



back to ICC officially after the 24-hour deadline that was given to them to decide if they wanted to come to India," an ICC source said on condition of anonymity. "BCB did a press conference in Dhaka before officially intimating the global body which is a violation of protocol. They have been categorically told that they are being replaced. Scotland is the new team in the World Cup." ICC also intimated all the participating member nations separately about Bangladesh being dropped from the tournament.



sheets be opened against BRS leaders and that they be sent to jail without any leniency. He remarked that it was only due to the goodwill and restraint shown by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy that BRS leaders were "still roaming free."

Under the CTMS, details of children and persons with disabilities will be registered and a special QR code wristband will be tied to their wrist. For this purpose, 11 special registration centres have been set up across the State, where teams will collect details such as the child's name, parents' or guardians' names and contact numbers.

Speaking on the occasion, the DGP said the Medaram Jatara, regarded as Asia's largest tribal festival, will be held from January 28 to 31 in Muluga district and is expected to attract lakhs of devotees from Telangana, Maharashtra, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. Considering the massive influx of devotees, there is a possibility of children, elderly persons and persons with disabilities getting separated from their families.

struction of new roads, and strengthening educational institutions. She informed that representations have been made to Union Minister to include the historic Napaka Temple and Kotagullu (Ghanpur) temples under the PRASAD scheme for their development. The MP said that the Bhupalpally bypass road project is currently at the DPR stage and assured that she would take up the proposal for setting up a Chilla Research Institute in Bhupalpally with the Central Government. Emphasising the government's commitment to housing, she said the goal is to ensure that every homeless poor family gets its own house, with 3,500 houses allotted per constituency.

The Minister appreciated the role of the Telangana Gazetted Officers Association in strengthening coordination between government departments and to effective public administration. He extended his best wishes to the members of the Association for its continued service to the Government and its employees.

Krishna Reddy, Chittibabu, Ramakrishna, Praveen, and Pradeep Goud, were present on the occasion.

Sl. No.	Name & Addresses of the borrowers	Properties under Mortgage	Outstanding Amount due (Rs.)
1	<p><b>To,</b> <b>KRANTHI RAYALA (APPLICANT)</b> H No 8-3-167/D/141, Kalyan Nagar Phase I, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500021</p> <p><b>KRANTHI RAYALA, ENRICH IT SERVICES PVT.LTD</b> 8TH Floor, DLF Cyber City APHB Colony, Gachibowli, Hyderabad - 500032</p> <p><b>KRANTHI RAYALA</b> 101, 1st Floor, Surya Enclave, H No-8-3-167/D/118, Yousufguda, Hyderabad- 500045.</p> <p><b>A/C No: 710100011609, 710100011610</b> <b>DN Date: 12/01/2026</b></p>	<p><b>SCHEDULE A PROPERTY</b> All that undivided share of land measuring 30 Square yards, Out of the lan in an extent of 335 Square Yards, bearing Plot No.118, admeasuring 335 Square Yards, Situated at: Kalyan Nagar, Venture-I, Yousufguda, Hyderabad, T.S., and bounded by: NORTH: Neighbours Plot No.117, SOUTH: 40' Feet Wide Road, EAST: Plot No.119, WEST: Proposed 20 Feet Wide Road.</p> <p><b>SCHEDULE B PROPERTY</b> All that the Flat No.101 bearing GNMIC No. 8-3-167/D/118/101, on First Floor, having plinth area of 1251 Square Feet, and common area, together with proportionate undivided share of land measuring 30 Square yards, Out of 335 Square Yards in premises bearing Plot No.118. Situated at: Kalyan Nagar, Venture-I, Yousufguda, Hyderabad, T.S., and bounded by: NORTH: Open to Sky, SOUTH: Flat No.102, EAST: Open to Sky, WEST: Open to Sky.</p>	<p><b>Rs.</b> <b>22,55,377.05</b> as detailed below as on 10/01/2026 + Interest + All other charges payable till the receipt of payment.</p>
2	<p><b>To,</b> <b>BATHINI RAJASHEKHAR (APPLICANT)</b> H No 5-31/164, Plot No 108, Boduppall, Medipally Hyderabad- 500092, Mob: 9640600083</p> <p><b>BATHINI RAJASHEKHAR, ASIAN PAINTS LTD</b> Jayaalanki Nagar, Begumpet, Hyderabad - 500016.</p> <p><b>Gundla Jyothi (CO-APPLICATION)</b> H No 5-31/164, Plot No 108, Boduppall, Medipally Hyderabad- 500092, Mob: 8291848150</p> <p><b>A/C No: 710500013660, 701050004340</b> <b>DN Date: 12/01/2026</b></p>	<p><b>SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY</b> All that the House bearing No.5-31/164, Plot No. 108, in Survey Nos.34/5, 37, 38/5, 41/5 &amp; 42/5 admeasuring 140 Sq. Yds., or 117.04 Sq.Mtrs., having Ground, First &amp; Second Floors, plinth area 3300 Sft., with RCC Roof, Situated at Boduppall Village, under Boduppall Municipality, Medipally Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District, and bounded by: NORTH: Plot No.107, SOUTH: 30'-0" Wide Road, EAST: Existing Lay-out, WEST: Plot No.109.</p>	<p><b>Rs.</b> <b>80,28,112.06</b> as detailed below as on 10/01/2026 + Interest + All other charges payable till the receipt of payment.</p>
3	<p><b>To,</b> <b>SATPALALLI JYOTHI (APPLICANT)</b> H.No 24-2/82, Vishnupuri Colony, Malkajgiri, Hyderabad - 500047</p> <p><b>SATPALALLI JYOTHI</b> Department Of Prohibition, 5Th Floor Nr Bjp Office, Nampally, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500095</p> <p><b>SATPALALLI JYOTHI</b> Plot No 11 Southern Part, H.No. 30-59/211, Bhavani Colony, Old Safilguda, M.M Dist. - 500047</p> <p><b>A/C No: 710600011290</b> <b>DN Dated: 12-01-2026</b></p>	<p>All that the Residential House on Part of Premises bearing No. 30-59/211, on Plot No.11 (Southern Part), in Survey Nos.344 and 345, admeasuring 128.33 sq.yards or 107.28 Sq.Mtrs, together with common passage of 21.67 Sq.yards, with 750 Sft in Ground Floor and 750 Sft in First Floor (total plinth area of 1500 Sft), situated at Old Safilguda, within the limits of GHMC Malkajgiri Circle and Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District., and bounded by: North: Part of Premises No.30-59/211 On Plot No.11 (Northern Part), SOUTH: 20' W Wide Road, EAST: Plot No. 12, WEST: 13' ft Common Passage.</p>	<p><b>Rs.</b> <b>48,09,773.61</b> as detailed below as on 10/01/2026 + Interest + All other charges payable till the receipt of payment</p>
4	<p><b>To,</b> <b>CHAKRAVARTHI GUJGUU (APPLICANT)</b> Flat No 103, 1st Floor M P K Residency, Nr ICOMM, East Gandhi Nagar, Nagaram, Hyderabad - 500062</p> <p><b>CHAKRAVARTHI GUJGUU</b> South Central Railway, Sr DME, DSI - Mouali, Hyderabad - 500040, Mob: 9550258367</p> <p><b>CHAKRAVARTHI GUJGUU</b> Plot No 9 Part, Arundhati Enclave, Kundanpally Village, Dammaiguda Municipality, Keesara Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District - 501301</p> <p><b>PADMAVATI GUJGUU (CO-APPLICANT)</b> Flat No 103, 1st Floor M P K Residency, Nr ICOMM, East Gandhi Nagar, Nagaram, Hyderabad - 500062</p> <p><b>PADMAVATI GUJGUU</b> Plot No 9 Part, Arundhati Enclave, Kundanpally Village, Dammaiguda Municipality, Keesara Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District - 501301</p> <p><b>A/C No: 710600011584</b> <b>DN Dated: 12-01-2026</b></p>	<p><b>SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY</b> All that the Residential Independent House on Plot bearing No.9 Part, admeasuring 135.0 Sq. yards or 112.86 Sq. meters, with a plinth area of 2200 Sft, Ground Floor 1100 Sft., and First Floor 1100 Sft., in R.C.C., in Survey No.159 Part of "ARUNDHATI ENCLAVE", Situated at KUNDANPALLY Village, Under Dammaiguda Municipality, Keesara Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District, and bounded by: Ward 10010, NORTH: 40' WIDE ROAD, SOUTH: PLOT NO. 9 PART AND 40' WIDE ROAD, EAST: PLOT NO.9 PART, WEST: PLOT NO.8 PART.</p>	<p><b>Rs.</b> <b>66,32,818.11</b> as detailed below as on 10/01/2026 + Interest + All other charges payable till the receipt of payment.</p>
5	<p><b>To,</b> <b>KARRI KISHOR KUMAR (APPLICANT)</b> H.No. 5-5-81, Sri Nivasam, HAL Colony Nagar, Kukatpally, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500072</p> <p><b>KARRI KISHOR KUMAR, P Manoharal &amp; Sons Pvt Ltd</b> Madhapur, Hyderabad - 500081., Mob: 95851159851 8074527818</p> <p><b>KARRI KISHOR KUMAR</b> Flat No. 301, Venkatadri Nilayam, H.No.4-42-976/I/P-165, Paparayudhi Nagar, Kukatpally, Hyderabad - 500072</p> <p><b>SWATI KARRI (CO-APPLICANT)</b> H.No. 5-5-81, Sri Nivasam, HAL Colony Nagar, Kukatpally, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500072</p> <p><b>SWATI KARRI</b> Flat No.301, Venkatadri Nilayam, H.No.4-42-976/I/P-165, Paparayudhi Nagar, Kukatpally, Hyderabad - 500072</p> <p><b>A/C No: 700104000848</b> <b>DN Dated: 12-01-2026</b></p>	<p><b>SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY</b> All that the Flat bearing No. 301 (in Third Floor) of "VENKATADRI NILAYAM", with built up area of 1450.0 Sq.ft (Including common area) and One Car Parking area 80.0 Sq. feet, together with an Undivided share of land admeasuring 40.0 sq.yards (Out of 200.0 Sq.yards), being constructed House bearing Nos. 4-42-976/I/P-165 &amp; 4-42-976/11/P-165, PTIN Nos. 1240401889 &amp; 1240402089, on Plot Nos. 165 &amp; 165/1, in Survey Nos. 491 &amp; 492, Situated at Paparayudhi Nagar, KUKATPALLY VILLAGE, and under GHMC Kukatpally Circle, Kukatpally Mandal, Medchal Malkajgiri District, Telangana State, and bounded by: BOUNDARIES FOR ENTIRE LANDBUILDING: EAST: PLOT NO. 164, SOUTH: PLOT NO. 166, EAST: HOUSE ON PLOT NO. 174, WEST: 40' WIDE ROAD, BOUNDARIES FOR FLAT NO. 301 IN THIRD FLOOR: NORTH: OPEN TO SKY, SOUTH: OPEN TO SKY, EAST: CORRIDOR, STAIRCASE &amp; LIFT, WEST: OPEN TO SKY.</p>	<p><b>Rs.</b> <b>81,51,812.99</b> as detailed below as on 10/01/2026 + Interest + All other charges payable till the receipt of payment</p>
6	<p><b>To,</b> <b>PETHALA RAJESH BABU (APPLICANT)</b> H.No 8-5-544/74/39, Sanjay Nagar, Erragada, Hyderabad - 500018</p> <p><b>PETHALA RAJESH BABU, IPark Info Technologies Pvt Ltd</b> Ramsur Hud Techno Enclave, Hyderabad 500081., Mob: 9700164907</p> <p><b>PETHALA LALITHA</b> H.No 8-5-544/74/39, Sanjay Nagar, Erragada, Hyderabad - 500018</p> <p><b>A/C No: 7001280000883</b> <b>DN Dated: 12-01-2026</b></p>	<p>All that Property on bearing House No 8-4-544/74/38, admeasuring 103.0 Sq. Yds., or 86.52 Sq. Mts., situated at Sanjay Nagar, Erragada, HYDERABAD, A.P within the Registration Dist. of Hyderabad, and Sub-Dist., S.R.O. Khairatabad, HYDERABAD, and BOUNDED BY:- NORTH: No 8-4-544/74/35, SOUTH: 20' Feet Wide Road, EAST: No 8-4-544/74/37, WEST: 20' Feet Wide Road.</p>	<p><b>Rs.</b> <b>39,97,502.66</b> as detailed below as on 10/01/2026 + Interest + All other charges payable till the receipt of payment.</p>

