

OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

12-01-2026

Total pilgrims: 76,447

Tonsures: 21,708

Hundi kanaku: 3.42 CR

Waiting Compartments... 04

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

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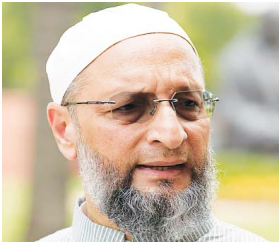
Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin): VB - G RAM G

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INBRIF

Maharashtra civic polls: Parties lost should introspect, says Owaisi

HYDERABAD: Thanking the people of Maharashtra for electing 125 of its candidates as corporators in various Municipal Corporations in the western state, AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Saturday said the parties that lost the polls should introspect. Addressing a press conference, Owaisi said the AIMIM party is gearing up to contest Municipal polls in Telangana and that the party already sought the names of interested candidates. "Now those



parties who abuse us (as BJP's B team) should think of themselves. It is the decision of the people. There is an English saying that victory has many fathers, defeat has none. Why did we (they) lose? Those great people will have to say. As far as the voters' list is concerned, it is correct," he replied to a query. Replying to a query on Thackeray cousins coming together, the Hyderabad Lok Sabha MP said the verdict is in front of everyone, and Uddhav Thackeray's candidate has won in the area where Eknath Shinde's house is located.

Education, irrigation key focus areas of TG Govt: CM Revanth



Hyderabad (TSIT): Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Saturday said the Telangana government has accorded top priority to the education and irrigation sectors to bring transformative change in the lives of people across the State.

After laying the foundation stone for the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Mahbubnagar at Chittaboinapalli village in Jadcherla mandal, the Chief Minister interacted with students and stated that the government is establishing new educational institutions and completing pending irriga-

HIGHLIGHT POINTS:

■ Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said the Telangana government is giving top priority to education and irrigation, with new institutions like IIIT Mahbubnagar and the completion of pending irrigation projects to bring transformative change across the State.

■ Emphasising education as the key to long-term progress, he announced major investments in residential schools, support for Civil Services aspirants, and assured completion of the IIIT Mahbubnagar campus within one year, urging students to focus on hard work and skill development.

tion projects in the district. Recalling his personal journey, Revanth Reddy said that after Burgula Ramakrishna Rao, Mahbubnagar has pro-

duced a Chief Minister after 75 years. He said he rose from a remote village in Achampet constituency to the post of Chief Minister within 17 years, expressing gratitude to the people for their trust and support.

Emphasising the importance of education, the Chief Minister urged students to improve their language skills to succeed in a highly competitive world. He stressed that perseverance, hard work and determination are essential for achieving success and said education alone can bring lasting change, particularly when land resources are limited.

Revanth Reddy said the government is constructing Young India Integrated Residential Schools at a cost of Rs.200 crore, extending financial assistance to Civil Services aspirants, and sanctioning various educational institutions for the district. He assured that the IIIT Mahbubnagar building would be completed within one year and appealed to students to respect their parents.

Stating that the government is committed to the welfare of all sections, the Chief Minister said strengthening education remains a key focus to secure the future of coming generations.

Infiltration biggest challenge for Bengal, refugees need not worry: PM Modi at Malda rally

Malda (TSIT) Ahead of the West Bengal Assembly polls, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday made infiltration the central theme of his attack on the TMC government, alleging that large-scale illegal migration had altered the state's demographic balance and fuelled riots, while reassuring refugee communities such as the Matuas that they had nothing to fear.

Addressing a mega rally here in the Muslim-majority district of north Bengal, Modi said infiltration posed "a very big challenge" before the state, alleging that illegal migration had flourished under the TMC's "patronage and syndicate raj" and its alliance with infiltrators.

"There are developed and prosperous countries in the world which have no shortage of money, yet they are removing infiltrators. It is equally necessary to remove infiltrators from West Bengal," he said, adding that a BJP government would take "big action" to stop illegal migration and weed out infiltrators once voted to power. Claiming that the impact of infiltration was visible on the ground, the Prime Minister said the demographic balance had changed in many parts of the



PRIME MINISTER UNVEILS RS 3,250 CRORE RAIL AND ROAD PROJECTS TO BOOST CONNECTIVITY IN BENGAL AND NORTH EAST; FLAGS OFF VANDE BHARAT SLEEPER TRAINS AND AMRIT BHARAT EXPRESS SERVICES FROM MALDA, SAYS MODERN TRANSPORT WILL EMPOWER YOUTH AND DRIVE REGIONAL GROWTH

state. "People tell me that in several places, even the spoken language is beginning to change. Differences are emerging in language and dialect. Due to the increasing population of infiltrators, riots have started occurring in many areas of West Bengal, including Malda and Murshidabad," he said.

Modi alleged that the TMC's "syndicate" system was working to ensure infiltrators were settled in the state, claiming there was an "alliance between infiltrators and the ruling party", a charge the BJP has increasingly foregrounded as it sharpens its campaign against the Mamata Banerjee-led government. "You will have to break this alliance. I assure you that as soon as a BJP government is formed, strict action will be taken against infiltration and infiltrators," he said. Modi sought to ringfence refugee communities, particularly the politically significant Matua communi-

ty, which has figured prominently in the citizenship debate, emerging as a key BJP support base since 2019. "I want to assure refugees like the Matuas who took shelter in India due to religious persecution: you need not worry," he said.

The twin emphasis, a hard line on infiltration and a protective assurance to persecuted refugees, came amid the political churn over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and ahead of the assembly elections to the 294-member House, due in about three months, with Modi pitching the BJP as both a custodian of national security and a guarantor of the rights of the refugees. Stepping up his attack, the Prime Minister said the "thuggery" of the TMC and its "politics of threatening and intimidating the poor" would soon come to an end, asserting that Bengal, surrounded by BJP-ruled states, was now ready for a change.

Indian Army restores key Sri Lankan highway with third Bailey bridge after cyclone damage

New Delhi (TSIT): The Indian Army has completed the construction of a third Bailey bridge on Sri Lanka's B-492 Highway, re-establishing a crucial transport corridor between Kandy and Nuwara Eliya that had remained disrupted for more than a month in the wake of Cyclone Ditwah.

Built at KM 15, the 120-foot-long bridge was erected by the Indian Army's Engineer Task



Force under Operation Sagar Bandhu, an ongoing humanitarian mission aimed at restoring critical infrastructure damaged by the cyclone.

Announcing the development on social media platform X, the Indian Army said its engineers had earlier launched two Bailey bridges in the Jaffna and Kandy regions and have now successfully completed the third structure in Sri Lanka's Central Province. The Army noted that the bridge reconnects the Kandy and Nuwara Eliya districts, reviving a vital link that had been cut off since the disaster.

Indians return safely from Iran amid unrest, thank Centre

New Delhi, Jan 17: Scenes of anxiety, relief and gratitude unfolded at the Indira Gandhi International Airport late on Friday as several Indian nationals returned from Iran, days after New Delhi urged its citizens to leave the country amid escalating protests and a volatile security situation.

The arrivals followed advisories issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian



Embassy in Tehran, asking Indian nationals, including students, pilgrims, businesspersons and tourists, to depart Iran using available transport

options. The government said it was closely monitoring the situation and remained committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of its citizens.

Those who returned described rapidly deteriorating conditions on the ground, marked by protests, movement restrictions and widespread communication blackouts. "The conditions are bad there. The Government of India has cooperated a lot, and the Embassy guided us on leaving Iran as early as possible. 'Modi ji hai toh har cheez mumkin hai,'" one returnee said after landing in Delhi.

CULTURAL SPLENDOUR AT MEDARAM: Sammakka-Sarakka tribal shrine gets a permanent facelift

DR SRINIVAS VOORADI

Every two years, on the full moon days of Magha, the dense forests of Medaram in Mulugu district transform into a vast spiritual congregation. The Sammakka-Saralamma (Sarakka) Medaram Maha Jatara, regarded as Asia's largest tribal fair, draws lakhs of devotees from Telangana and neighbouring States. Often described as the "Telangana Kumbh Mela", the four-day jatara—is a rare confluence of faith, history and tribal identity.

This year's jatara has assumed added significance with the comprehensive reconstruction and permanent development of the Medaram Sammakka-Sarakka tribal shrine. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is scheduled to inaugurate



the renovated shrine on January 19, marking a major milestone in the pres-

ervation of one of Telangana's most revered cultural traditions.

A legacy rooted in resistance The origins of the Medaram jatara are said to be deeply intertwined with the history of tribal resistance during the Kakatiya period, often remembered as the golden age of Telugu history. During the reign of Kakatiya ruler Prataparudra, the Koya tribals are believed to have fought against oppression, laying down their lives to protect their autonomy and rights. The jatara is held in memory of Sammakka and Saralamma, who are venerated not as conventional idols but as living spirits of sacrifice and resistance. Over centuries, this remembrance has evolved into a massive spiritual gathering, where devotees offer prayers

seeking fulfilment of vows, prosperity and protection. From temporary arrangements to permanent structures For decades, infrastructure at Medaram was largely temporary, with crores of rupees spent ahead of every jatara on makeshift facilities. That approach has now given way to permanent reconstruction aimed at preserving the shrine for generations. With the consent of tribal elders and the priests' association, the State government undertook large-scale development works to ensure durability while adhering strictly to tribal customs and traditions. The transformation is visible across the shrine complex, where permanent granite structures have replaced temporary installations. See More on Nation Page

US will seek 'separate' semiconductor tariff pacts for countries: Official

Washington (TSIT) : US President Donald Trump's administration will seek "separate" semiconductor tariff agreements for "separate countries," a U.S. official said, after the United States and Taiwan reached a deal on the chip levies this week. "Separate agreements for separate countries," a U.S. official said, responding to a question from Yonhap News Agency regarding whether the deal with Taiwan would set a standard for chip tariffs or the U.S. would conduct separate negotiations with other countries for the sectoral tariffs. The official's remarks came a day after the U.S. Commerce Department released a fact sheet about a trade and investment deal between the United States and Taiwan, which outlined a bilateral agreement on

SEPARATE AGREEMENTS FOR SEPARATE COUNTRIES," A U.S. OFFICIAL SAID.

semiconductor tariffs. According to the fact sheet, Taiwanese companies building new U.S. semiconductor capacity may import up to 2.5 times that planned capacity without paying sectoral duties during the approved construction period. Taiwanese companies that have completed new chip production projects in the U.S. will still be able to import 1.5 times their new U.S. production capacity without paying sectoral duties. The agreement on the chip tariffs raised questions over whether it will set a standard for chipmakers from other countries, includ-

ing South Korea. On Wednesday, Trump signed a proclamation to levy a 25 percent tariff on certain semiconductors for artificial intelligence (AI), which are imported into the U.S. and then reexported to other countries. The White House has also said that Trump may impose "broader" tariffs on imports of semiconductors and their derivative products. The president has rolled out various industrywide tariffs, invoking Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, a law that provides the president with the authority to adjust imports into the U.S. when he determines they threaten to impair national security. South Korea's top trade envoy assessed the Trump administration's proclamation on semiconductor tariffs to have a "limited" impact on local chip makers.

Complete planetarium renovation works at earliest: Warangal Mayor



Warangal: City Mayor Gundu Sudharani on Saturday directed officials to expedite and complete the renovation works of the planetarium at the earliest. The Mayor, along with Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation (GWMC) Commissioner Chahat Bajpai, inspected the ongoing development works at the planetarium located in the Baldia premises. During the field-level inspection, the Mayor and Commissioner reviewed the progress and issued necessary instructions to ensure timely completion of the project. Officials informed the Mayor that the renovation works had reached the final stage. They said that interior works have been completed and the civil works have also been finished, with only a few remaining works pending. Emphasising the importance of completing the project on priority, Mayor Gundu Sudharani directed the officials to take up the remaining works on a war footing so that the planetarium can be made ready for public use at the earliest. Executive Engineer Ravi Kumar, Deputy Engineers Raj Kumar and Ragi Srikanth, Assistant Engineers Santosh Kumar and Naresh, along with other officials, were present during the inspection.

Ward reservations finalised for Wardhannapet and Narsampet municipalities



Warangal: The ward reservation process for Wardhannapet and Narsampet municipalities was completed on Saturday through a lottery system at the conference hall of the District Collector's office. In the presence of representatives of recognised political parties, District Election Officer and District Collector Dr. Satya Sharada allotted reservations to municipal election wards by drawing lots, following Election Commission guidelines. For Wardhannapet Municipality, which has 12 wards, reservations were allotted as follows: ST – wards 2, 7 and 8; SC – wards 1 and 12; BC – ward 11; and General – wards 3, 4, 5, 6, 9 and 10. In accordance with the 50 per cent reservation for women, wards 2, 4, 5, 9, 10 and 12 were earmarked for women candidates. In Narsampet Municipality, which has 30 wards, ST reservation was allotted to wards 12, 13 and 16; SC to wards 5, 22, 23 and 30; BC to wards 3, 8, 19, 24, 25, 27, 28 and 29; and General category to wards 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21 and 26. As per the 50 per cent women reservation norm, wards 12, 5, 23, 8, 25, 27, 28, 1, 2, 9, 11, 14, 18, 20 and 26 were reserved for women.

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Name & Full Address of Guarantor :1. MR. SAMA NAVEEN REDDY, H.No-2-2-9010/13/A, Turab nagar, Amberpet, Hyderabad, Telangana, 500013. 2. MR. C SRINATH H.No-6-1-16/327/1, Vivekananda Nagar Colony, Khannamam. 3. MRS. MEKALA LAVANYA H.No-2-9-162, Sri Rama Colony, Uppal, Hyderabad, Telangana.

Nalgonda to Be Developed as a Super Smart City Minister Komatireddy

Hyderabad: State Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Saturday announced that Nalgonda will be developed as a Super Smart City, leveraging its new status as a Municipal Corporation and ensuring large-scale infrastructure development on par with Hyderabad.



