actor Surya’s character in Vikram). There is also Benz, which is part of the LCU. So the LCU is not closed. Those films will happen,” he said. Lokesh also said discussions with Aamir Khan are ongoing for a film collaboration.