Date : 23-01-2026

Place : Hyderabad

Sd/-

Authorized Officer



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PLEASE  
CONTACT:  
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7330778889**

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Details of the Tender Notices of  
S & S Railway can be seen on our  
website : [www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in)

**Tender Notice no.**  
**CRS-E-09-25-26 dt: 20.01.2026**

DY.CME/CRS/TPTY acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No: mentioned here under closing date as mentioned below up to 11:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

**SI.No. 1, Description of work :** Tender No. CRS-E-09-25-26. Electrical arrangements for Mechanisation of maintenance facilities for LHB Coil Spring overhauling at Carriage Repair Shop, Tirupati. **Approx. Cost (in Rs.):** 34,83,503.51/-. **Bid Security (in Rs.):** 69,700. **Period of completion:** 90 Days. **Date of Closing :** 11.02.2026 at 11.00 Hrs.

**Website particulars :** [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) **Notice Board Location where complete details of tender can be seen :** Office of the Chief Workshop Manager, Carriage Repair Shop, Tirupati.

For further Tender Conditions/details (available in the tender documents) and for downloading of Tender Document, Corrigendum, please visit our website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>.

**Asst. Divisional Electrical Engineer  
Carriage Repair Shop/Tirupati**

**E-TENDER NOTICE NO.:**  
**GNT/E/25 & 26/TrD/2025-26**

E-Tenders from the Contractors for the following works are invited by the undersigned up to 15:30 hrs. on 20.02.2026.

**SI. No. 1; Tender Title:** GNT Division- Replacement of composite insulators with porcelain insulators in connection with safety over the division; **Tender Ref. No.:** GNT/E/25/TrD/2025-26, Dt: 22.01.2026. **Approx. value in Rs.:** 40,77,216.00/- **Earnest Money deposit in Rs.:** 81,600/- **Cost of tender form (non-refundable) in Rs.:** NIL;

**SI. No. 2; Tender Title:** GNT NDKD: Construction of 2-lane ROB in lieu of LC No. 06 at KM 9/13-14 in Nallapadu-Bandarupalli stations and Construction of 2-lane ROB in lieu of LC No. 40 at KM 42/29-30 between Sattenapalli-Reddigudem stations-25Kv OHE modification works; **Tender Ref. No.:** GNT/E/26/TrD/2025-26, Dt: 22.01.2026. **Approx. value in Rs.:** 44,00,229.59/- **Earnest Money deposit in Rs.:** 88,100/- **Cost of tender form (non-refundable) in Rs.:** NIL;

**Last Date and time for online submission of E-bids:** 20.02.2026 up to 15:30 hours.

If the due date of tender opening is declared as holiday at a later date the tenders will be opened on the next working day. For any detailed information log on to website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) on or after 23.01.2026 up to 15:30 hrs. on 20.02.2026. Any further Communication/Corrigendum shall only be intimated through E-portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).

**Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/  
TD/Guntur**

**TENDER NOTICE No. 05 to  
04\_DRM\_W\_HYB\_26 dt. 23.01.2026**

On behalf of the President of India, E- Tendering Division, Hyderabad Division, South Central Railway, Secunderabad invites Open Tenders for the following works through e-procurement up to 15:00 hours of 16.02.2026.

**Tender No.:** 02\_DRM\_W\_HYB\_26 **Name of the work :** HYB Division: SC-DHNE Section: Miscellaneous/Letterwork Works of New section (DKC-KSN). **Approx Value:** Rs. 3,61,90,722. **EMD:** Rs. 3,31,000

**Tender No.:** 03\_DRM\_W\_HYB\_26 **Name of the work :** Hyderabad division: Secunderabad-Dhane Section: (1) SSE/Pway/KCG Jurisdiction: Proposed safety related Yard improvement & up gradation works at various yards (2) SSE/Pway/SHNR Jurisdiction: Proposed safety related Yard improvement & up gradation works at various yards, **Approx Value:** Rs. 11,57,64,603. **EMD:** Rs. 7,28,800

**Tender No.:** 04\_DRM\_W\_HYB\_26 **Name of the work :** HYB Div : SC-DHNE Section: Provision of COP at AJKRT for a length of 255m on PF No.1 and for a length of 160m on PF No. 2/3. **Approx Value:** Rs. 7,91,35,587. **EMD:** Rs. 5,45,700

For further details visit the website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

**Divisional Railway Manager/Works/  
Hyderabad**

**TENDER NOTICE No. LGD/L/19/  
2025-26-OT Date: 23.01.2026**

Dy. CEEL/GDs acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No LGD/L/19/2025-26/OT - E-TENDER- closing date 18.02.2026 at 15:00 hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards earnest money (Bid Security) shall be deposited either in cash through e-payment gateway or submitted as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents. The Bank Guarantee bond shall be as per Annexure-VIA and shall be valid for a period of 60 days beyond the bid validity period. The original Bank Guarantee should be delivered in person to the official nominated as indicated in the tender document within 5 working days of deadline of submission of bids. Non submission of scanned copy of B.G. with the bid on e-tendering portal (IREPS) and/or non-submission of original B.G. within the specified period shall lead to summary rejection of bid.

**SI.No. 1, Tender No.:** LGD/L/19/2025-26/OT, **Description of work :** Development of cloud-based data management system for integration of electrical assets with IR-NIY ANTRAC web portal led by CRIS for Pump Automation, Provision of RECDs for DG sets and Provision of VVVF drives for EOT cranes, Machines & Traversers etc., at CWSLGD. **Advised value:** Rs. 1,35,56,148/- (One Crore Thirty Five Lakhs Sixty Six Thousand Nine Hundred and Two Only). **Bid Security:** Rs. 2,17,800/- **Period of completion:** 12 Months from the date of issue of letter of acceptance. **Date of Closing:** 18.02.2026 at 15.00 hrs.

**Website particulars :** [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) **Notice Board Location where complete details of tender can be seen :** Office of the Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, Carriage Workshop, Lallaguda, Secunderabad-500017

For further Tender conditions/details (available in the tender documents) and for downloading of tender documents, corrigendum, please visit our website <http://www.ireps.gov.in/>.

**Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, Carriage Workshop, Lallaguda, Secunderabad**

## CCS police provided fifty thousand masks

WARANGAL, January 24, TSIT : Warangal Police Commissioner Sunpreet Singh handed over 50,000 masks collected CCS in collaboration with Warangal District Central Drugs Warehouse Department for police officers and staff who are going to perform duties on the occasion of Medaram Sammakka Saralamma Jatara which will start next week. On this occasion, the CP said that the police officers who are mainly performing their duties on the road should take the initiative to wear masks properly. In this programme DCP Kavitha, Ankit Kumar, Additional



DCPs Balaswamy, Prabhakar Rao, Warangal District Central Drugs in-charge Dr. Bhaskar Rao, ACPs Sadaiah, John Narsimhulu, Surendra, Prashanth Reddy, Satyanarayana, CCS, Parvatigiri Inspectors Raghavender and Rajagopal DCP Kavitha, Ankit Kumar, Additional

## Price Caps – Beyond Airlines

The Government's recent decision to cap air-line fares has been widely appreciated. Air travel had become unpredictable and often prohibitively expensive, especially during peak seasons or emergencies, whereby the prices soared up by 30 to 35%. A regulated ceiling is a relief to passengers and promotes fair pricing. However, this move also triggers a larger and more important question: if price control is possible in aviation a sector used by a relatively smaller, more financially comfortable population — why not extend similar protection to essential sectors that affect every household in India? Healthcare, education and basic fuels like LPG and petrol; they are not luxuries; they are fundamental needs. They need to be affordable to all.

According to a recent report, healthcare costs in India are expected to rise by 13% in 2025, outpacing the global average of 10%. This surge is driven not only by increased hospitalisation rates but the random prescription of advanced (and expensive) treatments. Hospitals, especially private ones, have increasingly become unaffordable for the common man. A serious illness or surgery can financially devastate an entire family, often forcing people into debt or selling assets. In moments of distress, patients and families are left with no bargaining power — turning healthcare into a market where life-saving treatment is sometimes treated like a monetizable commodity. A transparent price band for common procedures, diagnostics, consumables and room rent could prevent exploitation and make healthcare more humane. Education takes a similar story. According to a recent 2025 survey, fees in urban private schools have risen by over 169% in the last decade in India. Many middle-class families now spend between 1.5 lakh to 5 lakh per year per child (including tuition, transport, uniforms, and miscellaneous costs) and it consumes a substantial portion of household income, with some families spending 40-80% of their annual income on education. Every parent dreams of quality schooling for their children, but skyrocketing tuition fees, development charges, transport costs and miscellaneous additions are pushing education further out of reach. The commercialization of learning has turned schools and colleges into high-margin enterprises. If the aim of national development is to build an educated generation, shouldn't affordability be as much a priority as infrastructure or curriculum? A regulated fee framework or at least a ceiling on annual fee hikes can protect parents from unexpected burdens without restricting private institutions from growing responsibly.