Addressing a gathering after laying the foundation stones for development works worth 18.70 crore at the Nalgonda Municipal Corporation, the Minister said that nearly 2,000 crore has already been spent on the town's development over the last two years. He assured that the government is ready to mobilise another 2,000 crore, if required, to fulfill the growing aspirations of the people.

urban infrastructure projects. Highlighting ongoing development initiatives, Minister Komatireddy said that under AMRUT-2, underground drainage and a new Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) are being taken up at a cost of 216 crore. Drinking water infrastructure is being strengthened with an outlay of 56.75 crore, including the construction of 12 new water tanks and pipelines. He said internal roads and drainage works are progressing with 53 crore from TUFIDC funds, while 109 crore from SDF funds is being utilised for flood canals, cremation grounds and internal roads.

Major road projects currently underway include a 545 crore bypass road, roads and drains from Panagallu Chaya Someshwara Temple to SLBC Colony (565 crore), and the SLBC Medical College-Addanki Road (260 crore). Several other BT roads and double-lane roads are nearing completion, with many projects having crossed 70 per cent progress.

Minister said five power substations have been sanctioned for the town, of which four are already under execution. He also highlighted progress on the NAC building, Nursing College, Critical Care Centre, Young India Integrated Residential School, and the expansion of Mahatma Gandhi University with new buildings and professional courses.

PRTU Telangana Calendar Launched



Hanamkonda : PRTU Telangana calendar was launched on Saturday in Elkathurthi Mandal of Hanamakonda district. The calendars were unveiled at ZPHS Jeelugula, ZPHS Gopalpur and other schools in the mandal by Gazetted Headmasters Ravinder Reddy and Kishan Rao.

chief guest and addressed the gathering. He demanded that the State Government immediately release the pending Dearness Allowances (DAs) to employees and teachers. He said that out of six pending DAs, issuing a GO for only one DA had caused dissatisfaction among employees and teachers during the Sankranti festive season.

Venkatesh urged the government to release the remaining DAs at the earliest.

est and announce the Pay Revision Commission (PRC) without delay. He also demanded that pensionary benefits be extended promptly to retired employees. Further, he appealed to the government to appoint pre-primary instructors in every primary school across Telangana and to conduct monthly promotions to fill vacancies arising from the retirement of teachers. He also stressed the need to improve basic infrastructure in government schools and to pay special attention to the education and health of students. Several teachers, along with Gazetted Headmasters Ravinder Reddy and Kishan Rao, participated in the programme.

BJP Sets Sights on Shadnagar Municipal Council

RANGAREDDY BJP Town President Hari Bhushan Patel on Saturday said the Bharatiya Janata Party is determined to secure power in the upcoming Shadnagar municipal elections, with full backing from Member of Parliament D. K. Aruna for party candidates.



Addressing a meeting of party leaders and workers, he said the BJP is making sustained efforts to strengthen its presence at the municipal level. Highlighting the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Hari Bhushan Patel said India's rise as the world's

fifth-largest economy reflects the effectiveness of BJP governance and its commitment to inclusive development. He said Central government schemes have brought tangible

improvements in urban infrastructure, drinking water supply, sanitation and housing, and asserted that the party aims to take these development gains to every household.

Stating that the elections are being treated as crucial, he said candidates for all 28 wards in the Shadnagar Municipality will be finalised after consultations with grassroots leaders and workers. The party, he added, will field accessible and development-focused candidates and soon launch a full-scale campaign centred on local issues.

Women reservation wards finalised through lottery in Karimnagar district: Collector

Karimnagar: District Collector Dr. Pamela Satpathy on Saturday said that women reservation wards have been finalised for three municipalities in the district and the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation through a transparent lottery system.



The process of finalising reservations for women in municipal wards was conducted in accordance with government guidelines and held in the presence of the District Collector and representatives of various political parties at the Collectorate Conference

Hall. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Pamela Satpathy said the allotment of women reservation in municipal wards was carried out transparently through the lottery method, ensuring fairness and adherence to the prescribed norms. She said that in Choppadandi and

Jammikunta municipalities, as well as in the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation, ward-wise reservations were finalised by categorising them under ST, SC, BC and General women through the lottery process, with complete details of each ward announced in the presence of political party representatives. Additional Collector Ashwini Tanaji Wakade, Municipal Commissioner Prapul Desai, representatives of political parties and other officials participated in the programme.

Rohith Vemula Act to Be Introduced in Telangana at the Earliest Minister Bhatti



Hyderabad: Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu on Saturday stated that the Rohith Vemula Act will be

introduced in Telangana at the earliest possible time. He made these remarks while meeting members of the Justice for

Rohith Vemula Campaign Committee at Praja Bhavan.

Deputy Chief Minister recalled that Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi had earlier written to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, urging the State Government to introduce the Rohith Vemula Act. He informed the delegation that the People's Government is committed to bringing the legislation after detailed discussions with the Chief Minister.

Minister Komatireddy Pays Tributes to Road Accident Victims

Hyderabad : Minister for Roads & Buildings and Cinematography, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, expressed deep grief over the tragic death of teachers Kalpana and Geetha in a road accident at Arvapalli, Tungaturthi constituency of Suryapet district.



On Saturday, Minister visited the post-mortem section of Nalgonda Government General Hospital and paid floral tributes to the mortal remains of Kalpana and Geetha. He also consoled the bereaved family members, expressing his heartfelt condolences and offering words of strength and courage. Minister prayed for the peace of the departed souls, stating that their untimely demise is deeply painful and an irreparable loss to their families. Minister said it was unfortunate that the teachers met with a fatal accident while returning to their school after celebrating Sankranti festival with

their families. He described the incident as extremely tragic and said their sudden demise has left a void that can never be filled.

Referring to the same accident, Minister Komatireddy informed that two other teachers who sustained injuries are undergoing treatment in Hyderabad. He requested doctors to ensure the best possible medical care and expressed hope for their speedy recovery.

The Minister urged the public to exercise utmost caution while travelling on roads and stated that the State Government is

conducting extensive road safety awareness programmes to prevent such accidents. He advised motorists not to use mobile phones while driving, stressed that two-wheeler riders must compulsorily wear helmets, and appealed to everyone to strictly follow road safety rules so that all travelers reach their destinations safely. District Collector B. Chandrashekhara, former Municipal Chairman Burri Srinivas Reddy, other public representatives, and officials were present on the occasion.

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Andhra will emerge as Green Energy Hub: CM

Kakinada, Jan 18 (UNI) Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday asserted that Andhra Pradesh will emerge as a Green Energy Hub.

The Chief Minister, alongside the Deputy CM K Pawan Kalyan, laid the foundation stone for the establishment of AM Green Hydrogen and Green Ammonia plants here.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the Chief Minister reaffirmed that AP would emerge as the best place for innovation and wealth creation and exhorted the young entrepreneurs to dream big and assured them of extending support to reach their goals.

the promoters of the plant, the Chief Minister noted that the State Government brought the new Clean and Green energy policy 2024.

“The production of 1.5 million tonnes of Green Ammonia will commence from June 2027, and it will



be exported to Germany. The project will help to protect the environment. Prime Minister Narendra Modi set a target to produce 500 GW Green Energy and AP set a target to produce 160 MW of green energy,” he highlighted.

Stating that the State Government is giving top priority to renewable energy, including solar, wind and pumped storage power generation, the Chief Minister hoped that that Kakinada would become a destination for Green Hydrogen and Green Ammonia in the coming days, adding that the

ambulance service would be inaugurated this year and drone taxis would become a reality in one year.

“The state government is setting up a space city and satellite launching from Hope Island will also become a reality soon. The quantum computing services will commence in six months from Amaravati. At the same time, the State Government is giving priority to employment generation and focusing on skill development of youth to meet the future requirements,” the Chief Minister acknowledged.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan expressed happiness over the huge investment of around Rs 18000 crore on the Green Hydrogen plant and Rs 66,000 crore on the renewable energy plants.

BJP state president PVN Madhav, Minister Vasamsetti Subhas, MPs Sana Satish and T Uday Srinivas, MLA and officials were present.

AP govt. to expand coffee cultivation on another one lakh acres

Vijayawada, Jan 17 (UNI) The Andhra Pradesh Government has taken steps to expand the coffee cultivation on one lakh acres more in the Paderu agency area.

According to official sources, coffee crops are cultivated on over 2.50 lakh acres at Paderu, Araku and Chintapalli regions in the combined Visakhapatnam district.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu agreed to bring another one lakh acres under coffee cultivation in the regions in the next five years. The government will encourage farmers to take up coffee cultivation by providing incentives.

The government is to spend Rs 202 crore to bring one lakh acres into coffee crop cultivation during the next five years. Andhra Pradesh State stands in third place in coffee cultivation after Karnataka and Kerala. The government aims to keep Andhra Pradesh in second place in coffee cultivation by 2031, sources added.

According to official sources, coffee crops require adequate shade without direct sunlight. Out of the newly undertaken one lakh acres of cultivation expansion, 60,000 acres will be made available under the shade plantation system. Silver oak, mango, apricot and jackfruit plants will be raised and coffee crops will be grown under their shade. The VB-G RAM G scheme will be synchronized to the coffee cultivation. Shade plantation has been completed in 30 acres of land so far, sources added.

Officials said the government is providing 1000 coffee saplings to the farmers at free of cost to encourage them to take up coffee cultivation. The government also gives 200 pepper plants to the farmers to raise them as an intercrop in the coffee orchards. The government assured to make available two coffee pulping units at a cost of Rs 7 crore at G Madugula.

TTD announces April 2026 Tirumala darshan and accommodation quota schedule

Tirupati: The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has announced the detailed schedule for the release of various darshan, seva and accommodation quotas for April 2026, providing clarity to devotees planning their pilgrimage to Tirumala. According to TTD, the quota for Arjitha Sevas including Suprabhatam, Thomala, Archana and Ashtadala Pada Padmaradhana Seva will be released online on January 19 at 10 a.m. Online registration for the electronic dip will remain open until January 21 at 10 a.m., and tickets will be allotted to selected devotees who complete payment between January 21 and January 23 by noon. Tickets for other Arjitha Sevas such as Kalyanotsavam, Unjal Seva, Arjitha Brahmotsavam, Sahasra Deepalankara Seva and Sri Vari Salakata Vasanthotsavams will be released on January 22 at 10 a.m. The Virtual Seva quota along with corresponding darshan slots will be released on the same day at 3 p.m. The quota for Anga Pradakshina tokens will be released on January 23 at 10 a.m., followed by the Srivani Trust darshan quota at 11 a.m. On the same day at 3 p.m., TTD will release free special darshan tokens for senior citizens, differently-abled persons and devotees suffering from chronic illnesses. Special Entry Darshan tickets will be released online on January 24 at 10 a.m., while the accommodation quota for Tirumala and Tirupati will be made available on January 24 at 3 p.m. Additionally, the quota for Srivari Seva and Parakamani Seva pertaining to March will be released on January 27 at 3 p.m. TTD has advised devotees to book Arjitha Sevas, darshan tickets and accommodation only through the official website, <https://ttddevasthanams.ap.gov.in>. The announcement was issued by the Chief Public Relations Officer of TTD, Tirupati.

GITAM School of Architecture conducts extensive outreach programmes in Hyderabad



Hyderabad: GITAM School of Architecture (GSA), Hyderabad, successfully conducted an extensive series of outreach activities from December 2025 to January 2026 to create awareness about architecture education and career opportunities among school and intermediate students.

The outreach programmes were coordinated by faculty members Ar. Abhishek

Kumar Singh and Ar. Snigdha Roy and aimed at providing students with hands-on exposure to architectural learning and design thinking.

The initiative began on December 9, 2025, with a full-day outreach programme for students and teachers of Genesis International School, Madeenaguda. The programme featured indoor and outdoor exhibitions showcasing architectural models, drawings and

interactive displays, along with a Mandala Art Workshop that encouraged creative exploration. A total of 168 Grade 9 students and eight teachers participated.

Subsequently, outreach activities were held at Shree Swaminarayan Gurukul on December 16, engaging nearly 250 students. This was followed by multiple sessions for students from various Sri Chaitanya Senior College branches. Major programmes included sessions for Sri Chaitanya Madhapur boys on December 24, reaching over 300 students across five batches, and separate sessions for Sri Chaitanya girls on December 28, involving 855 students across ten batches.

Further programmes were conducted on January 2, 2026, for Sri Chaitanya boys, engaging 500 students, and a multi-campus outreach on January 4 that reached over 300 students across five batches.

Kamineni Hospitals launches ‘M’Brace’, world-class Mother & Child Care Unit in Hyderabad

Hyderabad (TSIT): Kamineni Hospitals on Friday announced the launch of M’Brace, a world-class, integrated Mother & Child Care Unit designed to provide holistic and continuum-of-care services for women, children and families. The speciality care unit was inaugurated by noted actress Bhumika Chawla.

Reinforcing its legacy of over three decades of clinical excellence, Kamineni Hospitals said M’Brace brings together advanced medical infrastructure, multidisciplinary expertise and compassionate support to address the evolving needs of maternal and child healthcare. The initiative aims to go beyond conventional clinical care by focusing on emotional, mental, nutritional and developmental wellbeing alongside medical treatment.

The hospital management said M’Brace has been conceptualised to support families from fertility planning and pregnancy to childbirth,



postnatal care and early childhood development through a comprehensive, family-centred care model.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Gayatri Kamineni, CEO of Kamineni Hospitals, said the new unit redefines maternal and child healthcare by placing families at the centre of care. She said M’Brace addresses physical, mental, emotional and nutritional needs while ensuring the highest safety standards through advanced ICUs, cardiac support systems and round-the-clock blood bank services.