The same logic extends to essential fuels. LPG cylinders and petrol prices impact daily living — from cooking at home to transport costs to the price of vegetables and groceries. As of December 2025, a 14.2 kg domestic LPG cylinder costs more than Rs. 850/-. Petrol in many major cities is above 100 per litre; for instance, in Hyderabad, recent rates were 107.46 per litre. When fuel rises, everything else rises with it. Unlike flights that people can choose to take or avoid, LPG and petrol form a part of every Indian household's monthly survival budget. Price stability here can directly improve household financial security and indirectly control inflation. This is not an argument against private enterprise or free markets. Reasonable profits are necessary for growth and service quality. But essential sectors need guardrails — just as we regulate medicines, electricity and water tariffs. A balance must be struck between fair revenue for providers and affordability for citizens. Price caps or regulatory bands, transparent billing norms, periodic audits and grievance redressal mechanisms can protect the public without stifling service quality. The airfare cap proves one thing: when the government decides to act, price regulation is possible. Now the attention must shift to sectors that touch the lives of the poor, middle class and rich alike. If we can protect passengers, we should be able to protect patients, students and families struggling with monthly fuel bills.

A Simple Roadmap to Govt.

1. Healthcare — Impose regulated price bands (or at least ceiling rates) for common procedures, hospital room rents, diagnostics; enforce transparent billing and caps for emergency care.
2. Education — Regulate annual fee increases, mandate limit on miscellaneous/hidden charges, ensure transparent breakup of tuition, transport, books and extras.
3. Fuel (LPG/Petrol) — For domestic-use LPG, explore subsidies or price stabilization; for petrol, explore differential taxes on luxury vs basic use or incentivise alternate energy/fuel-efficient transport.
4. Periodic Review & Oversight — constitute a regulatory authority to monitor inflation in essential sectors, revise ceilings periodically, and ensure compliance.

A country progresses not just by connecting cities through cheaper flights, but by ensuring that no child is denied education, no patient fears entering a hospital, and no family dreads the next LPG refill. Expanding price oversight to essential services is not merely an economic decision — it is a social commitment.

Name: DILIP KUMAR

Occupation: Government employee – Inspector, Telangana State Police  
Qualification: B.Sc., MBA, LL.M

# Telangana

## Harish Rao's Singareni Letter Political Drama, Says Dr Rekha Boyalapalli

Hyderabad: Telangana Pradesh Mahila Congress Vice President Dr Rekha Boyalapalli on Saturday strongly criticised BRS leader Harish Rao for writing a letter to Union Coal Minister G Kishan Reddy and making public statements on Singareni coal mine tenders, calling it a “political drama” aimed at misleading people and diverting attention from alleged irregularities during the BRS regime.

Dr Rekha said that after “14 years of turning Singareni



into a political contractors' ATM,” the BRS leadership speaking about morality and scams reflects “hypocrisy of

the highest order.” She alleged that during the BRS rule, Singareni was marred by irregularities in coal block allocations, manipulation of overburden tenders, a flourishing political contractor system, and an institutionalised commission culture.

“These are well-known facts that the people of Telangana have not forgotten,” she stated.

She accused the BRS leadership of being unable to accept the transparent tendering system introduced by the

Congress government and therefore resorting to baseless allegations driven by political desperation. According to her, the introduction of transparent procedures, including the Site Visit Certificate system, has ended the earlier “loot-based” tender culture.

Dr Rekha demanded that Harish Rao answer the people of Telangana regarding coal mine transactions during the BRS tenure, contracts awarded under his government, and responsibility for Singareni's financial losses.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA DISTRICT COLLECTOR, HANUMAKONDA REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																							
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# MGM Seven Hills Conducts BLS Training to Raise Cardiac Emergency Awareness

Vizag, 24 January 2026: As part of a landmark public health and community preparedness initiative by MGM Healthcare Group, MGM Healthcare Seven Hills, rolled out a city wide Basic Life Support (BLS) training programme across the city totalling 77 locations across Vizag, Chennai, Madurai to commemorate the 77th Republic Day 2026 and subsequently felicitated the trainers who played a pivotal role in delivering one of the largest coordinated community life-saving initiatives, empowering citizens with critical first-response skills and reinforcing a culture of emergency preparedness across communities.

As India witness an alarming rise in sudden cardiac arrests, including among younger adults. Recent data indicate that over 25% of heart attacks occur in individuals under 40, while 15-20% of sudden cardiac arrest cases affect those below 50, signalling a serious and growing public health concern. With bystander

CPR rates remaining critically low, MGM Healthcare's initiative focused on bridging the critical gap between the

■ The Republic Day initiative saw Basic Life Support training conducted simultaneously across 77 locations, engaging citizens from diverse age groups and backgrounds in a single-day, large-scale public health effort.



gently and timely medical intervention. "One Nation. One Skill. Infinite Lives.", the MGM

Healthcare flagship CSR initiative, successfully trained 770+ citizens in a single day across cities, making it one of the largest coordinated Basic Life Support (BLS) training efforts conducted in the city and beyond. The programme covered CPR, choking response and AED awareness, with hands-on demonstrations delivered by certified clinicians and trainers from MGM Healthcare.

The training sessions were conducted across public spaces, educational institutions, corporate parks and communities in Vizag and select outstation districts. The participants received the certificate of completion at the end of the training session.

As part of the initiative, MGM Healthcare also undertook an attempt to enter the Limca Book of Records for conducting BLS training sessions across the maximum number of locations in a single day. Speaking on the initiative, Dr Raghavendra, Deputy Medical Superintendent,

MGM SevenHills Hospital said, "Every minute matters in a medical emergency. Through this Republic Day initiative, we aimed to ensure that citizens across communities gain the confidence and skills needed to act decisively and save lives before medical help arrives."

Commenting on the occasion, Dr Giri Babu Nadella, Chief Operating Officer, MGM SevenHills Hospital added, "Through sustained Basic Life Support training, MGM Healthcare is committed to building a culture of preparedness and resilience where every citizen is empowered to act as a first responder. Saving a life is not just a medical skill, but a shared civic responsibility, and by training communities at scale, we are strengthening India's emergency preparedness beyond hospital walls." This initiative has reinforced its commitment by extending care beyond hospital walls and fostering sustained public health awareness through continued community engagement.

## Vote for Good, Ensure Development: Congress Leaders Reaffirm Commitment to Shadnagar



R A N G A R E D D Y :Shadnagar MLA and State Government Public Sector Undertakings Chairman Veerlapalli Shankar, along with former Shadnagar MLA Chowlapalli Pratap Reddy, asserted that there would be no shortage of funds for the development of Shadnagar and pledged to build the municipality into a model town through transparent and people-oriented governance. Speaking at a media conference at Eden Plaza on Saturday, the leaders appealed to voters to support good candidates and uphold values in the upcoming municipal elections. Veerlapalli Shankar said his two-year tenure has focused on corruption-free administration, public welfare, and inclusive development. He stated that no commissions were taken, no illegal activities were encouraged, and no homes were demolished under the guise of municipal actions. Urging people

to compare the past decade of governance with his two years, he said visible improvements in infrastructure and civic amenities reflect the change. He added that Rs.1,350 crore in development funds were brought to the constituency in two years, including Rs.88 crore in the first phase, Rs.18 crore in the second, and nearly Rs.25 crore in the third phase for municipal works, with efforts underway to secure additional funds. Marking the completion of two years in office, Veerlapalli Shankar led a massive Congress rally in Shadnagar, which drew thousands of party workers and leaders from across the constituency. He said the public response strengthened his resolve to further accelerate welfare and development initiatives, while reiterating that he holds no political vendettas and considers people's issues as his own. Former MLA

Chowlapalli Pratap Reddy described the mobilization of Rs.1,350 crore as a significant achievement and said the Congress government is prepared to sanction any required funds for Shadnagar's progress. He said the town is set to witness rapid development across sectors within a year, with special emphasis on education, healthcare, and urban infrastructure.

Detailing key projects, he said an Integrated College and stadiums are being developed at the mandal headquarters with an investment of Rs.250 crore. He also announced the six-lane expansion of the road from the main junction towards Pargi at a cost of Rs.6 crore and plans to develop the Shadnagar main junction into a grand traffic circle, with works to begin soon after the municipal elections.

On ticket distribution, Veerlapalli Shankar clarified that Congress candidates would be selected through ward-level committees and surveys, based on public recognition and service, without any individual interference. He assured that those not receiving tickets would be accommodated in party or nominated posts. Chowlapalli Pratap Reddy urged voters to support Congress candidates to ensure continuity of development.

## GITAM Hyderabad hosts guest lecture on AI essentials



Hyderabad: The Department of Mathematics and Statistics, School of Science, GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, organized a guest lecture on "AI Essentials to Learn, Build, and Apply", delivered by Praveen Kumar, Senior Data Scientist and AI Lead at Amgen India.

With over 14 years of industry experience in data science, analytics, and artificial intelligence, Praveen Kumar provided students with practical insights into learning, building, and applying AI solutions in real-world scenarios. His lecture focused on industry expectations, healthcare-driven AI applications, and emerging trends in Generative AI, offering a comprehensive view of present and future opportunities in the AI domain.

The session saw enthusiastic participation from around 300 students, including M.Sc. Data Science students from

GITAM and other institutions, along with faculty members and the Hyderabad campus admissions team. The interactive discussion motivated students to explore career pathways in AI and data science while understanding the importance of industry-relevant skills.

The event was graced by Prof. Naidu and Principal Dr. Motahar Reza, who emphasized GITAM's commitment to fostering strong industry-academia collaboration. The programme was organized by Dr. D. Mallikarjuna Reddy, Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, who introduced the guest speaker.

The lecture concluded with an engaging interaction and a vote of thanks, marking it as a significant step toward enhancing industry exposure and academic excellence at the GITAM Hyderabad campus.

## Vasanth Panchami celebrated with grandeur at Pallavi International School, Nanajipur



Nanajipur: Vasanth Panchami celebrations were held in a grand and vibrant manner at the newly established Pallavi International School, Nanajipur branch. The festive event reflected cultural richness and the institution's commitment to value-based education.

On the occasion, the school management comprising Mr. Narayana Murthy, Mrs. Annapurna, Ms. Manasa, along with team members Mr. Kishore, Mrs. Anuradha, and Mr. Ramakrishna, extended a warm welcome to the chief guest, Mr.

Gaddam Shekhar Yadav, Sarpanch of Narkuda village and President of the Shamsabad Mandal Congress Party.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Gaddam Shekhar Yadav emphasized that "education is not a business but a noble social service." He stated that education enlightens human life and is the greatest wealth one can possess. He highlighted that quality education forms the foundation of a strong society and nation, and urged students to pursue learning with discipline, values, and humanity, growing into responsible

ble and ethical citizens.