Built on Kamineni Hospitals’ expertise in managing high-risk pregnancies, the unit is supported by critical care facilities, state-of-the-art cardiac systems, robotic-assisted surgical approaches and 24/7

emergency services. Its objectives include improving maternal and child health outcomes through an integrated, multidisciplinary approach and creating a safe and empowering environment for mothers.

Chief guest Bhumika Chawla said motherhood requires care, understanding and constant support, and described M’Brace as a thoughtful initiative that recognises emotional and mental wellbeing alongside medical care.

M’Brace offers fertility care, antenatal and postnatal services, neonatal and paediatric care, mental health support, nutrition guidance, lactation counselling and early childhood development monitoring under one roof. The unit is backed by a team of obstetricians, paediatricians, neonatologists, fertility specialists, mental health professionals, nutritionists, lactation consultants and trained nursing staff, ensuring seamless and personalised care for families.

PM Modi inaugurates rail, road projects worth Rs.3,250 crore in Malda, flags off first Vande Bharat Sleeper Train

Malda (West Bengal): Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple rail and road infrastructure projects worth 3,250 crore at Malda, West Bengal. It is aimed at strengthening connectivity and accelerating development in West Bengal and the North-Eastern region.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, Shri Modi remarked that from Malda today, the campaign to accelerate the progress of West Bengal has gained further momentum. He highlighted that a number of projects related to the development of West Bengal have just been inaugurated and dedicated. The Prime Minister stated that new rail services have been introduced for West Bengal, noting that these projects will make travel easier for the people and also facilitate trade and commerce. He emphasized that the new train maintenance facilities established here will provide fresh opportunities for the youth of Bengal.



the sacred land of Bengal, another major step has been taken towards the modernization of Indian Railways, Shri Modi highlighted that from today, Vande Bharat sleeper trains are being introduced in India. He stated that this new Vande Bharat sleeper train will make long journeys for citizens more comfortable and splendid. He emphasized that the vision of how trains in a developed India should be is clearly reflected in this Vande Bharat

sleeper train. The Prime Minister mentioned that a short while ago he interacted with some passengers at Malda station, and everyone expressed that traveling in this train was an extraordinary experience. He recalled that earlier people used to look at pictures of foreign trains and wish such trains existed in India, and today that dream is being realized. Shri Modi added that in the recent days, foreign tourists are making videos of how the Indian Railways

is being revolutionised. He underlined that this Vande Bharat train is Made in India, built with the hard work and dedication of Indians. Shri Modi noted that the country’s first Vande Bharat sleeper train is connecting the land of Maa Kali with the land of Maa Kamakhya. He further stated that in the coming time, this modern train will expand across the nation and congratulated Bengal, Assam, and the entire country for this modern sleeper train.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi remarked that Indian Railways is undergoing a transformation, with electrification of railway lines and modernization of stations. He highlighted that today, including West Bengal, more than 150 Vande Bharat trains are running across the country. The Prime Minister stated that along with this, a complete network of modern and high-speed trains is being developed, which is greatly benefiting poor and middle-class families in Bengal. He announced that Bengal has received four more modern Amrit Bharat Express trains—New Jalpaiguri–Nagercoil Amrit Bharat Express, New Jalpaiguri–Tiruchirappalli Amrit Bharat Express, Alipurduar–Bengaluru Amrit Bharat Express, and Alipurduar–Mumbai Amrit Bharat Express. He emphasized that these trains will strengthen connectivity between Bengal, especially North Bengal, and South and Western India. The Prime Minister noted that these Amrit Bharat Express trains will

make travel easier for pilgrims visiting Gangasagar, Dakshineswar, and Kalighat, as well as for those traveling to Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.

“Indian Railways is becoming not only modern but also self-reliant”, emphasised Shri Modi highlighting that India’s rail engines, coaches, and metro coaches are emerging as symbols of India’s technology. The Prime Minister stated that today India manufactures more locomotives than America and Europe and exports passenger train and metro train coaches to many countries, which greatly benefits the nation’s economy and provides employment opportunities for the youth. Shri Modi concluded by emphasizing that connecting India is a priority and reducing distances is a mission, which is clearly reflected in today’s program.

Governor of West Bengal, Shri C V Ananda Bose, Union Ministers, Shri Ashwini Vaishnav, Shri Shantanu Thakur, Shri Sukanta Majumdar were present among other dignitaries at the event.



KU eners into MoU with Dept of Heritage

DR SRINIVAS VOORADI Warangal, Jan 17 (TSIT): Department of History and Tourism Management of Kakatiya University and Department of Heritage, Govt of Telangana on Saturday entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote heritage, tourism, and cultural development and to provide students with practical experience, internships, and research opportunities in heritage conservation, museum studies, and cultural management.

Speaking on the occasion, KU Registrar Prof Ramachandram said, "Main objectives of the MoU are to promote museum-based education, heritage awareness, cultural tourism, and capacity building in heritage management. The collaboration includes joint exhibitions, workshops, cultural events, tourism development, documentation, research, and digitization projects." The MoU will benefit students, researchers, and those interested in heritage, providing them with academic guidance and practical exposure, he added. The agreement was signed by KU Registrar Prof V Ramachandram and Director of Heritage Prof Kutadi Arjun Rao in the presence of Vice Chancellor of Kakatiya University Prof. K. Pratap Reddy and Special Chief Secretary to the Telangana Government Jayesh Ranjan. Principal of the University Colle Prof Tallapally Manohar, Head of the Dept of History and TM Dr Rajkumar, faculty member Dr Nagaraju and OSD Raju were present.

EDITORIAL

What Democracy Do We Seek?

The Supreme Court judgement in the Delhi riots bail matter has had predictable reactions. Whilst the government side has expressed satisfaction at two accused not being granted bail, the other side has noted the bail granted to five accused with satisfaction but obviously expressed distress at the denial of fail to Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam. The common ground for bail was the long delay of six years with arguments still stuck on framing of charges.

Beyond the 'who got bail, who did not' conundrum of concern, there are serious issues that have emerged in the judgment: first, the relationship between failure of the right to speedy trial and extent of alleged involvement, and second, the judicially expanded definition of terrorism. It is not as if the matter was res integra as lawyers call an area of law not before pronounced upon by courts of law.

The Supreme Court has on several occasions examined how traditional categories of law enforcement regarding law and order, public order etc are separated from national security issues, and obviously, the latter is of paramount concern and inevitably linked with terrorism. These judgments were extensively examined by the Delhi high court in Asif Iqbal Tanha's case but directed by the Supreme Court on the state's appeal, not to be treated as precedents.

The ostensible reason was that the Supreme Court felt that in deciding bail matters, the courts should not delve into detailed discourse on legislation. Yet, in the present case, the 162-page judgment seems to do the same. It is important to know that the senior counsel who argued for the petitioners, keeping in mind the Asif Tanha matter, decided to restrict their arguments to relevant facts but were encountered by extensive arguments by the prosecution in response.

In dealing with the instant judgment, it is only fair to underscore the lip service that the court gave to Article 21 and the right to liberty. Of course, it was right to point out that Article 21 is not qualified and thus requires to make accommodation for national security issues: "At the same time, Article 21 has never been understood as operating in isolation from law. The constitutional promise is not that liberty will be unregulated, but that deprivations of liberty will not be arbitrary, unconscionable, or unfair. The expression "procedure established by law" reflects that balance. The UAPA, as a special statute enacted to address offences alleged to affect the security of the State and the stability of civic life, represents a legislative judgment as to the conditions under which bail may be granted at the pre-trial stage. Section 43D(5) of UAPA embodies the exercise of that judgment." "There is a further constitutional aspect that warrants articulation. Article 21 protects individual liberty. It also, within the same guarantee of life, reflects the State's obligation to protect the life and security of the community. In prosecutions alleging threats to public order and national security, the Court cannot be unmindful that both dimensions are engaged. The constitutional order is not served by an approach that treats liberty as the sole value and societal security as peripheral. Both must be accommodated through reasoned adjudication." There was no discussion on how the individual liberty-national security conundrum is to be resolved. Gross inconvenience to other individuals cannot be taken as part of a utilitarian calculus if rights are to mean anything. Temporary disruption of supply chains cannot be treated as economic security at risk or else any protest would be said to be damaging national security: "Section 15 of the Act defines what constitutes a "terrorist act" for the purposes of the statute. The definition is structured around two essential elements. First, the act must be done with intent to threaten, or be likely to threaten, the unity, integrity, security, including economic security, or sovereignty of India, or with intent to strike terror in the people or any section thereof. Second, the act must be of such a nature as to cause, or be likely to cause, the consequences enumerated in the provision.

Mumbai Polls: How The 'Marathi Manooos' Campaign Ended Up Uniting Others Against It



The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) elections have delivered a stunning blow to the Thackeray legacy, as the Mahayuti alliance stormed what was once considered an impregnable Shiv Sena bastion. For the first time in the civic body's history, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is poised to secure the mayor's post, marking a seismic shift in Mumbai's political landscape. While the BJP-plus-Shiv Sena (Shinde) alliance secured 118 seats, (4 more than majority mark of 114), the Thackeray brothers SHS-UBT, MNS and NCP-SP alliance bagged 72 seats, with the Congress chipping in with 24 seats.

The Crumbling of a Fortress
The BMC, long controlled by the undivided Shiv Sena and later by Uddhav Thackeray's faction, has been the cornerstone of Marathi pride and Shiv Sena's political dominance in India's financial capital. Mahayuti's victory represents not just an electoral defeat but the symbolic sunset of Thackeray influence in Mumbai's civic administration. The alliance's commanding performance has given the BJP its first realistic shot at occupying the mayor's chair, a position that controls one of Asia's richest municipal corporations, with an annual budget running into thousands of crores, higher than many small and north eastern states of India. The defeat comes despite an unprecedented alliance between the estranged Thackeray cousins who came together after a gap of 20 years. Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv

Sena (UBT) and Raj Thackeray's Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) joined forces along with Sharad Pawar's NCP faction, betting that their combined appeal would consolidate the Marathi vote and present a formidable challenge to the Mahayuti juggernaut. Instead, the results have exposed the limitations of identity politics in an increasingly diverse and aspirational Mumbai.

The Marathi Card Falls Flat
The most striking revelation from the election data is the failure to consolidate even the Marathi vote bank. Despite the alliance between UBT and MNS, the Shinde faction of Shiv Sena secured 29 seats mostly in Marathi dominant / influenced seats and in direct head to head contests against each other, showcasing Shinde, too, has earned a slice of the Marathi Manooos votebank. This is a failure of strategy built entirely on linguistic and regional identity. The Marathi manooos, it appears, is no longer voting as a monolithic bloc driven solely by cultural pride or fear of outsiders. The Thackeray brothers miscalculated the aspirations of a new generation of Marathi voters-educated, middle-class professionals who prioritize development, infrastructure, and economic opportunities over identity-based appeals. These voters remember the MNS's violent campaigns against north Indians and south Indians, the disruption of businesses, and the creation of an atmosphere of intimidation. While such tactics may

have won applause from certain quarters in the past, they have increasingly alienated moderate Marathi voters who see themselves as part of a cosmopolitan Mumbai rather than a besieged linguistic community.

The Muslim Vote Conundrum
Equally problematic was the alliance's inability to secure Muslim votes, which remained largely with the Congress and parties like the AIMIM, the NCP and the SP. The Thackeray camp had assumed that Muslims would vote strategically for whichever party was best positioned to defeat the BJP. This calculation ignored the deep historical scars left by the Shiv Sena's role during the Babri Masjid demolition and the subsequent Mumbai riots of 1992-93. Raj Thackeray's past rhetoric and the original Shiv Sena's history made it difficult for Muslim voters to trust the Thackeray alliance, regardless of current political expediency. The community chose to stick largely with the Congress and ethnic parties like AIMIM/SP, even if it meant splitting the opposition vote. This led to failure of the strategy of consolidating the 40% Marathi Manooos and 20% Muslim community vote.

The Counter-Consolidation
Perhaps the most consequential outcome of the Thackeray strategy was the counter-consolidation it triggered. Non-Marathi voters - estimated at 40% - overwhelmingly backed the Mahayuti. The speeches and histori-

cal record of Raj Thackeray, who built his political career targeting south Indians, north Indians, and Gujaratis, came back to haunt the alliance. Mumbai's demographic transformation over the past two decades has been dramatic. The city is now home to millions of migrants from across India who have made significant economic and social contributions. These communities felt directly threatened by the Thackeray alliance's rhetoric and voted decisively to keep them out of power. The irony is stark: a campaign built on Marathi identity ended up uniting everyone else against it.

Development Trumps Identity
Devendra Fadnis and the Mahayuti alliance recognised what the Thackerays missed - that Mumbai's voters, including Marathis, are increasingly concerned about quality-of-life issues. The Mahayuti's focus on infrastructure projects, building society amenities, improved roads, better drainage systems, and overall urban development resonated with the aspirational middle class and youth. The Thackeray pitch, by contrast, was not forward-looking. It dwelled on grievances, fears of cultural erosion, and nostalgia for a Mumbai that exists more in imagination than reality. Many voters felt this approach was taking the city backward rather than forward. In a city where traffic congestion, flooding, housing shortages, and infrastructure gaps are daily concerns, promises of cultural preservation felt inadequate.

Crisis of balance in relationships: The social reality of emotional exploitation



Human life is shaped by the fabric of relationships. Family, friendship, love, support, and social connections—all give meaning to our existence. But the greatest irony of today's times is that selfishness has replaced sensitivity in relationships, and emotions are considered a weakness. The person who strives to be wholehearted is often the one who ends up hurt and betrayed the most. When a person strives to give their best in a relationship, considers the other person's comfort level, attempts to understand their feelings, yet repeatedly puts themselves on the back burner, this sacrifice isn't always respected.

Often, the other person interprets this behavior not as love or affection, but as foolishness. This is where the process of imbalance in relationships begins. Some people inflate their ego by relying on the emotions of others. They gradually begin to consider themselves overly important. They become deluded into believing they are the center of the relationship, the sole decision-maker, and the other person is incomplete without them. This mindset leads them to give unnecessary sermons, declare their opinions as the ultimate truth on every subject, and consider constant speaking as proof of knowledge. The problem isn't in giving advice; it arises when advice becomes a tool of control rather than respect. When communication becomes a means of dominance rather than equality. Such people don't understand the language of love, affection, care, or emotions. They weigh every relationship on the scale of profit and loss. For

them, relationships are merely a means, not a goal. People with this temperament often live under the illusion that the other person is dependent on them. Their politeness, tolerance, and understanding seem compulsive to them. They assume that this person cannot leave them, cannot question them, and lacks the courage to oppose them. This is where the process of emotional exploitation begins, which gradually becomes normal behavior. But every tolerance has its limits. When the other person becomes aware, introspects, and begins to realize that their existence has become merely a commodity, they try to protect themselves. This is the moment that makes the selfish person most uncomfortable, because now their control is threatened. As soon as they see the other person asking questions, expressing their opinion, or maintaining mental distance, they resort to a new tactic—accusation. Now, the same person who once considered themselves extremely intelligent and knowledgeable begins to cast aspersions on character. They present the relationship story to outsiders in a way that favors themselves and portrays themselves as the victim and the other person as the culprit. This is where the nature of the relationship completely changes. Dialogue is replaced by accusations. Understanding and patience are replaced by bitterness and hostility. Every conversation is filled with the refrain: "You've changed," "You weren't like this before," "You've become arrogant now."

"The reality is that this isn't a change, but rather a self-realization, which the selfish person can't accept. Gradually, relationships turn into the battlefield of Kurukshetra, where the goal is not resolution but victory. One side attempts to protect itself by remaining silent, while the other side clamors and seeks sympathy. Such people are extremely skilled at garnering sympathy. They craft their arguments in such a way that the listener instinctively sides with them. In these circumstances, a normal, sensitive, and moral person suffers the most mental anguish. He knows that it's impossible to respond to every accusa-

tion. Publicly refuting every lie is against his nature and upbringing. As a result, he uses silence as his weapon, but this silence is often mistaken for weakness. The obvious question here is, whose fault is it? Is it a crime to be sensitive? Is it foolish to sacrifice in relationships? The answer is clear—no. The fault lies not in sensitivity, but in imbalance. The problem arises when relationships become one-sided, when the giver is always giving and the receiver is only taking. This is why it's crucial to strike a balance early in relationships. It's not wise to completely lose yourself in any relationship—whether it's love, friendship, or companionship. Repeatedly crossing your boundaries to please others ultimately causes a deep blow to self-esteem. Self-evaluation is essential for every person. We must ask ourselves: Is this relationship bringing us peace of mind or only exhaustion and pain? Are we being heard or merely tolerated? Are our feelings respected or merely exploited? If the answers to these questions are negative, staying put is the biggest mistake. In such a situation, it's wiser to quietly distance yourself from the other person rather than blaming yourself. Distance isn't always a symbol of hatred; sometimes, it's the most powerful form of self-defense.

Society also needs to understand that there are two sides to every story. The person who speaks the most isn't necessarily always telling the truth. And the one who remains silent isn't necessarily guilty. Today is the time for those who craft stories and present them effectively, where presentation has become more important than the truth itself. In such times, protecting self-respect is the greatest duty. If relationships become a burden, filled with fear, guilt, and inferiority, then maintaining them is not ethical. Morality exists when both parties acknowledge each other's existence and dignity. Ultimately, it can be said that relationships are beautiful and lasting only when they are based on equality and respect. Where there is love, there is respect. Where there is belonging, there is freedom. And where neither of these exists, distance is not a defeat, but a victory for self-respect.

The Great Nobel 'Giveaway': Machado About Nothing?



The recent exchange of a Nobel Peace Prize medal in the Oval Office - passed from Maria Corina Machado to Donald Trump like a baton in a relay race of dubious optics - is a scene that would have been rejected by the writers of the American sitcom "Veep" for being too heavy-handed. Yet, here we are in January 2026, watching the gold-plated collision of Venezuelan desperation and American ego, a moment that managed to offend the sensibilities of the Norwegian Nobel Committee while perfectly encapsulating the transactional nature of modern geopolitics. To understand the absurdity of the current row, one must first look at the players. On one side, we have Machado, the 2025 Nobel Peace Laureate who spent years as the "Iron Lady" of Venezuela's opposition, finally seeing the Maduro Presidency toppled by US intervention earlier this month. On the other, we have an American President who has treated his lack of a Nobel Prize as a personal grievance on par with a missed Oscar. By physically handing over her Nobel medal, Machado performed a piece of political theatre so brazen that it bordered on performance art. It was an attempt to buy, with a gold medal and global prestige, the one thing she currently lacks:

relevance in the eyes of a White House that seems increasingly ready to move on without her. Donald Trump The 'Nobel Laureate'? The Norwegian Nobel Institute's reaction was as swift as it was predictable. Their stern reminder that the prize is "personal and non-transferable" felt like a librarian trying to enforce a "no talking" rule during a courtship between the library stacks. Of course, the title is non-transferable; no one seriously believes Donald Trump is now a Nobel Laureate because he has a new golden paperweight. But the Committee missed the point. In the ecosystem of Mar-a-Lago and the MAGA-verse, the object is the thing. Trump's social media posts regarding the "wonderful gesture" for the "work I have done" suggest that, in his mind, the bookkeeping error of 2019 has finally been corrected. He didn't need the Committee's vote; he just needed a willing donor. But who actually won this exchange? If we look past the flashbulbs, the scorecard is surprisingly bleak for all involved, particularly the person who initiated the trade. Machado's gambit smells of desperation-driven politics. Despite her Nobel pedigree, she finds herself in the unenviable position of being the hero of a revolutionary drama whom the libera-

tors find inconvenient at the climax. The Trump administration's sudden pragmatism - favouring a working relationship with interim President Delcy Rodríguez and the remnants of the Chavista old guard to ensure the oil keeps flowing - is a cold splash of water for the democratic purists. The damsel in distress finds the knight in shining armour riding in to vanquish the Dark Knight - and then ride away with the wrong damsel! Machado must have thought she now had to make a deal; if Qatar could offer a Boeing, the Swiss gold bars and a custom Rolex, and the Pakistanis cryptocurrency assets, what could she gift Trump of remotely comparable value to get what she wanted? Flatter The King But by giving away her medal, Machado didn't just give away a piece of gold; she confessed her own weakness. A leader who is confident in her domestic mandate doesn't need to offer up her highest international honour as a tribute to a foreign patron. It was a move of "flatter the King" supplication that suggested the King has already looked elsewhere. And indeed, the deal looks very one-sided for now: she gives, he takes; next! The Nobel Committee, meanwhile, has emerged as the grumpy uncle of the international community.

S Manohar demands action against Shidlaghatta Congress leader Rajeev Gowda against women officers

Bengaluru: KPCC General Secretary S Manohar has condemned the words used by Shidlaghatta Congress leader Rajeev Gowda against women officers as highly condemnable and disgusting. He has written a letter to the KPCC president in this regard, demanding that Rajeev Gowda be suspended from the Congress party immediately.

Rajeev Gowda, the defeated Congress candidate from Shidlaghatta assembly constituency in Chikkaballapur district, has said that the words used in public against a woman officer during the recent banner unveiling are highly condemnable, disgusting and abusive. Such statements that harm the dignity of women officers cannot be justified under any circumstances.

He said that officers in public service are working within the framework of the Constitution, and using insulting and indecent language against them is not only illegal, but also an insult to women in society.

Especially, such a statement made about a female officer is an insult to the dignity of women, and we strongly condemn it. The fact that the Congress party has already



issued a show cause notice in this regard is a welcome step.

However, stricter action is required to maintain the discipline and values of the party, and issuing a notice will not solve the problem. He said that the behavior of such individuals will harm the dignity, values and trust of the common people of the Congress party. In the interest of maintaining the discipline and values of the Congress party, the KPCC President and the Chairman of

the KPCC Disciplinary Committee Manohar has requested to suspend Rajiv Gowda immediately from the Congress party. In this context, in his letter he has requested that the party gives great emphasis on the respect, constitutional values and discipline of women, and in that context, to take appropriate action through a letter. Anand, Sudhakar, Prakash, Kushal Harvegowda, Naveen, Puttaraju, Praveen Rao were present at this time.

Sankranti festival is to express appreciation for the hard work of farmers: Former Deputy Mayor Lakshminarayan



Bengaluru: Former Deputy Mayor Lakshminarayan said that, Since ancient times, farmers have developed a habit of growing crops with hard work throughout the year and serving food to others on the occasion of Sankranti.

Speaking at the Puliogere program organized on the occasion of Sankranti at the Abhaya Anjaneya Temple in Avalahalli in Vijayanagara he said that, Sankranti is a day when farmers worship the crops they have grown. He said that unlike the growth of Bengaluru city, the pujas have been performed in a manner befitting modernity, and traditions are being followed in the villages. He called on the people to forget the bitter memories and live a new life on the occasion of Sankranti festival throughout the year. Thousands of citizens, including leaders Avalahalli R. Chandrappa, Girish L. Hanumanthappa, Anjinappa, Dharmapal, K Girish, and village leaders, participated in the event.

No one can suppress Janardhan Reddy-Sriramulu strength, BJP will fight corrupt Congress: Bommai



Ballari: Former Karnataka Chief Minister and MP Basavaraj Bommai on Saturday asserted that no force can suppress the political strength of former ministers Gali Janardhan Reddy and B. Sriramulu, declaring that the BJP will intensify its struggle until the "corrupt Congress government" is uprooted.

Addressing a massive convention held in Ballari to protest clashes over the installation of posters, Bommai said the BJP would go from village to village and wage a decisive battle against the Congress. He said the party would always stand firmly with Janardhan Reddy and Sriramulu, whose unity has unsettled Congress leaders in the district.

Bommai alleged that law and order had completely deteriorated during the last two-and-a-half years of Congress rule, with people disturbed by frequent reports of murders, rapes and police high-handedness. He claimed that Janardhan Reddy's return to Ballari as per court

orders and his coming together with Sriramulu had created fear among Congress leaders. "Sriramulu's speed and Janardhan Reddy's strength together are like a firestorm. Their strength cannot be suppressed," he said. Citing incidents from Hubballi, Kolar, Bhadravati and Magadi, Bommai accused the Congress of fostering a culture of intimidation and violence, alleging that there was no peace for citizens or officials in the State.

On the issue of Scheduled Tribe reservation, Bommai said the BJP had fulfilled the long-pending demand of the Valmiki community by increasing the quota from 3 per cent to 7 per cent during his tenure as Chief Minister. He said this decision, taken under the leadership

of B.S. Yediyurappa, had benefited thousands of students and job aspirants. He accused Congress leaders of misusing nearly Rs.100 crore from the Valmiki Corporation for elections and challenged them to a public debate on who had done more for the community.

Bommai further alleged that shots were fired at Janardhan Reddy's residence and warned that those responsible would face consequences. He praised the developmental work carried out by Janardhan Reddy in Ballari, particularly after 2008, citing improvements in roads and drinking water facilities.

Accusing Congress of being responsible for the Ballari mining loot, Bommai said false cases were filed against Janardhan Reddy, many of which were later dismissed by courts. "Truth always prevails," he said, adding that the BJP would continue its fight for justice in the Rajasekhar death case and work relentlessly for the development of Ballari.

Karnataka attracts Rs.1.53 lakh crore in new investment proposals: M.B. Patil

Bengaluru: Karnataka has attracted new industrial investment proposals worth Rs.1.53 lakh crore in the 11 months following the Global Investors' Meet (GIM) held in February last year, Minister for Large and Medium Industries M.B. Patil said on Saturday. These investments are in addition to the commitments secured during the GIM, reflecting sustained industrial growth in the State.

Ahead of his visit to the Davos economic summit as part of a high-level State government delegation, the Minister said Karnataka's investment outreach is a continuous process and not confined to major events like the Global Investors' Meet. He noted that several leading companies have expressed interest in investing in key sectors such as manufacturing, renewable energy, data centres and Global Capability Centres (GCCs).

According to Patil, of the total proposals, Rs.66,293

crore is in the manufacturing and industrial sector, Rs.20,913 crore in wind and solar power generation, Rs.12,500 crore in GCCs and Rs.6,350 crore in data centres. The proposals are expected to be submitted to Karnataka Udyog Mitra shortly, following which approvals will be taken up on a fast-track basis.

Highlighting key investments, he said Toyota Industries Engine Pvt. Ltd. will invest Rs.1,330 crore at Jigani to manufacture gasoline and hybrid engines, while QpiAI India Pvt. Ltd. will invest Rs.1,136 crore to set up a Quantum Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru. AT&S will invest Rs.2,850 crore in Nanjangud for electronic components manufacturing, and Wipro Hydraulics will invest Rs.499 crore to produce copper laminates for the electronics and PCB sectors. Zenfold Biosciences Pvt. Ltd. will invest Rs.490 crore to manufacture pharmaceutical enzymes, and

Reliance Consumer Products will set up a Rs.1,622-crore beverage manufacturing unit at Mulawad Industrial Area in Vijayapura district.

Patil further said JJC Aerospace will invest Rs.470 crore in Doddaballapura to manufacture aircraft components, Yaskawa will invest Rs.330 crore in electronic products manufacturing, and Inox Wind will invest Rs.305 crore to set up a wind turbine manufacturing unit in Koppala district. SAP will invest Rs.1,960 crore to open its second facility at Devanahalli, Google will invest Rs.2,500 crore in Bengaluru, and NTT will invest Rs.4,000 crore to establish data centres at Devanahalli. Data Samudra will invest Rs.1,350 crore across Mangaluru, Hubballi-Dharawada and Mysuru, while Haldiram Snacks will invest Rs.444 crore to set up a snacks manufacturing unit in Tumakuru district.