The programme was attended by several dignitaries including Sarpanchs Mr. Kotes Goud, Mr. Prabhakar Goud, and Mr. Ram Gopal; Vice-Sarpanchs Mr. Neerati Mahesh, Mr. Shiva, and Mr. Ramakrishna; along with ward members, village leaders, teachers, and students.

A large number of participants took part in the celebrations, making the Vasanth Panchami event a memorable and grand success at Pallavi International School, Nanajipur.

## Jagga Reddy Oversees Demolition for Sangareddy Bypass Road Expansion

Hyderabad : Sangareddy Bypass Road expansion works are progressing at a rapid pace for the past two days. On Saturday evening, senior leader Jagga Reddy personally supervised the road widening works as part of the project aimed at improving public convenience and easing traffic congestion.



Jagga Reddy informed that a proposal was submitted to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy seeking funds for widening the bypass road stretch from the R&B Guest House to the Basaveshwara statue. Responding positively, the Chief Minister sanctioned 12 crore for the project, following which the works were taken up. As part of the road expansion, Jagga Reddy personally oversaw the demolition of the R&B compound wall and the RDO residence, stating that the demolitions were carried out solely in the interest

of the public. He clarified that only government-owned structures are being removed for the widening works and that no private properties will be affected. Once completed, the expanded bypass road is expected to greatly benefit residents of Prashant Nagar, Indira Colony, Vijay Nagar Colony, Drivers Association Colony, Balaji Nagar Colony, Revenue Colony, Bankers Colony, Ayyappa Colony, and Ordinance Factory Colony. The project will also help ease traffic for

commuters travelling from the new bus stand via the IB road towards Basaveshwara Chowrasta, Kondapur, and Sadashivpet. Officials from HMDA, the Municipal Department, and the Electricity Department were present during the inspection. PCC General Secretary Thopaji Ananth Kishan and leaders Bongula Ravi, Raghu Goud, George, Kona Santosh, Kiran Goud, Shanti, and others also participated in the programme.

## India-UK unite at SRM University-AP to tackle antimicrobial resistance

Amaravati: SRM University-AP hosted a three-day India-UK AMR Network Meeting, bringing together researchers, scientists, clinicians, veterinarians, and public health experts from India and the UK to strengthen bilateral collaboration on antimicrobial resistance (AMR), microbiome research, and joint scientific initiatives.



The interactive panel featured eminent experts including Dr Suparna Mitra and Dr Mahua Das from the University of Leeds (UK); Prof. Ashwini Kumar Thakur and Dr Saravanan Matheswaran from IIT Kanpur; Dr Somasri Dam (University of Burdwan); Dr S Shobana (SRMIST, Chennai); Dr Abhrajyoti Ghosh and Prof. Zhumur Ghosh (Bose Institute, Kolkata); Dr Mayilvahanan Bose (Cancer Institute, Chennai); Prof. Rajib Dasgupta (JNU); Dr Asifa Qureshi (CSIR); Dr Krupali Patel (O.P. Jindal Global University); Dr Manikandan Madheslu (Sri Krishna College of Arts and Sciences, Tamil Nadu); Prof. Jayaseelan Murugaiyan, Prof. Anand Kumar (NTR College of Veterinary Sciences, Andhra Pradesh) and Dr Prasun Goswami from SRM University-AP. The meeting was conducted

in hybrid mode with participation from post-doctoral researchers and research scholars. Experts from diverse domains including microbiome metagenomics, AMR genomics, community and public health, pharmaceuticals, phage engineering, social medicine, food microbiome, and animal health engaged in in-depth discussions on cutting-edge national and international research initiatives.

The panel stressed the need to expand community-level AMR surveillance by integrating human, animal, and environmental sampling, including livestock and wastewater. Participants highlighted gaps in community-level AMR data due to limited awareness and infrastructure, and underlined the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration across India. Funding opportunities from India and the UK under the One Health frame-

work were also discussed. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ch. Satish Kumar lauded the initiative, emphasizing the role of community engagement, awareness, and systematic data collection in effectively addressing AMR as a critical public health challenge.

Prof. Jayaseelan Murugaiyan, Associate Dean (SEAS) and Head, Department of Biological Sciences, SRM University-AP, said the meeting reaffirmed the university's commitment to addressing the global AMR crisis by translating scientific insights into impactful actions and policies. The India-UK AMR Network aims to move beyond clinical settings to focus on healthy populations, generating evidence to inform national and global AMR strategies, capacity building, and equitable public health solutions through sustained international collaboration.

## FROM RIGHTS TO RESPONSIBILITIES: THE CONSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE OF CIVIC CONDUCT



BY PVS SAILAJA

We, the people, bear a constitutional and moral duty to future generations; our present conduct forms the precedent upon which their history shall stand. "The Constitution of India is far more than a legal document defining powers and limitations of the State. It is a dynamic moral and legal charter that binds both the State and its citizens in a shared democratic responsibility. While the Constitution guarantees a wide spectrum of fundamental rights, it simultaneously expects citizens to uphold civic values and responsibilities that sustain constitutional democracy. Rights and responsibilities are not parallel ideas but interdependent pillars, without which democratic governance cannot endure.

The Preamble of the Constitution, declared by the Supreme Court in S.R. Bommai v. Union of India (1994) as part of the basic structure, serves as the guiding compass of civic conduct. It enshrines justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity as foundational ideals of the Republic. These principles do not merely bestow entitlements;

they impose moral and civic obligations on citizens to preserve national unity, social harmony, and constitutional culture. A democracy thrives not merely on legal enforcement but on the voluntary adherence of citizens to these core values.

Civic responsibility finds explicit constitutional recognition under Article 51A, introduced by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment, 1976. The Fundamental Duties require every citizen to respect the Constitution, uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India, promote harmony, protect the environment, safeguard public property, and develop scientific temper and humanism. Though non-justiciable, the judiciary has consistently emphasized their normative importance. In *AIIMS Students' Union v. AIIMS* (2001) and *Rangnath Mishra v. Union of India* (2003), the Supreme Court held that Fundamental Duties act as interpretive tools while assessing the reasonableness of State action and reaffirm that rights and duties are inseparable.

Environmental responsibility has emerged as a significant constitutional duty. In *State of Gujarat v. Mirzapur Moti Kureshi Kassab Jamat* (2005), the Supreme Court directly relied on Article 51A(g) to uphold restrictions aimed at protecting animal life. Landmark decisions such as *Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v. Union of India* (1996) introduced the "Precautionary

Principle" and "Polluter Pays Principle," firmly embedding environmental stewardship within constitutional jurisprudence. The expansive M.C. Mehta series reaffirmed that every citizen has a duty to protect the environment, covering issues from air pollution and industrial safety to river conservation and heritage protection.

Judicial pronouncements have repeatedly underscored that civic responsibility is integral to the meaningful exercise of fundamental rights. In *Amit Sahni v. Commissioner of Police* (2020), popularly known as the Shaheen Bagh case, the Supreme Court held that the right to protest cannot extend to indefinite occupation of public spaces, emphasizing that civil liberties carry corresponding duties to maintain public order. Similarly, in *Shreya Singhal v. Union of India* (2015), while striking down Section 66A of the IT Act, the Court reiterated that freedom of speech must be exercised responsibly to prevent misuse and social disruption.

In the digital age, civic responsibility has expanded to include ethical online conduct. In *Facebook India v. Delhi Legislative Assembly* (2021), the Court highlighted that digital platforms and users must act responsibly, recognizing the power of online speech to inflame communal tensions. Proposed data protection laws and debates on artificial intelligence governance further indicate that digital ethics

and cyber responsibility are now constitutional necessities aligned with the right to dignity and equality under Article 21. Democratic governance also rests heavily on responsible civic participation. In *Resurgence India v. Election Commission* (2014), the Supreme Court stressed the duty of citizens to participate responsibly in elections and maintain the integrity of electoral processes. The introduction of NOTA in *PUCI v. Union of India* (2013) reinforced ethical voting and democratic accountability. Concerns over declining voter turnout in urban areas have renewed calls for civic education, voter awareness, and inclusion of constitutional values in school curricula.

Civic responsibility is equally vital in maintaining federal harmony. In *Government of NCT of Delhi v. Union of India* (2023-24), the Supreme Court emphasized constitutional morality and cooperative federalism, noting that citizens share responsibility in upholding unity beyond political or regional affiliations. Social justice is another critical dimension of civic responsibility. Landmark judgments such as *Vishaka v. State of Rajasthan* (1997), *Naz Foundation v. NCT of Delhi* (2009), *Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India* (2018), and *Joseph Shine v. Union of India* (2018) demonstrate that constitutional values require active citizen participation in eliminating discrimination, upholding gender equality, and fostering inclusive environments.



AIIMS Mangalagiri record 31.1 lakh out patitents consultations during 8years

Mangalagiri, January. 24(TSIT) All India Institute of Medical Sciences,(AIIMS) marking eight years of steady progress in healthcare delivery, medical education, and research. Today its 8years found day the programme was graced by Satya Kumar Yadav, Minister for Health, Family Welfare and Medical Education, Government of Andhra Pradesh, as the Chief Guest. Health Minister, Satya

kumar Yadav in his Address the on the occation of 8 years foundation day celebrations that he complimented the faculty for inculcating discipline, ethics, and strong professional values among young medicos. He congratulated all stakeholders on the eight glorious years of AIIMS Mangalagiri and expressed confidence that the institute will sure be a jewel in the capital of Andhra Pradesh. Recalling his

time in Delhi, he noted that while India had only one AIIMS for several decades, the country today has 26 AIIMS. He also assured to take up and see that the additional 10 acres of land as promised by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Nara Chandra Babu Naidu will be allotted to AIIMS Mangalagiri at the earliest to further strengthen advanced trauma care and emergency services.

**SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED**  
(Formerly Known as Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited)  
Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No. 14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032.  
Branch Office: D.No. 4-11430/1B, 1ST Floor, Near National Function Hall, DVK Road, Nalgonda-508001

**RULE-8(3) POSSESSION NOTICE**

Note: "It is informed that "SHRIRAM CITY UNION FINANCE LIMITED" has been amalgamated with "SHRIRAM TRANSPORT FINANCE LIMITED" as per order of NCLT, Chennai. Subsequently the name of "SHRIRAM TRANSPORT FINANCE LIMITED" was changed as "SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED" with effect from 30.11.2022 vide Certificate of Incorporation pursuant to change of name dated 30.11.2022." Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of Shriram Finance Limited (SFL) under the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (said Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (said Rules) issued demand notices to the Borrowers details of which are mentioned in the table below to repay the amount mentioned in the said demand notices.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of SFL has been handed over the physical possession of the mortgaged Properties described herein below in pursuance of the order passed by the Hon'ble Chief Judicial Magistrate, at Nalgonda under Section 14 of the said Act and Rules, on this 24th Day of January 2026.

Borrower Name and Address	Amount due as per Demand Notice
(1) Ananthula Vijay Kumar S/o. Salaiah Ananthula, Aged About: 49 Years, Occ: Business, R/o. H.No: 3-10, Aregudem Village, Choutuppal Mandal, Nalgonda District, Pincode: 508252, Cell No: 9985022937. (2) Santoshi Anathula W/o. Vijay Kumar Ananthula, Aged About: 36 Years, Occ: House Wife, R/o. H.No: 3-10, Aregudem Village, Choutuppal Mandal, Nalgonda District, Pincode: 508252, Cell No: 9984272649. (3) Mahender Ananthula S/o. Salaiah Ananthula, Aged About: 51 Years, Occ: Business, R/o. H.No: 6-8-119/1, Vivekanda Nagar, Nalgonda District, Pincode: 508001, Cell No: 9912089448.	To pay Rs. 63,92,545/- (Rupees Sixty Three Laks Ninety Two Thousand Five Hundred Forty Five only), with further interest if any under reference of Loan A/c No. NLG02TF230320003

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:** Property Holder Name: Ananthula Vijay Kumar With Document No: 5147/2013. Ananthula Vijay Kumar S/o. Salaiah Ananthula, Open House Plot No. 13, Within Sy. No. 467, Inside Residential Zone, Measuring 360.00 Sq.Yards = 301.00 Sq.Mtrs, Situated at Newly Development Area, Cherlapally Village, Mandal and District, Now with in the Municipal Limits of Nalgonda Town and District. Document No: 5147 of 2023. Under SRO Nalgonda. bounded on the: North: 30' 0" Wide Road, South: Plot Nos: A, B, C & D, East: 30' Wide Road, West: Plot No. 12.

This notice is also hereby to caution the general public at large that the authorized officer of SFL is in the lawful Physical Possession of the immovable properties mentioned herein above and the Borrowers or any person shall not after receipt of this notice transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise deal with/alienate any of the above mentioned secured assets referred to in this notice, without prior written consent of SFL.

**Place: Miryalaguda**  
**Date: 24-01-2026**

**Sd/- Authorised Officer,**  
**Shriram Finance Limited**

**LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED**  
201, 2nd Floor, Krishi sapphire, South Block, Sy.No:88, Madhapur,Hyderabad-81.

**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
(Under Rule 8(1) Immovable Property)

WHEREAS, The undersigned being the authorized officer of the LIC Housing Finance Limited, Ameerpet branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice calling upon the following Borrower to repay the amount mentioned against their name with further interest / costs etc. within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

1. Name of the Borrower: **Mr. Manthakoru Sujay Kumar A/c No. 710500016727, 700101000427** Demand Notice Date: 07.11.2025 Outstanding Loan Amount: Rs. 68,11,476.46 as detailed below as on 07/11/2025, + Interest, expenses & costs from 08.11.2025.

**Description of immovable Property :** ALL that the House on Plot No. 1 Eastern Part in Sy No 140u, c, measuring 140 Sq.Yards or 117.04 Sq.Mtrs., (with Plinth Area 706 SFT) situated at SRIHARI ENCLAVE Chengi Charla Village, Under Boduppal Municipi Corporation, Medipally Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District, under SRO Narayapally, and bounded as follows: BOUNDARIES: NORTH: Plot No: 2, SOUTH: 30' Wide Road, EAST: 30' Wide Road, WEST: Plot No: 1 Western Part

**Symbolic Possession taken on 21.01.2026.**

2. Name of the Borrower: **Mr. Pulakaram Sainath, A/c. 710100026832.** Demand Notice Date: 12/08/2025 **Outstanding Loan Amount: Rs. 38,66,035.12** (Rupees Thirty Eight Lakhs Sixty Six Thousand and Thirty Five Rupees Twelve Paise) as on 12.08.2025, + Interest, expenses & costs from 13.08.2025.

**Description of immovable Property:** All that the Residential House Bearing No.2-100/122, on Northern Part of Plot No.122, in Survey No.164, measuring 135 Sq.Yards or 112.8 Sq.Mtrs., (out of 271.00 Sq. Yards or 234.08 Sq. Mtrs.), Situated MACHABOLARAM, within the limits of GHMC, Alwal Circle and Mandi, Medchal-Malkajgiri District., bounded as follows: NORTH: NEIGHBOUR'S LAND, SOUTH: SOUTHERN PART OF PLOT No.122, EAST: 25'-0" Wide Road, WEST: NEIGHBOUR'S HOUSE ON PLOT No.95

**Symbolic Possession taken on 23.01.2026.**

The above borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rule on the above mentioned symbolic possession taken dates. The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the LIC Housing Finance Limited for the amounts mentioned against their names with further interest accrued interest thereon and costs.

**Date: 23-01-2026**  
**Place: Hyderabad**

**Sd/- Authorised Officer,**  
**LIC Housing Finance Limited.**

**# 5-2-183/184, Modi Square, III rd Floor , R.P.Road, Secunderabad - 500 003**

**APPENDIX-IV [Rule -8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE**

WHEREAS, The Authorized Officer of the Axis Bank Ltd (Formerly known as UTI Bank Ltd.), having its Registered Office: "TRISHUL", Opposite Samaratheswar Temple, Near Law Garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad- 380006, among other places its Branch office atAxis Bank Ltd., Retail/Asset Centre, D.No.5-2-183/184, 3rd Floor, R.P. Road, Secunderabad Branch, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest(Enforcement) Rules,2002 issued a Demand Notice under Section 13(2)of SARFAESI Act on calling upon the borrower/ guarantors / Mortgagors:

Name of the applicant/ co-applicant guarantors and address	Liability in Rs	Properties Offered Equitable Mortgage And Date Of Possession
1. <b>M/S. Sri Rama Filing Station (Applicant), Rep. By Its Proprietor: Mr. Ramakrishna M, Sy.No.15/12, Balakrishapur, Almakur, Wanaparthi, Almakur, Mahabubnagar, Telangana - 509131. 2. Mr. M. Ramakrishna, S/o. M. Anjaneyulu, H.No: 15-2/92/A, Near Hanuman Temple, Bandameedipally, Mahabub-nagar, Mahabubnagar (Rural), Telangana - 509001. 3. Mrs. Manilika Lokamma (Guarantor), W/o. M. Anjaneyulu, H.No: 15-2/92/A, Near Hanuman Temple, Bandameedipally, Mahabub-nagar, Mahabubnagar (Rural), Telangana - 509001.</b>	<b>Rs. 71,30,134.78/-</b> (Rupees Seventy One Lakh Thirty Thousand One Hundred Thirty Four and Seventy Eight Paise Only) costs and other consequences, damages etc., including the expenses	All that the Part and Parcel of the constructed the House i.e. Door No. 15-2-79/2A, over the Plot No. 11 Ext. 320-83 Sq.yards in Sy. No. 612 Situated at B and a m e e d i p a l l y H o M a h a b u b n a g a r S h i v a r a j a n d a m e e d i p a l l y G. P. M a h a b u b n a g a m a n d a l, Mahabubnagar Dist., standing in the name of Smt. L o k a m m a W o / o. M. Anjaneyulu vide Doc No. 2893/2006 and bounded by: Boundaries: East: 25'-0" Road, West: Plot No. 12 & 13, North: 20'-0" Road, South: Plot No.10.
2. <b>M/S. Furion Analytics Research And Consulting LLP Rep By Its Partner: Mrs. Ammini Tara Kumari, IOC Petrol Bunk First Floor, Plot No.9, Unit No.01, 01, Cyber Pearl Mindspace, Madhapur Road, Madhapur, Hyderabad, Rangareddy, Telangana - 500081. 2. Mr. Japa Venkateshwar Reddy, S/o. Japa Prashanth Reddy, H.No. 5-73/6/5, Timmapur Mandal, Alagunur, Karimnagar, Telangana -505527. <b>Also, At: Mr. Japa Venkateshwar Reddy, S/o. Japa Prashanth Reddy, Villa No. 19, Manjeera Purple Town, Gopannpally, Diamond Tower, Nallagandla, Rangareddy, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500019.</b></b>	<b>Rs. 90,71,733.83/-</b> due under Loan A/c No. 9220300475099842, as on 05-06-2025 this amount includes interest applied till date required being the amounts due on termination of the agreements together with further unapplied interest at contractual rate of interest, with future interest, costs and other consequences, damages etc., including the expenses	<b>SCHEDULE IMMOVABLE ASSETS</b> All that the part and parcel of the property comprising of H.No. 5-73/6/5, Assessment No. 11 0 2 1 0 1 2 7 7, measuring 402.25 Sq. yards, in Survey No. 440/A, situated at Alagunur, Timmapur Mandal Jagtilya District, Telangana standing in the name of Mrs. J. BHARATHAMMA W/o Prashanth Reddy and bounded by: North: 25'-0" Wide Road, South: Land Of R. Sharadha, East: Land Of M. Ananthamma And Y. Raji Reddy, West:Vendor's Land.
4. <b>Mrs. Ammini Tara Kumari, W/o. Ammini Janakiram, H.No. 2-13-12/P/1501, Venkata Nagar, Gangaroot Tower, Kakinaada, East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh- 533001. <b>Also, At: Mr. Ammini Chaitanya Kumar, S/o. Ammini Janakiram, 202, Lotus Pond, Apartments, Madhapur, Hyderabad, Rangareddy, Telangana - 500081.</b></b>		
5. <b>Mrs. Japa Bharathamma, W/o. Japa Prashanth Reddy, H.No. 5-73/6/5, Timmapur Mandal, Alagunur, Karimnagar, Telangana -505527.</b>		

**Loan Number: 922030047509942**  
**Demand Notice Dt: 16-07-2025**  
**Date of Possession: 21-01-2026**

**Authorised officer**  
**Axis Bank Ltd**

Shabbir Ali launches Rs.65.80 crore AMRUT 2.0 works in Kamareddy, reiterates commitment to inclusive development



Kamareddy, TSS January 24: Telangana Government Advisor and senior Congress leader Mohammad Ali Shabbir on Saturday laid the foundation stone for developmental works worth 65.80 crore under the AMRUT 2.0 scheme in Kamareddy town. He said the state government was determined to resolve the town's drinking water challenges and improve basic urban infrastructure to meet the needs of its growing population.

Speaking at a public meeting organised on the occasion, Shabbir Ali declared that he is fully committed to Kamareddy's progress and that his politics is rooted in service, honesty, and inclusive growth. "Governments come and go. People are not per-

manent either. But the development we do will remain forever. Only when we respond to people's real needs can we earn a place in history," he said. Emphasising his focus on fair governance, he added, "I have always stayed away from caste and communal politics. There is no room for discrimination in development. My aim is to ensure that its benefits reach all sections equally."