Freedom fighter Dr. Bhimanna Khandre passes away, M. E. I President S. Manohar condoles



Bengaluru: Senior politician, freedom fighter Dr. Bhimanna Khandre, who turned the border of Karnataka into Kannada land in Bidar district, has passed away. M.E.I President S. Manohar has expressed his condolences. Speaking at a program organized at the office of Mysore Electrical Industrial Limited, he said, Dr. Bhimanna Khandre was a senior fighter and a centenary who lived his perfect life for 103 years. May his soul rest in peace. Managing Director Smt. Anita and officers Sharanappa, Santosh, Sudhir, Manjunath, Huliappa, Baba Saheb Mukhandi were present on the occasion.

France's Rebel Bagel Brand, Bagelstein Lands Boldly opens 3rd store



Bengaluru : Bagelstein, France's bagel pioneer founded in 2011, unveiled its third India store at Pyramid Food Court in EGL Business Park, Bengaluru.

Following successful debuts in Hyderabad and Delhi's in 2025, the brand brings its signature handcrafted bagels, premium coffees, and playful personality to India's Silicon Valley—a top hub for global F&B brands where the organized food service ranks #3 after Mumbai and Delhi-NCR, with 110,000+

outlets and 8-13% CAGR growth. Bengaluru's mind reader Abhishek Majitya joined as special guest, toasting the launch with Bagelstein's signature creations.

The new outlet will offer Bagelstein's signature oven-fresh bagels, decadent spreads, stacked sandwiches, and delicious desserts—paired with artisanal coffees. True to its mischievous DNA, the space fuses European aesthetic with playful quirks that embody the brand's "Seriously, not serious" spirit. Riding India's Café

and Bagel Boom

India's youth are shifting from traditional eats to Western indulgences, with the café market surging 15-20% annually and Bengaluru leading for experiential dining. This growth catalyses the introduction of global chains like Bagelstein, which plans 100 stores across Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, and more by 2029.

Gaurav Marya, Founder & Chairman, Franchise India, said: "Bagelstein's cheeky bagels and bold vibe perfectly match India's emerging youth craving gourmet café indulgences—one naughty bite at a time." "Bengaluru's vibrant food scene is perfect for our bagels, an emerging disruptive snack category. From Hyderabad to Delhi and now Bengaluru, we're toasting bold flavours and building a cult following."

Effortless Performance Meets Big-Screen Versatility: Xiaomi Launches REDMI Note 15 5G and REDMI Pad 2 Pro in India



Bengaluru : Xiaomi India, a global technology brand, announced the launch of the REDMI Note 15 5G and the REDMI Pad 2 Pro, designed to deliver dependable performance, immersive entertainment, and long-lasting reliability for everyday use. Built around the needs of Indian consumers, the new REDMI devices combine all-day smartphone endurance with a powerful big-screen experience, making them ideal companions for users seeking seamless performance on the go and enhanced entertainment and productivity at home. REDMI Note 15 5G: Faster. Stronger. Simply Better.

Himesh Reshammiya, Talwiinder, Aditya Rikhari, Shalmali Kholgade and 'Dhurandhar' Hitmaker Flipperachi to Perform at UN40

Bengaluru : Saregama Live, the live entertainment vertical of Saregama India Ltd., has announced UN40, a new multi-genre cultural festival curated with the under 40 audience at its core. Scheduled to take place at NICE Grounds, Bengaluru, UN40 brings together music, comedy, creators, and interactive experiences across two days.

The inaugural edition will feature performances by Himesh Reshammiya, Talwiinder, Aditya Rikhari, Shalmali Kholgade, and viral music sensation Flipperachi, whose track in Dhurandhar has gained widespread popularity. The festival will also mark Flipperachi's first confirmed live performance in India.

While UN40 is designed primarily for audiences under 40, attendees above 40 are welcome to attend



when accompanied by someone under 40. The festival focuses on shared cultural sensibilities and contemporary tastes, placing emphasis on mindset and experience rather than age alone.

In addition to live performances, UN40 will feature a dedicated Gaming Zone inspired by classic tele match style challenges, with team-based games built

for friendly competition and group participation. Designed as much for spectators as for players, the zone creates moments of collective viewing, cheering, and crowd participation, turning games into shared experiences that carry the festival energy beyond the main stages.

The festival will also include a European style Beer Garden,

envisioned as a central social hub within the venue. More than just a space to unwind, the Beer Garden will host creator-led interactions, meet and greets, conversations, and informal performances, offering audiences a relaxed and interactive way to engage with their favourite creators.

Speaking about the launch, Siddharth

Anand Kumar, Executive Vice President Films, Series and Events, Saregama India Ltd., said, "UN40 has been conceived as a long-term festival property that reflects how younger audiences are engaging with live entertainment today. While it is under 40 focused, it is driven by mindset rather than age. By bringing together a diverse multi-genre line up and experiences beyond the stage, we hope to create a stronger sense of connection between artists and audiences, and build a festival that feels relevant, participatory, and enduring."

UN40 will take place on March 14 and 15, 2026, at NICE Grounds, Bengaluru. Tickets for UN40 are now available on BookMyShow, the official ticketing partner. Link - <https://in.bookmyshow.com/events/un40-music-beyond/ET00480988>

Habuild Achieves 8th World Record for Global Yoga Viewership, Announces Construction of A School Initiative

Bengaluru: Habuild, India's first habit building platform, has officially made a world record for the Most Yoga Viewership in a Day, as validated by the World Records Union. The record was achieved through six live online yoga sessions conducted throughout the day, with participation counted cumulatively across all sessions. The initiative witnessed global participation, with 9.3Lakh people joining in. Marking the milestone, the platform also announced the construction of a school, with every new participant's presence contributing a brick towards the building of the school.

The record was created as a part of Habuild's Har Ghar Yoga initiative. The theme for this year is designed around promises for new beginnings. Every New Year begins with promises like better health, more movement, calmer minds. Yet by mid-January, most resolutions fade away. In fact, the second Friday of January is often referred to as



Quitter's Day, when motivation dips and people are most likely to give up. This World Record is Habuild's response to this moment.

Instead of pushing people to do more, the initiative invited them to start softer. Instead of chasing perfection, it celebrated showing up. And instead of framing quitting as failure, it reminded people that beginning again is always allowed. The day symbolised renewal, self-belief, and conscious action making it a meaningful day to collectively begin, or begin again.

Women aged 45 and above formed a significant part of the participation, reflecting the community that continues to shape Habuild's daily practice.

The scale of engagement highlighted how shared routines and gentle accountability help habits take root.

Commenting on the milestone, Saurabh Bothra, Co-founder & Yoga Teacher, Habuild, said, "This day felt less about a record and more about people finding their way back. When participation feels welcoming, consistency follows. Har Ghar Yoga was created to hold that space and the response showed how powerful that can be. Our community has always believed in servitude. Hence we have also announced construction of a school in my ancestral village. For every person who joins us through our community, we are donating a brick towards the construction of this school. "For Habuild, the day marks a continuation of its focus on everyday practice and larger good towards the society. The work ahead remains centred on supporting people as they carry this rhythm into daily life, one session at a time.

POWER SHARING DEMAND GROWS LOUDER
AHEAD OF AICC TAMIL NADU ELECTION MEET

CHENNAI: As the All India Congress Committee (AICC) holds a preparatory meeting on Saturday evening in Delhi for the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, calls for power sharing within the state have grown louder, with Virudhunagar MP Manickam Tagore emerging as a prominent voice of power sharing.

The All India Congress Committee (AICC) convened a preparatory meeting in New Delhi on Saturday to discuss strategies for the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections. Meanwhile, demands for power sharing within the ruling alliance in Tamil Nadu have been intensifying day by day.

MP Manickam Tagore has been at the forefront of these demands.



The All India Congress Committee (AICC) convened a preparatory meeting in New Delhi on Saturday to discuss strategies for the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections.

Ahead of the meeting, he took to social media platform X, stating that he was travelling from Madurai to New Delhi to represent the sentiments of Congress workers in Tamil Nadu. I'm leaving Madurai this morning to head to New Delhi. Not for myself, but to convey

the sentiments of Congress workers who are fighting to protect our movement

Tagore also noted that he would express the feelings of Tamil Nadu Congress cadres to the All India Congress leadership and Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi. He emphasised the need to safeguard the party's rights within the alliance. "We should not give up our rights again. We need to defeat the forces of religious extremism and respect the emotions of our party workers. Let us stand together in friendship and raise our voice for our rights," he added. Earlier, Tagore had stated that the Congress party was not seeking major ministries such as Public Works, Highways, Mines, or Urban Development in the event of a power-sharing arrangement.



PHOTOGRAPHS OF CHENNAI SANGAMAM - NAMMA OORU THIRUVIZHA - SET I

EPS releases "2.0" version of DMK's popular schemes

CHENNAI: AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami (EPS) on Saturday announced the extension of several popular schemes implemented by the DMK government, including the Kalaigarn Magalir Urimai Thogai and the free bus travel scheme.

Making the announcements on the occasion of the late Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran's (MGR) 109th birth anniversary, Mr.

Palaniswami outlined a series of proposals that appeared to mirror and expand the current DMK government's welfare schemes.

Addressing reporters at the party headquarters, he said that under the Kulavilakku scheme, women in Tamil Nadu would receive a monthly cash assistance of Rs. 2,000, an increase from the Rs. 1,000 currently provided under the Kalaigarn Magalir Urimai Thogai scheme

He also announced a free bus travel scheme for male passengers in city buses. At present, under the DMK government's Vidiyal Payanam scheme, women passengers are allowed to travel free of cost. Speaking about housing, Mr. Palaniswami said that under the proposed "Amma Illam" scheme, people in both urban and rural areas who do not own a house would be provided with a concrete house on government land.

US tariff shock batters Coimbatore-Tirupur industries; job losses mount

CHENNAI: Once among India's most vibrant industrial hubs, Coimbatore and Tirupur are facing one of their toughest phases in recent decades as steep tariff hikes imposed by the United States continue to take a heavy toll on jobs and exports. The twin cities, which together provided livelihoods to several lakh workers from Tamil Nadu and other states, have been struggling since the US raised tariffs on Indian goods to 50 per cent in August last year.

Industry sources estimate that job losses have already crossed two lakh in the textile and engineering sectors combined. If allied industries such as castings, pumps and industrial valves are also included, the total number of people affected is

believed to exceed three lakh.

Factory closures, reduced shifts and shrinking order books have become common, particularly among small and medium exporters. The impact has been equally severe on exports. According to Dhanabalan, vice-president, apparel export operations and business development at a private mill, annual textile exports from Coimbatore and Tirupur to the US market earlier stood at around \$1.7 billion. "Today, that figure has come down by nearly a billion dollars," he said.

"If the 50 per cent tariff on Indian products continues, textile exports to the US could become virtually nil within a year." Industry leaders point out that the headline tariff is not the only burden.

Tamil Nadu: TASMAL alcohol sales touch Rs 518 crore during Pongal

CHENNAI: Liquor sales in Tamil Nadu touched Rs 518 crore over the first two days of the Pongal festival, according to a Daily Thanthi report. On Bhogi day (January 14), sales stood at Rs 217 crore, followed by Rs 301 crore on Pongal day (January 15).

Tamil Nadu has 4,829 TASMAL liquor outlets with 3,240 attached bars. By comparison, alcohol sales during Pongal last year stood at Rs 725 crore over four days, while this year Rs 518 crore has been



recorded in just two days. Chennai recorded the highest sales at Rs 98.75 crore during the two-day period. Other major zones saw sales of Rs 95.87 crore in Madurai, Rs 85.13 crore in Tiruchy,

Rs 79.59 crore in Salem, and Rs 76.02 crore in Coimbatore. Alcohol sales at entertainment venues alone amounted to Rs 33.16 crore on January 14 and Rs 49.43 crore on January 15.

Primordial Magnetism: The Hidden Force Behind Life's Origin

The perplexing phenomenon of homochirality in life, where biomolecules exist in only one of two mirror-image forms, remains unexplained despite historical attention from scientific figures like Pasteur, Lord Kelvin, and Pierre Curie. Recent research suggests the combination of electric and magnetic fields might influence this preference through experiments showing enantioselective effects on chiral molecules interacting with magnetized surfaces, offering indirect evidence towards understanding this mystery. The phenomenon known as homochirality of life, which refers to the exclusive presence of biomolecules in one of their two possible mirror-image configurations within living organisms, has intrigued several prominent figures in science. This includes Louis Pasteur, who first identified molecular chirality, William Thomson (also known as Lord Kelvin), and Pierre Curie, a Nobel Laureate.

A conclusive explanation is still lacking, as both forms have, for instance, the same chemical stability and do not differ from each other in their physicochemical properties. The hypothesis, however, that the interplay between electric and magnetic fields could explain the preference for one or the other mirror-image form of a molecule – so-called enantiomers – emerged early on.

It was only a few years ago, though, that the first indirect evidence emerged that the various combinations of these force fields can indeed "distinguish" between the two mirror images of a molecule. This was achieved by studying the interaction of chiral molecules with metallic surfaces that exhibit a strong electric field over short distances. If only left-handed helicene spirals are deposited on the cobalt-copper surface, they clearly prefer cobalt islands with a certain direction of magnetization. In the image, the two triangular cobalt islands have opposite magnetization; the left-handed helicene molecules bind almost exclusively to the island on the right and avoid the island on the left (except for a few molecules at the edge of the island). Credit: Peter Grünberg Institute/Jülich The surfaces of magnetic metals such as iron, cobalt, or nickel thus allow electric and magnetic fields to be combined in various ways – the direction of magnetization is simply reversed, from "North up – South down" to "South up – North down". If the interplay between magnetism and electric fields actually triggers "enantioselective" effects, then the strength of the interaction between chiral molecules and magnetic surfaces should also differ, for example – depending on whether a right-handed or left-handed molecule "settles" on the surface.

Mirror images prefer opposing magnetic fields

And this is indeed the case, as a team of researchers led by Karl-Heinz Ernst from the Empa's Surface Science and Coating Technologies lab and colleagues at the Peter Grünberg Institute



at the Forschungszentrum Jülich in Germany recently reported in the scientific journal Advanced Materials. The team coated a (non-magnetic) copper surface with small, ultra-thin "islands" of magnetic cobalt and determined the direction of the magnetic field in these using spin-polarized scanning tunneling microscopy; as mentioned before, this can run in two different directions perpendicular to the metal surface: North up or South up. They then deposited spiral-shaped chiral molecules – a 1:1 mixture of left- and right-handed heptahelicene molecules – onto these cobalt islands in an ultrahigh vacuum. Then they "simply" counted the number of right- and left-handed helicene molecules on the differently magnetized cobalt islands, almost 800 molecules in total, again using scanning tunneling microscopy. And lo and behold: Depending on the direction of magnetic field, one or the other form of the helicene spirals had settled preferentially (see right side of the graphic). How Chirality Induced Spin Selectivity Manifests Itself This is how chirality-induced spin selectivity (CISS effect) manifests itself: Electrons (e- or red and green spheres with arrows indicating electron spin, either up or down) with the "wrong" direction of rotation (spin) are held back or filtered out when tunneling through spiral molecules, depending on the handedness of the spirals (left- or right-handed), so that one type of electron spin predominates (electrons with the arrow pointing downwards on the left side). The electric field of a metallic surface (E, pointing upwards, right side) shifts the electrons in the bound heptahelicene molecules; these accumulate slightly in the lower part of the molecule near the surface. In the case of chiral molecules, electrons with different spins are also shifted differently depending on the handedness of the molecule. The molecule becomes "spin-polarized", i.e. also magnetic.

Depending on the direction of magnetization of the metallic surface, chiral molecules therefore interact with it to different degrees. In this example, the purple spiral therefore binds more strongly to the surface than the yellow one, as opposite spins "attract" each other (the red and green electrons with different spins sitting on top of each other). Credit: Empa

Moreover, the experiments showed that the selection – the preference for one or the other enantiomer – not only occurs during the binding on the cobalt islands, but already beforehand. Before the molecules take up their final (preferred) position on one of the cobalt islands, they migrate long distances across the copper surface in a significantly weaker bound precursor state in "search" for an ideal position. They are only bound to the surface by so-called van der Waals forces. These are merely caused by fluctuations in the electronic shell of atoms and molecules and are therefore relatively weak. The fact that even these are influenced by magnetism, i.e. the direction of rotation (spin) of the electrons, was not known thus far.

Electrons with the "wrong" spin are filtered out

Using scanning tunneling microscopy, the researchers were also able to solve another mystery, as they reported in the journal Small last November. Electron transport – i.e. electric current – also depends on the combination of molecular handedness and magnetization of the surface. Depending on the handedness of the bound molecule, electrons with one direction of spin preferentially flow – or "tunnel" – through the molecule, meaning that electrons with the "wrong" spin are filtered out.

This chirality-induced spin selectivity (CISS effect, see left side of the graphic) had already been observed in earlier studies, but it remained unclear whether an ensemble of molecules is necessary for this or whether individual molecules also exhibit this effect. Ernst and his colleagues have now been able to show that individual helicene molecules also exhibit the CISS effect. "But the physics behind this is still not understood," admits Ernst. The Empa researcher also believes that his findings eventually cannot fully answer the question of the chirality of life. In other words, the question that the Nobel Prize winner in chemistry and ETH chemist Vladimir Prelog described as "one of the first problems of molecular theology" in his Nobel Prize lecture in 1975. But Ernst can imagine that in certain surface-catalyzed chemical reactions – such as those that could have taken place in the chemical "primordial soup" on the early Earth – a certain combination of electric and magnetic fields could have led to a steady accumulation of one form or another of the various biomolecules – and thus ultimately to the handedness of life.

The Glacier That's Rewriting Climate History

The Thwaites Glacier in Antarctica, undergoing significant ice loss since the 1940s due to climate changes and El Niño events, contributes to 4% of global sea-level rise. Researchers emphasize the ongoing retreat initiated by external factors like ocean and atmosphere circulation changes, highlighting the importance of understanding these dynamics for future sea-level rise projections. Credit: Robert Larter

Nestled within the immense wilderness of Antarctica, the Thwaites Glacier stretches impressively across approximately 80 miles on the continent's western frontier. Despite its monumental scale, this colossal glacier faces a troubling imbalance, shedding around 50 billion tons of ice annually in excess of what it gains from snowfall. This critical disparity puts its stability in jeopardy.

Accelerating ice loss has been observed since the 1970s, but it is unclear when this significant melting initiated – until now. A new study published in the journal PNAS, led by researchers at the University of Houston, suggests that significant glacial retreat began in the 1940s. Their results on the Thwaites Glacier coincide with previous work that studied retreat on Pine Island Glacier and found glacial retreat began in the '40s as well. "What is especially important about our study is that this change is not random nor specific to one glacier," said Rachel Clark, corresponding author, who graduated from UH last year with a doctorate in geology. "It is part of a larger context of a changing climate. You just can't ignore what's happening on this glacier." Clark and the study authors posit that the glacial retreat was likely kicked off by an extreme El Niño climate pattern that warmed the west Antarctic. Since then, the authors say, the glacier has not recovered and is currently contributing to 4% of global sea-level rise. "It is significant that El Niño only lasted a couple of years, but the two glaciers, Thwaites and Pine Island, remain in significant retreat," said Julia Wellner, UH associate professor of geology and U.S. lead investigator of the Thwaites Offshore Research project, or THOR, an international collaboration whose team members are authors of the study. "Once the system is kicked out of bal-

ance, the retreat is ongoing," she added. Nathaniel B. Palmer Sails Past Thwaites Glacier

Their findings also make it clear the retreat at the glaciers' grounding zone, or the area where the glaciers lose contact with the seabed and start to float, was due to external factors. "The finding that both Thwaites Glacier and Pine Island Glacier share a common history of thinning and retreat corroborates the view that ice loss in the Amundsen Sea sector of the West Antarctic ice sheet is predominantly controlled by external factors, involving changes in ocean and atmosphere circulation, rather than internal glacier dynamics or local changes, such as melting at the glacier bed or snow accumulation on the glacier surface," said Claus-Dieter Hillenbrand, U.K. lead investigator of THOR and study co-author. "A significant implication of our findings is that once an ice sheet retreat is set in motion, it can continue for decades, even if what started it gets no worse," added James Smith, a marine geologist at the British Antarctic Survey and study co-author. "It is possible that the changes we see today on Thwaites and Pine Island glaciers – and potentially across the entire Amundsen Sea embayment – were essentially set in motion in the 1940s." Clark and the team used three primary methods to reach their conclusion. One of those methods was marine sediment core collection that was closer to the Thwaites Glacier than ever before. They retrieved the cores during their trip to the Amundsen Sea near Thwaites in early 2019 aboard the Nathaniel B. Palmer icebreaker and research vessel. The researchers then used the cores to reconstruct the glacier's history from the early Holocene epoch to the present. The Holocene is the current geological epoch that began after the last ice age, roughly 11,700 years ago. CT scans were used to take X-rays of the sediment to gather details from its history. Geochronology, or the science of dating earth materials, was then used to reach the conclusion that significant ice melt began in the '40s. Clark used 210Pb (lead-210), an isotope that's naturally buried in the sediment cores and is radioactive, as the most important isotope in her geochronology. This process is similar to radiocarbon dating, which measures the age of organic materials as far back as 60,000 years.

Iran supreme leader admits thousands killed during recent protests

Iran's supreme leader has for the first time publicly acknowledged that thousands of people were killed, "some in an inhuman, savage manner", during recent protests. A violent response to the unrest has claimed 3,090 lives, according to US-based Iranian Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA), with some activist groups putting the death toll far higher. An internet blackout has made it extremely difficult to get clear information. In a speech on Saturday, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said thousands had been killed and blamed the US for the deaths. US President Donald Trump recently urged Iranian demonstrators to "keep protesting" and threatened military intervention if security forces kill them. The protests, which began on 28 December over the economy, have turned into calls for the end of the rule



of Iran's supreme leader. The Iranian government has called the demonstrations "riots" backed by Iran's enemies. Protesters have been met with deadly force and videos of security forces shooting at demonstrations have been authenticated by both BBC Persian and BBC Verify. There has also been a near-total shutdown of the internet and communication

services in Iran. On Saturday overall connectivity remained at about 2% of ordinary levels, according to cyber monitor NetBlocks. There have been fewer reports of unrest in recent days but with internet access still restricted developments on the ground remain unclear. A woman in Shiraz, southwestern Iran, told BBC Persian that "security



forces are still patrolling on motorbikes to keep the situation under control, but overall things have gone back to normal". During his speech on Saturday, Khamenei also said Iran considered President Trump to be a "criminal" and said the US must be "held accountable" for recent unrest. He also claimed on social media that "America's goal is to

swallow Iran". Trump has not yet responded to the supreme leader and the BBC has approached the White House for a comment. The US state department said on Saturday that it had "heard reports that the Islamic Republic is preparing options to target American bases". It said Iran would be met with "a very, very powerful force" if it launched such an attack

and warned Tehran not to "play games with President Trump". The US president said on Wednesday he had been told "the killing in Iran has stopped", but added that he had not ruled out military action against the country. His comments came after the US and UK both reduced the number of personnel at the Al-Udeid air base in Qatar. Officials told CBS, the BBC's US partner, that a partial American withdrawal was a "precautionary measure". Iran's supreme leader has for the first time publicly acknowledged that thousands of people were killed, "some in an inhuman, savage manner", during recent protests. A violent response to the unrest has claimed 3,090 lives, according to US-based Iranian Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA), with some activist groups putting the death toll far higher.

UGANDAN LEADER EXTENDS 40-YEAR RULE AFTER WINNING CONTESTED POLL

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has been declared the winner of Thursday's election extending his four decades in power by another five years. He gained 72% of the vote, the election commission announced, against 25% for his closest challenger Bobi Wine, who has condemned what he described as "fake results" and "ballot stuffing". Wine has not provided any details and the authorities have not responded to his allegations, but African Union election observers said they saw "no evidence of ballot stuffing". Wine has called for non-violent protests. Museveni, 81, first came to power as a rebel leader in 1986 but since then has won seven elections. The election process was marred by violence and Wine, a 43-year-old former pop star, says that at least 21



people have been killed around the country in recent days. The authorities have so far confirmed seven deaths. Access to the internet has been cut in the country since Tuesday, making it hard to verify information. The authorities say the blackout was necessary to prevent misinformation, fraud and the incitement of violence - a move condemned by the UN human rights office as "deeply worrying". Wine has demanded that the internet be restored.

Paracetamol is safe in pregnancy, says study refuting Trump autism claims



Taking paracetamol while pregnant is safe and there's no evidence it raises the risk of autism, ADHD and developmental issues in children, say experts behind a major new review. Pregnant women "should feel reassured" by the findings, they say, which contradict controversial claims from US President Donald Trump last year that paracetamol "is no good" and pregnant women should "fight like hell" not to take it. His views were criticised at the time by medical organisations worldwide. Experts say this latest review, in a Lancet journal, is rigorous and should end the debate over its safety. But US health officials maintain that "many experts" have expressed concern over its use during pregnancy. The US President shocked many doctors worldwide when he and his administration claimed paracetamol - known as acetaminophen in the US - which is

seen as the go-to painkiller for pregnant women - could be linked to autism in children, if taken during pregnancy. Those claims led to confusion among women and concern among health experts, and prompted this new research. Published in The Lancet Obstetrics, Gynaecology & Women's Health, it looked at 43 of the most robust studies into paracetamol use during pregnancy, involving hundreds of thousands of women, particularly those comparing pregnancies where the mother had taken the drug to pregnancies where she hadn't. The researchers say using these high-quality studies of siblings means they can dismiss other factors such as different genes and family environments, which makes their review "gold-standard". The research also looked at studies with a low risk of bias and those that followed children for more than five years to check for any link.

FROM CAMOUFLAGE TO TRACKSUITS - GUINEA'S JUNTA LEADER BECOMES CIVILIAN PRESIDENT

From the moment he seized power in September 2021 Guinea's Mamadi Doumbouya struck an imposing figure. Just 36 years old at the time, the broad-shouldered colonel, standing at well over six feet (1.8m), wearing military fatigues, mirrored sunglasses and a red beret certainly made an impression when announcing the coup. A relatively unknown member of an elite army unit, he declared that the government of ousted President Alpha Condé had disregarded democratic principles and that citizens' rights were being trampled on. After more than four years of acting as interim president, and going back on a promise not to run for leadership of the country,



Doumbouya, now 41, was sworn in as the elected head of state on Saturday. The discreet, disciplined and private man won 87% of the vote in December's election against a severely depleted field. Ex-Prime Minister Cellou Dalein Diallo, now in exile, described the process as a charade which generated "fabricated" results.