Under the AMRUT 2.0 plan, four new overhead water tanks, each with a capacity of five lakh litres, will be constructed in different parts of the town to address the rising demand for drinking water. The locations include Islampur Colony, Little Scholar School area, Green City Colony, and Drivers Colony. Alongside these works, Shabbir Ali also inaugurated cement concrete road construction projects in Vikas Nagar and Lingapur wards, aimed at improving civic amenities in the region. The launch programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from local public representatives, municipal officials, and residents of Kamareddy.

India in 2026: Democracy, Development and the Defining Test of Governance



By Dr. Jithender Rao Thanugula Senior Journalist

As India moves deeper into 2026, the nation finds itself at a defining crossroads—one where democratic values, economic aspirations, media responsibility, and global leadership intersect. The current affairs landscape of today is not merely a collection of events; it is a mirror reflecting the strengths and stresses of the Indian republic in a rapidly changing world order.

Globally, uncertainty has become the new normal. Economic slow-downs in advanced economies, prolonged geopolitical conflicts, climate-induced disruptions, and the disruptive rise of artificial intelligence have collectively reshaped governance priorities. Against this backdrop, India's role has expanded beyond its borders, placing new responsibilities on policymakers, institutions, and civil society.

India's Economic Narrative: Growth with Questions India continues to be projected as one of the fastest-growing major economies. International agencies, including the IMF and World Bank, have repeatedly acknowledged India's macroeconomic stability, expanding infrastructure, and digital governance reforms. Large-scale investments in highways, railways, renewable energy, and manufactur-

ing have boosted confidence and employment potential. However, beneath these encouraging indicators lie unresolved concerns. Job creation has not kept pace with the aspirations of a young population. Inflation, particularly in essential commodities, has strained middle- and lower-income households. Rural distress, uneven urban development, and the widening gap between economic growth and social equity demand urgent attention. Growth must not be celebrated in isolation. Development becomes meaningful only when it is inclusive, sustainable, and humane. Policymakers must now shift focus from headline numbers to grassroots realities—education quality, healthcare access, farmer security, and youth employability. Davos and the Global Stage: India's Expanding Voice

The World Economic Forum 2026 at Davos once again positioned India as a key global interlocutor. Indian representatives articulated the country's vision on climate action, digital public infrastructure, and global cooperation. India's success with digital platforms such as Aadhaar, UPI, and Direct Benefit Transfers has drawn international attention as a governance model. At the same time, the global order itself is in flux. Traditional alliances are weakening, and multipolarity is gaining ground. India's engagement with the European Union, BRICS nations, ASEAN, and the Global South reflects a strategic balancing act—protecting national interest while advocating multilateralism. India's leadership in forums like BRICS is particularly significant. It provides an opportunity to champion fair trade practices, development financing, and a reformed global governance architecture that gives voice to emerging economies.



Democracy Under the Lens No discussion on current affairs in India can ignore the intense debate surrounding democratic institutions. Questions related to federalism, the independence of constitutional bodies, electoral integrity, and freedom of expression dominate public discourse.

A healthy democracy thrives on dissent, debate, and accountability. Institutions must remain robust, impartial, and transparent. Any perception of institutional erosion weakens public trust and damages India's democratic reputation globally. The judiciary, legislature, executive, and media are pillars of democracy. Their strength lies not in confrontation but in balance. Constructive criticism should not be viewed as opposition, and governance must not become synonymous with control. Media Responsibility in the Digital Age

The media today stands at one of its most challenging junctures. The rise of social media, algorithm-driven narratives, and misinformation has transformed the information ecosystem. Speed has overtaken accuracy,

Democratic education key to equality



Khammam, January 24, TSIT : Scientific and democratic education alone can ensure the creation of an egalitarian society, and students, intellectuals and all sections of people must unite for this cause, said Hyderabad Central University professor P. Lakshminarayana. He alleged that the Narendra Modi government at the Centre and the Revanth Reddy government in Telangana were introducing education reforms aimed at serving corporate and commercial interests, which he said were dangerous for the country's future. Addressing the Telangana State 23rd conference of the Progressive Democratic Students Union (PDSU) held here on Saturday, Prof. Lakshminarayana said social sciences were being deliberately sidelined while market-oriented courses were being promoted, turning education into a business. This trend, he said, was depriving students from poor and economically weaker sections of access to quality education. He criticised the State government for shutting down thousands of government schools in the name of rationalisation and neglecting public educational institutions. He further said the implementation of the National Education Policy-2020 had put India's secular and democratic values at risk. Accusing the Centre of pushing saffronisation in education to create unquestioning minds, he said such policies were against the spirit of the Constitution. He called upon students to embrace progressive ideas and resist the spread of casteist and communal ideologies.

**HINDUJA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED**  
Corporate office at "B167-169", 2nd Floor, Little Mount, Saidapet, Chennai- 600 015.

**APPENDIX -IV [Rule 8(1)] Possession Notice (For Immovable Property)**

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **Hinduja Housing Finance Ltd.,** under the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (ACT NO.54 OF 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice to below mentioned Borrower/s / Guarantor/s. After completion of 60 days from date of receipt of the said notice, The Borrower/s / Guarantor/s having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s / Guarantor/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Physical Possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on them under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this.

Application No. Borrower and Co Borrowers Name and Address	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Total Outstanding amount as on	DATE OF PHYSICAL POSSESSION
1.Pathlavath Rajender Naik, 2. Pathlavath Vijji Bai W/o Rajender Naik Both are R/o H.No. 4-21/1, Renivalla, Maddur Village & Mandal, Narayanpet District. ....Co-Borrower LAN: AP/HDB/MBNR/A000000781	19/02/2024 & Rs.17,17,381/- (Rupees Seventeen Lakhs Seventeen Thousand Three Hundred and Eight One Only)	Total Outstanding as On Date 23/01/2026 Rs. 16,67,630/-	23-01-2026

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY : SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY :** All that the H.No. 4-21/1, Admeasuring 143.97 Sq. Yrds in Survey No. 103B, situated at Renivalla, Maddur Village and Mandal, Narayanpet District and bounded by: North :12 Ft Road ,South plot of Hasan East: Plot of Padma Bai, West: plot of Hiralal

The Borrower/s / Guarantor/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Hinduja Housing Finance Limited, for an above-mentioned demanded amount and further interest thereon

**Place : Mahabubnagar.**  
**Date : 23-01-2026**

**Sd/- Authorised Officer**  
**For Hinduja Housing Finance Limited**

**SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED**  
Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No. 14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032.  
Administrative office: 6th Floor (level 2), Building No. Q2, Aaram Q parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710.

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of Shriram Finance Limited, (Shriram City Union Finance Limited, amalgamated with Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited, subsequently Shriram Transport Company Limited name Changed as Shriram Finance Limited, by its Incorporation Certificate dt. 30-11-2022) a corporate body registered and incorporated as a company under the Indian companies Act 1956, is doing Non-Banking financial activities, having its Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No. 14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600032 and having its administrative office at 6th Floor (level 2), Building No. Q2, Aaram Q Parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710, under the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (said Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (said Rules) issued demand notices to the Borrowers details of which are mentioned in the table below to repay the amount mentioned in the said demand notices.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules, on this **22ND DAY OF JANUARY 2026.**

Borrower Name and Address	Amount due as per Demand Notice
(1) Sengapalli Kanyappa, S/o. Bangaru Swamy, Aged About 39 Years, Occ: Mini Transport Business, R/o. H.No: 1-17, Guttala Begumpet, Madhapur, Serilingampally, Hyderabad Dist., Pin: 500081, Ph: 7075902239. (2) R. Gowri, W/o. Bangaru Swamy, Aged About 62 Years, Occ: House Wife, R/o. H.No: 1-17, Guttala Begumpet, Madhapur, Serilingampally, Hyderabad Dist., Pin: 500081, Ph: 9381437463. (3) R. Raza, S/o. Bangaru Swamy, Aged About 39 Years, Occ: Private Employee, R/o. H.No: 1-17, Guttala Begumpet, Madhapur, Serilingampally, Hyderabad Dist., Pin: 500081, Ph: 9700162163. (4) S. Kumar, S/o. Bangaru Swamy, Aged About 35 Years, Occ: Private Employee, R/o. H.No: 1-17, Guttala Begumpet, Madhapur, Serilingampally, Hyderabad Dist., Pin: 500081, Ph: 9032699747. (5) S. Dinesh, S/o. Bangaru Swamy, Aged About 33 Years, Occ: Private Employee, R/o. H.No: 1-17, Guttala Begumpet, Madhapur, Serilingampally, Hyderabad Dist., Pin: 500081, Ph: 8977448409.	<b>Rs. 20,47,694/- (Rupees Twenty Lakhs Forty Seven Thousand Six Hundred and Ninety Four only)</b>

**.....Borrowers/Co-borrower /Guarantors/Legal heirs**  
**MYPRTF2103220003 - DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY:** All that the House Bearing No. 1-17, (PTIN No. 1129919254) admeasuring 133 Square Yards out of 240 Square Yards Situated at Guttala Begumpet, Old Village, Serilingampally Mandal and Municipality, Ranga Reddy District bounded by: North: 4 feet Common Lane, South: Open Plot of Raju, East: 30' Wide Road, West: House of Renuka.

This notice is also hereby to caution the general public at large that the authorized officer of SFL is in the lawful Symbolic Possession of the immovable property mentioned herein above and the Borrowers or any person shall not after receipt of this notice transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise deal with/alienate any of the above mentioned secured assets referred to in this notice, without prior written consent of SFL.

**Place: Serilingampally (Md), Ranga Reddy (Dt)**  
**Date: 22.01.2026**

**Sd/- Authorised Officer,**  
**Shriram Finance Limited**

**Indian Overseas Bank**  
HANAMKONDA BRANCH (0173)  
(2-5-614, D-Mart Beside Lane,Subedari, Hanamkonda - 506001, Ph: 0870-2501513, E-Mail: iob0173@iob.in)

**PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**

**Sale of immovable properties mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No.54 of 2002)** whereas, the Authorized Officer of **Indian Overseas Bank** has taken possession of the following properties pursuant to the notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 in the following loan account with right to sell the same on **“AS IS WHERE IS BASIS”** and **“AS IS WHAT IS BASIS”** for realization of the Bank's dues plus interest & costs as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act proposes to realize the Bank's dues by sale of the said property/ies. The sale will be done by the undersigned through E-auction platform provided at the Web Portal (<https://www.baanknet.com/eauction-psb/home>) or (<https://baanknet.com>)

**Name & address of the Borrower(s)/ Mortgageor(s)/ Guarantor(s):**  
**1) Ms. ROOPA SAI AGENCIES (BORROWER),** Represented by its proprietor: Mr. Sivva Revanth Kumar, **Address-1:** D.No: 10-9-7, Charbowli, Warangal, Warangal District, Telangana State-506002. **Address-2:** H.No.15-11-183/37, Ramannapet, Warangal District, Telangana State - 506002.  
**2) Mr. SIVA REVANTH KUMAR (BORROWER/ MORTGAGOR),** S/o. Sivva Ramesh, R/o. H.No.9-10-157, Vishwakarma Street, Warangal, Telangana State - 506002.  
**3) Mrs. SIVVA RADHIKA (GUARANTOR/ MORTGAGOR),** W/o. Sivva Ramesh, R/o. H.No.9-10-157, Vishwakarma Street, Warangal, Telangana State - 506002.