Big names on Trump's peace panel face huge challenges in Gaza

The White House has announced the first members of its Gaza "Board of Peace", and the list of names will do little to dispel the criticism from some quarters that the US president's plan resembles, at its heart, a colonial solution imposed over the heads of the Palestinians. There are still several unknowns - namely who else might be added, and the exact structure of what is currently a rather complicated layout. So far, no Palestinian names are included on the two separate senior boards that have been officially unveiled. One is a "founding Executive Board", with a high-level focus on investment and diplomacy. The other, called the "Gaza



Executive Board", is responsible for overseeing all on-the-ground work of yet another administrative group, the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza (NCAG). That committee is made up of supposedly technocratic, apolitical Palestinians, led by Dr Ali Shaath, a civil engineer by

training who's held ministerial positions in the Palestinian Authority. But of the seven members of the founding Executive Board, six are Americans - including US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and other members of Trump's inner circle like his son-in-law Jared Kushner, and Steve Witkoff, who is US Special

Envoy to the Middle East, but also a friend of the president and a fellow real estate developer. Ajay Banga, president of the World Bank, is something of an exception as a dual-national, Indian-born US citizen. Sir Tony Blair, meanwhile, is a former UK Prime Minister, and his inclusion is likely to further fuel concerns about how the Board of Peace will operate. Over the past few weeks, criticism of Sir Tony's possible inclusion has come from figures like prominent politician Mustafa Barghouti, general secretary of the Palestinian National Initiative, and newspaper reports quoting unnamed officials from Arab states in the region.

US justice department investigating Minnesota Democrats over alleged obstruction of ICE

Two prominent Minnesota Democrats are being investigated over alleged attempts to impede federal immigration operations, in an escalation of the Trump's administration's clash with the state's leaders. Gov Tim Walz and Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey are facing a US justice department inquiry over comments made about Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), according to the BBC's US partner CBS News. The probe comes as a federal judge limited what tactics ICE and other law enforcement officials



could use in Minneapolis, blocking the use of pepper spray and arrests of peaceful protesters. Protests have ramped up in the city after Renee Good, 37, was shot and killed by an ICE agent last week. New details also came to light

on Friday about Good's death. The Minneapolis woman was found by paramedics with at least three gunshot wounds and possibly a fourth to the head, according to official reports viewed by CBS. Governor Walz responded on Friday to

news of the inquiry against him by posting on X: "Weaponizing the justice system against your opponents is an authoritarian tactic. "The only person not being investigated for the shooting of Renee Good is the federal agent who shot her." In a statement to the BBC, Mayor Frey said "I will not be intimidated". "This is an obvious attempt to intimidate me for standing up for Minneapolis, our local law enforcement, and our residents against the chaos and danger this Administration has brought to our streets," he said.

Japanese mayor apologises after calling staff 'human scum'



The mayor of Yokohama has apologised for insulting colleagues after an official publicly accused him of making offensive remarks. At a news conference, the Japanese city's human resource chief, Jun Kubota, alleged that Mayor Takeharu Yamanaka had used terms such as "idiot" and "human scum" to disparage staff. It is highly unusual in Japan for a serving city official to openly accuse a sitting mayor and demand an apology. Yamanaka initially denied the allegations, but later admitted to some of them. "I want to frankly apologise for placing a psychological burden on the personnel director," he said. At a news conference on Thursday, Kubota accused Mayor Yamanaka of repeatedly making remarks towards officials - including himself - that could amount to workplace harassment. The mayor was accused of calling officials "useless", "silly"

and "low-spec", as well as making comments about colleagues' appearance and likening them to animals. He is also accused of threatening Kubota, saying he would have to "commit seppuku" - a Japanese ritual suicide by disembowelment - if he failed to secure an international conference bid. Kubota demanded an apology from Yamanaka and called for an investigation. Yamanaka initially published a statement on his personal website, denying the allegations. But on Friday, he publicly acknowledged some remarks - such as using words like "idiot" and "human scum" - and apologised. "I am reflecting on this. I will be more careful with my words and behaviour," Yamanaka said. He said those comments were made during discussions over personnel evaluations. However, the mayor denied other accusations, including insulting colleagues' appearance.

Blair and Rubio among names on Gaza 'Board of Peace'

The Trump administration has named US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and former UK prime minister Sir Tony Blair as two of the founding members of its "Board of Peace" for Gaza. Trump's Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff and the president's son-in-law Jared Kushner will also sit on the "founding executive board", the White House said in a statement on Friday. Trump will act as chairman of the board, which forms part of his 20-point plan to end the war between Israel and Hamas. It is expected to temporarily oversee the running of Gaza and manage its reconstruction. Also on the founding executive board are Marc Rowan, the head of a private equity firm, World Bank chief Ajay Banga and a US national security adviser,

Robert Gabriel. Each member would have a portfolio "critical to Gaza's stabilisation and long-term success", the White House statement said. Trump had said on Thursday that the board had been formed, calling it the "Greatest and Most Prestigious Board ever assembled at any time, any place". Further members of the board would be named in the coming weeks, the White House said. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has been asked by Trump to join the board and will accept the invitation, a senior Canadian official told journalists, according to CBC News. The BBC has contacted Carney's office for comment. Argentinian President Javier Milei shared an image of an invitation to join the board on X,



writing that it would be "an honour" to participate. Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has also been invited, the country's foreign minister said, adding "we are studying the matter". Sir Tony was UK prime minister from 1997 to 2007 and took the UK into the Iraq War in 2003. After leaving office, he served as Middle East envoy for the Quartet of international powers (the US, EU,

Russia and the UN). In this role, he focused on bringing economic development to Palestine and creating the conditions to move towards a two state-solution. Sir Tony had already been a part of high-level talks about Gaza's future with the US and other parties. In August, he joined a White House meeting with Trump to discuss plans for the territory, which Witkoff described as

"very comprehensive". In a statement, the former prime minister said he was honoured to be appointed and it had been a "real privilege" to work with Witkoff and Kushner so far. "I look forward to working with them and other colleagues in line with the president's vision to promote peace and prosperity," Sir Tony said. He is the only founding member of the executive board who is not a US citizen. In September, Health Secretary Wes Streeting told the BBC that involving Sir Tony in such talks, given his record on the Iraq War, would "raise some eyebrows". But Streeting also noted the former prime minister's role in brokering the 1998 Good Friday Agreement to end Northern Ireland's Troubles. "If he can bring those considerable

skills there, in both diplomacy and state craft," Streeting told the BBC, "that can only be a good thing". It comes after the announcement of a separate 15-member Palestinian technocratic committee, the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza (NCAG), charged with managing the day-to-day governance of post-war Gaza. Ali Shaath, a former deputy minister in the Palestinian Authority (PA) which governs parts of the occupied West Bank not under Israeli control, will head that new committee. The statement also said that Nikolay Mladenov, a Bulgarian politician and former UN Middle East envoy, would be the board's representative on the ground in Gaza working with the NCAG.

Bangladesh Break Silence On 'No Handshake' With India During U-19 World Cup

Controversy erupted during the U-19 World Cup 2026 match between India and Bangladesh when the two captains did not shake hands after the toss. India captain Ayush Mhatre and Bangladesh vice-captain Zawad Abrar, who attended the toss in place of captain Azizul Hakim, did not shake hands. There was a lot of chatter on social media over the incident considering the political tensions between the two teams. However, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) said that the absence of a handshake was "completely unintentional and resulted from a momentary lapse in concentration". "The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has taken note of an inadvertent and unwarranted action that occurred at the toss prior to the opening match of the ICC Under 19 World Cup 2026, Zimbabwe & Namibia, between Bangladesh and India," the official press release read. "Due to illness, regular captain Azizul Hakim was unable to attend the toss, and vice-captain Zawad Abrar represented the team on the occasion. The BCB wishes to clarify that the absence of a handshake with the opposition captain was completely unintentional



and resulted from a momentary lapse in concentration. There was no intent whatsoever to show discourtesy or disregard towards the opposition." "The Board has viewed the matter with due seriousness, as upholding the spirit of cricket and respect for opponents is a fundamental prerequisite for representing Bangladesh at any level and immediately advised the team management accordingly. The players have also been reminded of their responsibility to maintain the highest standards of

sportsmanship, camaraderie and mutual respect in all interactions with opposing teams. The Bangladesh Cricket Board remains fully committed to the values of cricket, both on and off the field," the release added. Meanwhile, the BCB remained steadfast on their stance of not playing T20 World Cup 2026 matches in India despite holding multiple meetings with the International Cricket Council (ICC). "The Board has viewed the matter with due seriousness, as upholding the spirit of cricket and

respect for opponents is a fundamental prerequisite for representing Bangladesh at any level and immediately advised the team management accordingly." It said the players have also been reminded of their responsibility "to maintain the highest standards of sportsmanship, camaraderie and mutual respect in all interactions with opposing teams." Amid deterioration in the bilateral relations between the neighbours, the Indian cricket board (BCCI) had on January 3 directed Kolkata Knight Riders to release Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman from their IPL 2026 roster. The BCB then asked the International Cricket Council to shift its matches in next month's T20 World Cup out of India to co-host Sri Lanka, citing security concerns. The Bangladesh government has also suspended IPL coverage in the country. Two ICC officials met BCB officials on Saturday in a bid to resolve the T20 World Cup issue. Cricket in the subcontinent last year reflected the tense ties between India and Pakistan. The countries were involved in a brief armed conflict. In the Asia Cup that followed in Dubai.

"Slowly Being Poisoned": Indian Grandmaster Highlights Delhi's Rising AQI, Questions Authorities

Delhi woke up to a chilling and extremely harsh morning on Saturday, with the entire city enveloped in a dense layer of fog that brought visibility down to nearly zero. The minimum temperature dipped to 4.4 degrees Celsius, and the India Meteorological Department issued a yellow alert for a cold wave and thick fog. Amid these conditions, another factor troubling Delhi residents was the rapidly deteriorating air quality. Noticing this, Indian chess grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi raised his voice and questioned the Delhi authorities over the city's worsening state. Taking to X (formerly Twitter), Vidit shared screenshots of Delhi's AQI (Air Quality Index), which showed the status as "Hazardous." He wrote, "We are slowly being poisoned and no one cares? Shouldn't solving this be the top priority?" Earlier on Wednesday,



World No. 2 shuttler Anders Antonsen officially withdrew from the India Open 2026, citing extreme pollution levels in New Delhi. This marked the third consecutive year Anders opted out of the Super 750 event. In an Instagram story, Anders said he hopes New Delhi's air quality will improve later this year, when the national capital will host the BWF World Championships. Anders also confirmed that BWF has fined him 5000 USD. "Many is curious to why I have pulled

out of the India Open for the third consecutive year. Due to the extreme pollution in Delhi at the moment, I don't think it's a place to host a badminton tournament. Crossing my fingers that it will be better in the Summer when the World Championships will take place in Delhi. As a result BWF once again has fined me 5000 USD," he wrote. Antonsen also shared a screenshot of air quality in Delhi on the Instagram story, which showed AQI to be 348 and described conditions as hazardous.

Vaibhav Suryavanshi Shatters World Record, Scripts U-19 World Cup History

India's 14-year-old sensation, Vaibhav Suryavanshi, added another major feat to his name during the U-19 World Cup 2026 encounter against Bangladesh on Saturday. The youngster scored 72 off just 67 deliveries, including 6 fours and 3 sixes. Starting the proceedings in his trademark explosive manner, he reached his half-century in just 30 balls. At 14 years and 296 days, he became the youngest cricketer to register a 50-plus score in a Men's U-19 World Cup match. Previously, the record belonged to Afghanistan's Shahidullah Kamal, who scored a fifty against the West Indies at the age of 15 years and 19 days. Pakistan's Babar Azam



is now third on the list, following his fifty against the West Indies in 2010. Youngest to register a 50-plus score at Men's U19 World Cup 14y 296d - Vaibhav Suryavanshi (IND19) vs BAN19, Bulawayo, 2026 15y 19d - Shahidullah Kamal (AFG19)

vs WI19, Dubai (ICCA 2), 2014 15y 92d - Babar Azam (PAK19) vs WIU19, Palmerston North, 2010 15y 125d - Perwez Malikzai (AFG19) vs Fiji19, Cox's Bazar, 2016 15y 132d - Sharad Vesawkar (NEP19) vs ENG19, Chattogram, 2004

Virat Kohli on the list of Indian batters with the most runs in Youth ODIs. In 20 Youth ODIs, Vaibhav has scored 1,047 runs, while Kohli scored 978 runs in 28 matches. For India, Vijay Zol leads the list with 1,404 runs from 36 matches; overall, Bangladesh's Najmul Hossain Shanto holds the top spot with 1,820 runs. Earlier, India captain Ayush Mhatre and Bangladesh's Azizul Hakim Tamim avoided the traditional pre-match handshake, reflecting the current state of affairs between the two teams. Surprisingly, the vice-captain, Zawad Abrar, came out for the toss instead of Hakim, although the latter was named in the playing XI.

"Steve Smith Ka Baap Bhi Single Leta": Virat Kohli Namedropped In Brutal Take On Babar Azam Row

Former Pakistan cricket team star Basit Ali name-dropped Virat Kohli in a brutal verdict on the ongoing controversy surrounding Babar Azam in the Big Bash League. During the match between Sydney Sixers and Sydney Thunder, Babar, who was batting in the 40s, wanted a single off the final ball of the 11th over. However, Steve Smith rejected the call which resulted in Babar being visibly upset. The Sixers took the Power Surge - a two-over powerplay - from the 12th over and Smith went on to slam 32 runs in it - the most in BBL history. On the other hand, Babar was dismissed on the very first ball of the 13th over and he even hit the boundary cushions with his bat to express his frustra-



tion. Following the incident, there has been a lot of discussions regarding the incident and former Pakistan cricketer Kamran Akmal said that he believes Smith 'disrespected' Babar with his gesture. "This shouldn't have happened. I understand Smith hit a fast hun-

dred. He could have told Babar before that the ball 'Don't take a single'. Not like this. This is a disrespect," Akmal said on YouTube. "If Sydney Sixers aren't happy with Babar, drop him. Don't disrespect him like this. Make him sit out, only... But don't do this," he added.

Basit, however, said that Babar was to blame for the entire incident and even added that if Virat Kohli would have asked for the single, Smith would not have refused the India star batter. "Smith proved it next over. At one point, I thought he would hit 6 sixes in that over. He answered it, na? If Virat Kohli had wanted to take this single like Babar Azam, Steve Smith ka baap bhi single leta! (even Smith's father would have accepted it." Basit said. "You have brought your own value down with your game. Pakistan's name is not sullied by this. People who say that are fools. Babar went to play Big Bash because he was invited there, but the Pakistan cricket board didn't send him," Basit Ali said.

Indian ICC Official Fails To Get Bangladesh Visa, T20 World Cup Row Deepens: Report



The 'final round' of high-stakes negotiations between the International Cricket Council (ICC) and the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) began with a logistical nightmare, after a planned two-man delegation was halved due to visa complications. Andrew Ephgrave, the ICC's Head of Anti-Corruption and Security, travelled to Dhaka alone on 17th January to address the ongoing deadlock regarding Bangladesh's participation in the upcoming T20 World Cup 2026. His colleague Sanjog Gupta, the CEO of ICC, however, was reportedly forced to remain behind after failing to secure a visa on time, sources confirmed. The visit is being viewed as a "last-ditch" effort by the game's global governing body to resolve a diplomatic and sporting crisis that has cast a shadow over the tournament, which is scheduled to begin on 7 February. At the heart of the dispute is a security concern

raised by the Bangladesh government and the BCB. Bangladesh has formally requested the top cricketing body to shift their scheduled group-stage matches from India to Sri Lanka, citing the current political climate and safety concerns for their players and staff. With the absence of his colleague, the weight of the negotiations now rests solely on Ephgrave. A former British police officer with extensive experience in international sports security, Ephgrave is expected to present a comprehensive security plan designed to reassure the Bangladeshi authorities that their players will get the required security cover in India for the T20 World Cup matches, as per Bdnnews24. Visa Issue Sums Up Political Climate The fact that an ICC official of Indian nationality couldn't procure a visa to travel to Bangladesh on time sums up the current political situation between the two countries.

Meg Lanning, Phoebe Litchfield Star As UPW Notch Up Second-Straight Win

UP Warriorz vs Mumbai Indians, WPL 2026 Live Updates: UP Warriorz captain Meg Lanning smashed 70 off 45 balls and compatriot Phoebe Litchfield made 61 off 37 as they beat Mumbai Indians by 22 runs in their Women's Premier League (WPL) 2026 clash on Sunday. This is UP Warriorz's second consecutive win, after three losses at the start of the season. Lanning and Litchfield's efforts powered UPW to 187/8 in 20 overs. In response, MI lost wickets at regular intervals at the start, and Amelia Kerr's 49 and Amanjot Kaur's 41 were eventually not enough. This is the third defeat in five games for Harmanpreet Kaur-led MI. ! That wraps up an entertaining game, with UP Warriorz picking up back-to-back wins



and finally moving off the bottom spot, while Mumbai Indians will have a few questions to answer ahead of their next outing. The WPL action, however, does not stop here, with another big clash coming up shortly as Royal Challengers Bengaluru take on Delhi Capitals. You can simply switch tabs to catch all the

coverage of that game. Meg Lanning, the victorious skipper of UP Warriorz, is also the PLAYER OF THE MATCH for her excellent knock. She says that it is a nice bounce-back for them. Adds that it was not ideal to lose the opening game, but the group stayed positive and backed themselves. Mentions that getting back-

to-back wins against a strong MI side is very pleasing and gives them momentum going ahead in the season. Says that Mumbai have some strong batters, you need to be clear with your specific plans, and they prepared very well in the last two games. Further adds that it is very enjoyable batting alongside Phoebe, and hopes to continue building such partnerships. Tells that they could have finished their batting innings well, but Mumbai bowled really well towards the end. Ends by saying that there is still room for improvement and they are looking ahead to the next game. Harmanpreet Kaur, the captain of Mumbai Indians, mentions that her team wanted to chase after winning the toss.

India, Bangladesh Tensions Spill Onto U19 World Cup, Captains Snub Handshakes At Toss

The brewing diplomatic and sporting chill between India and Bangladesh reached the global stage today as the two sides met in a Group A clash at the Under-19 World Cup 2026. In a moment that immediately trended across social media, India captain Ayush Mhatre and Bangladesh's deputy Zawad Abrar avoided the traditional pre-match handshake, summing up the current state of affairs between the two teams. Surprisingly, it was the vice-captain, Abrar, who came out for the toss instead of Bangladesh skipper Azizul Hakim, who was named in the playing XI though. After a rain-affected delay, Abrar won the toss



and elected to bowl first, citing the dampness of the Bulawayo track. While the technical conversation regarding the pitch and team changes was professional, the lack of a handshake was what drew the attention of fans from all across the globe. This follows a precedent set during

the 2025 Asia Cup and the Women's World Cup, where Indian teams refrained from shaking hands with Pakistan teams, amid political conflicts between the two countries. What began as a stance against Pakistan in 2025 has now seemingly been extended to Bangladesh, following a

series of diplomatic disagreements, which have spilled onto the senior men's T20 World Cup 2026, too. Relations between the BCCI and BCB have been under immense pressure following the scrapping of high-profile player contracts in the IPL and debates over the venue for the upcoming T20 World Cup. Once the toss concluded, the focus shifted to the cricket. Abrar expressed confidence in his bowling attack, while Mhatre noted that India would have also preferred to bowl but was prepared to set a target. "We will field first. The wicket looks damp and we would like to take advantage for the first 10-15 overs.

Pakistan Star Sahibzada Farhan Mocks Bowler, Catastrophe Unfolds On Next Delivery



Often a subject of social media debate over his gestures and antics on the field, Pakistan international Sahibzada Farhan once again had to learn the hard way that cricket has a habit of humbling even its most confident stars. During a high-stakes Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) encounter, the Rajshahi Warriors opener's attempt to unnervе his opponent backfired in the most dramatic manner. The drama unfolded during the fourth over of the innings. After successfully navigating the first two deliveries, Farhan decided to engage in a bit of psychological warfare. But he was only made to regret his actions. Following the second ball, Farhan looked directly at the bowler and performed the infamous "You Can't See Me" hand gesture - the signature taunt of WWE legend John Cena. The gesture, intended to signal that the bowler was simply not on his level, drew a sharp reaction from the bowler. Ruyel Miah, a domestic

Bangladesh bowler, bowled the next delivery at Farhan, all fired up, pushing it slightly wider and tempting Farhan into a loose shot. Looking to back up his taunt with a big boundary, Farhan reached out for an expansive drive. Instead of the intended result, he succeeded only in slicing a thick outside edge. The ball flew directly to the short third man, where the fielder made no mistake. The Pakistan batter had no option but to head back to the dressing room. This incident is just the latest in a string of controversies surrounding Farhan this season. From his "gun-fire" celebrations to a recent viral interview where he controversially ranked Ahmed Shehzad above icons like Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag, Farhan has become the BPL's primary lightning rod for criticism. For the Rajshahi Warriors, losing their key man so early in the innings after such a public display of overconfidence proved to be a major setback.

Vijay and Samantha's film 'Police' to be re-released on the 23rd of this month



The Tamil film 'Theri', starring star hero Vijay and top heroine Samantha, directed by sensational director Atlee and produced by Kalaipuli S. Thanu under the V Creations banner, was a grand success. It was dubbed into Telugu as 'Police' and won the hearts of the audience, becoming a super hit film. This film is now ready to create a buzz on the silver screen once again. The film 'Police' will be re-released on the 23rd of this month. The film is being released on a large scale in the Nizam region by the leading distribution company Asian Films, and in Andhra by Suresh Movies. With the news of the re-release already receiving a huge response on social media,

Vijay's fans and film lovers are eagerly waiting to watch this emotional action entertainer in theaters once again. Atlee crafted 'Police' by blending father-daughter bonding, a police backdrop, emotions, action, and commercial elements in equal measure. Vijay impressed in a dual role, and Samantha's character greatly appealed to the audience. Amy Jackson also played another female lead. The roles of Prabhu and Radhika Sarathkumar were also crucial to the film. In particular, the climax scenes and emotional moments were the highlights of the film. The songs composed by G.V. Prakash Kumar for this film were chartbusters at the time. The background music, cin-

ematography, and action sequences played a key role in attracting audiences to the theaters. This film, 'Police', further strengthened Vijay's already strong fan base in Telugu as well. Now, with its re-release in improved quality using modern technology, trade circles believe that this film will once again prove its mettle at the box office.



SARA ARJUN SPOTTED IN AMEERPET

Hyderabad: The city of pearls witnessed a sparkling cinematic morning today as Dhurandhar fame actress Sara Arjun graced the trailer launch of her upcoming film Euphoria. The much-awaited event took place at AAA Cinemas in Ameerpet here, drawing fans, media, and film enthusiasts from across Hyderabad. From the moment Sara walked in, all eyes were on her. She looked stunning in a bright pink traditional outfit, blending elegance with youthful charm. Her graceful appearance, glowing smile, and confident presence instantly became the highlight of the event. Cameras flashed non-

stop as fans cheered and tried to capture every moment of the star in her gorgeous traditional look. Taking the stage, Sara greeted the Hyderabad audience warmly. She expressed her excitement about Euphoria and thanked the team for believing in her. Speaking with sincerity, she said she feels a special connection with South Indian audiences and is thrilled to present her new film to them.

Chiranjeevi's Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu All-Time Record On Day 5, Grosses 226 Cr+ Worldwide



Megastar Chiranjeevi's wholesome family entertainer Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu, directed by Anil Ravipudi, is creating wonders at the box office this Sankranti season. The film has turned theaters into festive celebrations, drawing massive family turnouts across Telugu states. In a stunning milestone, MSG raked in big numbers on Day 5 in AP/TS, breaking previous record. This

cements MSG as the all-time highest Day 5 grosser in the industry. The momentum shows no signs of fading, with over 2.5 million tickets sold on BookMyShow in just five days, with worldwide gross of 226 Cr+. Day six and day seven numbers are also going to be massive. Theaters buzz with housefull shows and electric word-of-mouth, setting the stage for an explosive weekend.

Rebel Star Prabhas and Sandeep Reddy Vanga's 'Spirit' movie to have a grand release worldwide on March 5, 2027

Rebel Star Prabhas is all set to play the most intense character of his career in 'Spirit', directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga, who has delivered a hat-trick of blockbusters. The makers have released a powerful first look for the New Year. This poster, which presents Prabhas in a raw, unfiltered avatar, has gone viral. The makers have now finalized the theatrical release date. Spirit will have a grand release on March 5, 2027, kicking off next year's summer rush. Sandeep Vanga's Mark is going to provide an amazing cinematic experience with intense action, emotions, and raw power. Tripti Dimri is playing the heroine and Prakash Raj is playing a key role. Bhadrakali Pictures and T-Series Films are jointly producing this project on a grand scale. The film is currently in the shooting stage. Spirit will be released universally in a total of 8 languages including Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, as well as Chinese, Japanese, and Korean.



'Manaswini Balabommala' Makes Her Film Debut with "Kokkoroko"



Young and promising performer Manaswini Balabommala is all set to make her silver screen debut with the Telugu film Kokkoroko, marking an important milestone in her artistic journey. On the fes-

tive occasion of Sankranti, the makers unveiled a special poster that instantly drew attention for its warm and rooted presentation. The poster carried the message, "Our Bangaraju Family wishes you and your family a

Happy Sankranti. "Kokkoroko" in cinemas soon," setting a celebratory tone for the film. The Sankranti poster also revealed the first official look of Manaswini Balabommala, where she is seen alongside senior actor

film is a guest role, it marks her formal entry into Telugu cinema and has already generated positive buzz among film circles. Before stepping into films, Manaswini built a strong foundation as a trained and versatile performer. She has considerable experience in theatre, having played lead roles such as Jo in Little Women and Beatrice in Much Ado About Nothing.



Samuthirakani and other cast members. Although her appearance in the

SRK may reprise Don role following Ranveer's exit



BTS REUNION 2026: NEW ALBUM 'ARI-RANG' ANNOUNCED

The Don franchise is back in the spotlight, and this time the buzz is bigger than ever. Bollywood fans are excited by fresh reports suggesting that Shah Rukh Khan might return to Don 3 after Ranveer Singh's reported exit from the film. If true, it could mark the comeback of one of Hindi cinema's most iconic on-screen characters. Shah Rukh Khan first brought Don to life in the 2006 reboot, followed by the superhit Don 2 in 2011. His stylish swagger, sharp dialogue, and unforgettable screen presence made the character legendary for a new generation. So when Don 3 was announced with Ranveer Singh stepping into the role, reactions were mixed. Many fans were curious, while others missed SRK already. Now, reports say Ranveer Singh is no longer

part of the project due to creative differences with the film's team. This unexpected development has reopened the door for Shah Rukh Khan's return. But there's a twist. Insiders reveal that SRK is willing to come back only if director Atlee joins the project. After their massive success with Jawan, Shah Rukh reportedly trusts Atlee's vision for high-octane action and grand storytelling. He believes Atlee's direction could take Don 3 to a whole new level. However, the makers of the film, led by Farhan Akhtar, have not officially

confirmed any casting changes yet. Everything remains under discussion, and final decisions are still pending. Still, the possibility alone has set social media on fire, with fans eagerly demanding "SRK as Don" once again. For now, Don 3 remains a film full of suspense both on screen and behind the scenes. Whether Shah Rukh Khan returns or a new Don rises, one thing is certain, Bollywood's most

stylish criminal is ready to make headlines again. The idea, sources suggest, is to raise the film's scale and bring renewed excitement for audiences. As of now, no final call has been taken, and the makers have not confirmed any of these developments. The Jawan star last played Don in the second film of the franchise. Ranveer Singh was later announced as his replacement but quit the film late last year. Pinkvilla reported that the actor's priorities shifted after Dhurandhar's blockbuster success. A source said, "He is keen to collaborate with filmmakers like Sanjay Leela Bhansali, Lokesh Kanagaraj, and Atlee, and at the same time, he doesn't want to be seen in back-to-back gangster films.

Casting of 'Don 3' back in focus as Shah Rukh Khan comeback reports surface