**Date of NPA:** 30-09-2020, **Date of Demand notice:** 28-05-2021  
**Dues claimed in Demand Notice:** 89,78,365/-  
**Date of possession notice:** 12-05-2023  
**Dues claimed in Possession Notice:** 87,38,106/-  
\*Outstanding dues Rs. Nil of Local Self Government (Property Tax, Water sewerage, Electricity Bills etc)

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY & E-AUCTION DETAILS:**  
All that part & parcel of open plot bearing Plot No.9, admeasuring 312 SqYds, situated at Sy.No.358 of Rampur Revenue Village, Dharmasagar Mandal, Warangal District of Telangana State - 506151, which is in the name of Mr. Sivva Revanth Kumar, S/o. Sivva Ramesh. Boundaries as per document No.5322 of 2014, North : Plot No.8, South : Plot No.10, East : Plot No.27, West : 40 feet wide road.  
**Reserve price:** Rs.19,10,000/-  
**Date & Time of auction:** 10-02-2026 (Tuesday) between 11 A.M. to 1.00 P.M.  
**EMD :** Rs.1,91,000/-, **Bid increase amount :** Rs.20,000.00  
**Auto extension time:** 10 minutes  
**Known Encumbrance if any:** Nil,  
**Inspection Date & Time :** All working days between 10.00 A.M. and 5.00 P.M., with prior appointment,  
**Submission of online application for bid with EMD :** 26-01-2026 onwards,  
**Last date for submission of bid application with EMD :** 09-02-2026  
\*Bank's dues have priority over the Statutory dues  
For terms and conditions Please visit: (<https://www.baanknet.com/eauction-psb/home>) or (<https://baanknet.com/web portal of e-auction of service provider>). The intending bidders may contact the Authorised Officer/Chief Manager, Indian Overseas Bank, during office hours, **Phone No.0870-2577083, Mobile No.8925850173, 9551917219** or the Bank's approved service provider: M/s PSB Alliance Pvt Ltd. **Address:** Unit 1, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, VIOS commercial tower, Near Wadala Truck Terminal, Wadala Estate, Mumbai - 400037, **Phone:** 8291220220, **Email:** support.BAANKNET@psballiance.com. (<https://www.baanknet.com/eauction-psb/home>) or (<https://baanknet.com>)

**Date : 19-01-2026**  
**Place : Hanamkonda**

**Sd/-**  
**Authorised Officer.**



# Editorial

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

## Davos and India’s image

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

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

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

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



DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH



# Phone call marketing makes life miserable

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

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

The government and regulatory bodies have enacted regulations and implemented services like "Do Not Disturb," but in prac-

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

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

unwanted calls.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# The Troubled Indian Republic: The Harsh Reality of 2026

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

The Republic of India was born in 1950. The Constitution, drafted by Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, established lofty ideals—equality, liberty, and fraternity. But fifty-seven years later, the reality is stark. The economy is said to be the world's fifth largest, but eighty-five percent of wealth is concentrated in the top one percent of the rich. More than seventy billionaires together possess

more wealth than the national budget. Multidimensional poverty engulfs twenty-one percent of the population. Forty-six percent of families in rural India lack basic amenities. Urban slums are growing, while luxury towers are sprouting in metro cities. This inequality has led to a social explosion. The female-to-male ratio is nine hundred twenty per thousand, and thirty-five percent of children are stunted due to malnutrition. NFHS-6 data is a warning—India's future cannot be built on nutrition-deprived generations.

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

Criminalization of politics is a serious crisis. In the eighteenth Lok Sabha, more than



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

Women's insecurity is a stigma for the republic. From the Nirbhaya case to Hathras and Unnao, rape incidents are not stopping. Eighty-six cases are

registered every day, the actual figures are double. Atrocities on Dalit women have doubled. Stalking in cities, fear of Khap Panchayats in rural areas. Expenditure of ten thousand crores of Nirbhaya Fund is negligible. Fast-track courts are inadequate, cyber cell is inactive. Sexual harassment has increased at the workplace, from Bollywood to corporate, Me-Too movement has stopped. Gender discrimination persists in education and employment. School dropout rate of girls is high. This insecurity is keeping half the population of the society tied down.

The justice system has collapsed. Four lakh fifty thousand cases are pending, judge-population ratio is nineteen per ten lakh. It takes an average of ten years in the High Courts. Injustice equals delay in justice. Lawyers' strikes, shortage of judges, complex laws. E-court

project in limbo. Police reforms are nominal - colonial mentality prevails. Bribery in police stations, torture in custody is common. Even after the formation of SIT, SIT reports are suppressed. Khap Panchayats have taken the law into their hands. Patriarchy is crushing democracy in families. Regionalism is intensifying - TMC in Bengal, LDF in Kerala against the Centre. Southern states are bent on rebellion in the name of language reservation. Separatism is simmering in the North-East.

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

Is a solution possible? DBT has benefited corruption, but

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

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



DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH





## Davos summit acts as catalyst for Karnataka’s economic growth

Bengaluru: The World Economic Forum (WEF) summit held in Davos, Switzerland, has emerged as a major springboard for Karnataka to achieve significant gains in investments, expansion and partnerships across sectors such as aerospace, food processing, data centres, digital infrastructure, clean energy and advanced manufacturing, with investment commitments amounting to Rs.13,070 crore.

Industries Minister M.B. Patil has said that more than 45 meetings and consultations held over five consecutive days have successfully drawn global attention to Karnataka as one of the country’s leading destinations in artificial intelligence, Global Capability Centres (GCCs), research and sustainable urban development. Sharing details after returning from Davos, the Minister has elaborated on the success of the visit.

The consultations with industry leaders have laid a strong foundation for fresh investment inflows into the State and have also significantly accelerated projects already under implementation. They will help Karnataka strengthen its competitive



position in the next phase of global trade and industrial transformation. Global business leaders have praised the State’s industry-friendly environment and the availability of skilled human resources, reflecting the foresighted, industry-oriented initiatives being implemented by the State Government, the Minister said. He said he had clearly conveyed how Karnataka is emerging as a preferred global destination for investments, industrial establishment and expansion, while explaining the State’s industry-friendly policies and appealing to companies to invest in Karnataka.

The RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group (RPSG) will invest Rs.10,500 crore over the next three years in Vijayapura and Ballari districts, significantly boosting the renewable energy sector and development in north Karnataka. Global brewing major Carlsberg Group has reiterated its commitment to set up a Rs.350 crore bottling plant at Nanjangud. Schneider Electric has come forward to invest Rs.1,520 crore, including in IT operations. INOX GFL, which has already invested Rs.10,000 crore in the State and commenced turbine blade manufacturing for wind power at Kushtagi, is investing an

additional Rs.400 crore in manufacturing wind power towers and solar panels. Belrise Industries is investing Rs.300 crore to expand its Mysuru unit, which supplies components to TVS.

Discussions were held with the Singapore Economic Development Board on establishing a ‘Singapore Park’ to attract Singapore-based companies. Efforts were also made to attract a substantial share of Coca-Cola’s proposed Rs.25,760 crore investment in India to Karnataka. Global majors such as Nokia, US-based Vast Space, UAE-based Crescent Enterprises and Voyager Technologies

have shown interest in investing in the State.

Bharti Enterprises, which has already invested around Rs.13,000 crore in Karnataka, has expressed interest in setting up new data centre, further strengthening digital infrastructure. Bharat Forge Limited has obtained information on investment opportunities in the State. France-based Mistral AI has expressed interest in establishing a phased research and development centre in Bengaluru.

US-based Philip Morris has indicated its intent to manufacture smoke-free products in Karnataka.

Nokia Corporation has expressed its keenness to establish a Global Capability Centre (GCC) and research centres in the State. In line with the State Government’s priority of developing cities beyond Bengaluru as self-sustaining urban centres, Tech Mahindra has shown interest in expanding operations into Tier-2 cities. Bharti Enterprises is keen on setting up a data centre, while Sify Technologies has stated that it will launch one soon in the State.

‘KWIN City’ draws attention

Imperial College, one of London’s most prestigious universities, has shared plans to set up a research and development centre in ‘KWIN City’, coming up between Dabaspet and Doddaballapur. Global cyber security major Cloudflare is also considering becoming part of the ‘KWIN City’ project.

US-based Voyager Technologies and space technology company Vast Space have expressed interest in entering into partnership agreements with the State Government. UAE-based Crescent Enterprises has come forward to invest in enterprises and companies across the State. An MoU has been signed to facilitate Swiss companies in leveraging Karnataka’s industry-friendly and innovation-driven ecosystem. Natural Fibre Welding (NFW Earth) has said it would share a detailed expansion proposal with the State Government. With the objective of strengthening bilateral trade ties, the Minister participated in productive discussions with corporate leaders, investors, reputed educational institutions, heads of governments and senior officials of the World Economic Forum.

## Brahmavar: Service Road delay, lack of temporary bus stop cause hardship to commuters

Brahmavar, Jan 24: Residents, commuters, students and local organisations in Brahmavar have expressed growing concern over the prolonged delay in the service road project, along with the absence of a temporary bus stop, which has severely affected users of public transport. The service road work has faced repeated delays, with minimal progress visible on the ground. While construction continues at a slow pace, the authorities have failed



to put in place temporary arrangements to mitigate the inconvenience caused to the public. The lack of a temporary bus stop has particularly impacted students and daily wage earners, who rely heavily on public transportation.

Earlier in 2025, several local organisations and student groups had warned of launching mass protests if the authorities failed to initiate temporary service road works and address the difficulties faced by commuters.

In the absence of a proper bus stop facility, passengers are forced to wait along busy roads, often amidst moving traffic. This situation poses serious safety risks and exposes commuters to harsh weather conditions, especially during the rainy season.

Speaking on the issue, Govinda Raj Hegde, trustee of the Brahmavar Foundation, urged immediate intervention from elected representatives. “I request the Member of Parliament to take effective measures to install a temporary bus stop and speed up the ongoing service road work. With the monsoon approaching, road construction will face further challenges, and school students as well as local residents are left without proper shelter during rainfall. If immediate action is not taken, along with local organisations, would be protesting against the concerned authorities,” he said. Residents are now demanding swift action to ensure commuter safety and convenience until the permanent infrastructure is completed.

## Minister of State for MSME & Labour and Employment Inaugurates National Level Khadi Exhibition 2025-26 in Bengaluru



Bengaluru: Shobha Karandlaje, Minister of State for MSME & Labour & Employment, inaugurated the National Level Khadi Exhibition 2025-26 at the HMT Grounds, Jalahalli, Bengaluru. Organized by the State Office of the Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC), the event serves as a major impetus for the KVI sector.

During the ceremony, the Minister distributed 800 toolkits worth Rs.1.49 Crore to 350 beneficiaries under the Gramodyog Vikas Yojana. The distribution included specialized equipment such as bee boxes, electric pottery wheels and footwear repairing kits for artisans across districts including Chikkaballapur, Tumkur, and Bengaluru Urban. Speaking on the occasion Shobha Karandlaje emphasized the government’s dedication to the “Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra” and “Aatmanirbhar Bharat”. She highlighted that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra

Modi, the KVI sector has seen significant achievements in production and sales. Speaking further the Minister said, Khadi is more than just fabric; it is a “symbol of national pride” weaving a future of self-reliance for local entrepreneurs and generations to come.

The impact of KVIC in Karnataka was particularly noted for the 2024-25 fiscal year: 203 Khadi institutions achieved production of Rs.535.21 Crores and retail sales of Rs.684.60 Crores. The sector provided employment to 29,958 rural artisans. Margin Money distribution of Rs.132.41 Crores to 4,379 beneficiaries created 43,557 employment opportunities in the state. The exhibition features 175 stalls with participation from 105 Khadi institutions and 70 units under various schemes. Participating artisans and units represent states across India, including Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Gujarat, West Bengal, Kerala, and Rajasthan.

## Motorcyclist dies in head-on collision with private bus in Kundapur

Kundapur, Jan 24: A 26-year-old motorcyclist was killed on the spot in a tragic road accident involving two private buses at the Shetrakatte junction on Saturday morning. The deceased has been identified as Vijay Devadiga, a resident of Saukuru. Vijay, who ran a fast-food outlet in

Thrasi, was riding his motorcycle from Thrasi towards Saukuru when the incident occurred. According to sources, while attempting to overtake a private bus at the Shetrakatte junction, Vijay collided head-on with another private bus approaching from the opposite direction.



The Bengaluru West District Congress delegation has met Basaveshwara Nagar inspector and filed a complaint against Rajajinagar nagar MLA suresh kumar alleging that He has insulted Minister Byrathi Suresh Kumar in the session and also he has violated the rules by installing flexes on major roads of Rajajinagar. Delegation contained Vice President Kushal Haruvegowda, KPCC General Secretary S. Manohar, Deputy Spokesperson Anand Kumar and others were present on this occasion.

## Bharatanatyam Rangapravesha of Bhoomika S R and Bhavana S R on January 25

Bengaluru : A significant cultural event reflecting the traditional grandeur of Bharatanatyam, the Rangapravesha (debut performance) of sisters Bhoomika S R and Bhavana S R will be held on Sunday, January 25 at 5:00 PM at Chowdaiah Memorial Hall, Malleswaram. Disciples of Guru Veena Sridhar Morab of Nataradhana School of Bharatanatyam, this Rangapravesha marks an important milestone in the artistic journey of the two dancers. The recital will present a traditional Bharatanatyam repertoire rooted in classical grammar, rhythm, expression, and abhinaya.



## CS Pawan G. Chandak elected as ICSI National President; CS Dwarakanath Chennur as Vice President

Bengaluru : CS Pawan G. Chandak has been elected as the National President for the year 2026, and CS Dwarakanath Chennur as the Vice President of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI), which functions under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India.

CS Pawan G. Chandak has specialized expertise in labour laws and the field of labour welfare. He possesses extensive experience in corporate law, foreign exchange law, industrial law, legal metrology, secretarial audit, arbitration matters, and in the SEZ, STPI, and DoT sectors.

He has served as an independent director and advisor to large corporate organizations and



CS Pawan G Chandak President, The ICSI

multinational companies, and has gained deep insight into the challenges and issues in his areas of expertise. He is proficient in handling corporate law matters, deal structuring, and providing advisory services on mergers and amalgamations.

CS Dwarakanath Chennur is a Fellow Member of ICSI and is a qualified professional in the insolvency domain as well as a certified social auditor. He began his professional career as a Company Secretary in 1992 and worked with various companies for nearly 10 years before starting professional practice in 2002. Currently, he provides services under the Companies Act, FEMA, RBI regulations, and SEBI regulations to listed companies in the private and public sectors, as well as subsidiaries of foreign companies. His areas of expertise include corporate laws and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.

## Instructions to prepare the voter list as per rules and in a transparent manner: Maheshwar Rao

Bengaluru : With regard to the elections to be held under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), the Chief Commissioner, Maheshwar Rao, instructed officials to prepare the voter list strictly as per rules and in a transparent manner.

Speaking at a meeting held at Puttanna Chetty Town Hall, Bengaluru, regarding the preparation of ward-wise voter lists for the general elections of the five City Corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority, as per the directions of the State Election Commission, he said that the election process must be conducted responsibly and systematically.

He informed that the

State Election Commission has issued a revised circular on January 22, 2026 (copy enclosed), and accordingly, officials of all five City Corporations must take appropriate steps and discharge their duties responsibly.

He instructed that the concerned officials in each City Corporation must personally inspect the ward boundaries and ensure that there is no confusion regarding boundaries. He directed that the voter list preparation process must be carried out in a lawful and transparent manner. He further instructed that Electoral Registration Officers must dedicate 2-3 hours every day exclusively for election-related work. Revenue officers, who are also



Electoral Registration Officers, must give priority to election-related duties along with property tax collection and ensure that the voter lists are prepared without any errors.

During the voter list revision process, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) must visit houses door-to-door for inclusion, correc-

tion, and deletion of names and ensure that all relevant documents are properly collected and maintained. Speaking on the occasion, Special Commissioner (Elections) Ramachandran instructed officials to make more progress in the work of mapping the 2002 voter list with the 2025 voter list.

He said that while receiving claims and objections related to the voter list, Forms 6, 7, and 8 must be properly processed. He also instructed that the observers appointed by the State Election Commission for the GBA elections must perform their duties efficiently.

South City Corporation Commissioner, Ramesh, said that the ward boundaries of all five City

Corporations under GBA have been finalized, and officials must ensure that all voters fall within their respective ward limits.

He instructed that ward boundary maps should be distributed to Booth Level Officer Supervisors and BLOs, and based on that, a thorough verification should be conducted before finalizing the voter list. He also said that all family members’ votes should fall within the same polling booth.

He further instructed officials to hold meetings with local citizens, elected representatives, and Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) and inform them that voters are included in the same ward, so that no confusion arises.



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

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

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

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

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

The National Anthem, Stalin said, was always played at the conclusion of the Governor's speech in TN Assembly and Tamil Thai Vazhthu (Mother Tamil invocation) was played at the commencement. "We are



not inferior to anyone in patriotism, and no one needs to teach us," Stalin said and added that the crisis was something not new to him. "I have faced numerous challenges in the past and overcame them," he said.

In his reply, which was received by the Treasury Benches with loud thumping, the Chief Minister said, "In the last five years, this Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin lived for the people and formulated plans for their well-being and developed Tamil Nadu as a whole. This is a fact. I can understand that the opposition parties are unable to bear this".

Expressing "pain" that the Governor, who ought to work for the welfare of Tamil Nadu, continued to work against the state and also against "us who strive for the people," he said the Governor's walkout was strange. "This act was tantamount to insulting the office he holds and an act of desecrating the Constitution of India itself, while holding a responsible position," he said. For the last three years, the Governor

has repeatedly cited the same reason and staged a walkout from the Assembly without reading the speech prepared and delivered by a government elected by the people, and this Assembly has to consider that as a challenge to democracy.

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

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As per the tradition of the Tamil Nadu Assembly, 'Tamil Thai Vazuthu' was sung before the Governor commenced his speech, and the National Anthem was sung at the conclu-

sion of the speech, the chief minister explained.

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

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

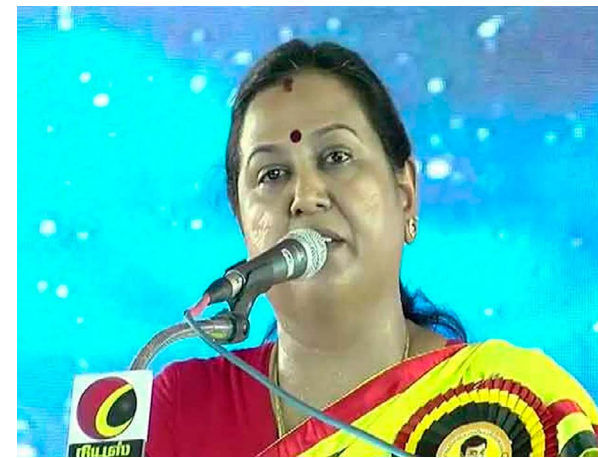
"Then the Governors might have had differences, but they did not act in a way that would lead to a conflict. In that sense, I stand as one who has faced excessive trials. For me, trials are not new; I have risen overcoming trials. Those who criticise me may derive pleasure but they can't harm me," he said. On the crime graph in the state, the chief minister said the crimes during the current DMK regime were fewer compared to the incidents that happened during the AIADMK rule.

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

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

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

Speaking to reporters, she said, "There is no delay in forming an alliance. Have they (Election Commission) announced the date for the polls in Tamil Nadu? Have political parties announced list of the candidates contesting in constituencies? See,



we have enough time. Only press people are eager to know about the alliance."

Describing the DMDK "like a child" to her, Premalatha said, "As a

mother I know my responsibilities. Therefore, we will announce our decision at the right time." Asked about the NDA kickstarting its election campaign

in Tamil Nadu on January 23, she said the alliance is yet to be finalised.

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

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

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

According to the RMC, isolated places in Chennai, Chengalpattu, Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Villupuram, Cuddalore, Mayiladuthurai, Nagapattinam, Tiruvallur and Thanjavur districts are likely to receive light to moderate rain. Similar conditions are expected in Puducherry and the Karaikal region during the same period. Several parts of coastal Tamil Nadu and



the delta region received rainfall over the last 21 hours. As per RMC data recorded till 5.30 am, Mahabalipuram in

Chengalpattu district received the highest rainfall of 7 mm, followed by Cuddalore with 6 mm. Nungambakkam and

Karaikal recorded 5 mm each, while Nagapattinam received 4 mm. Taramani recorded 3.4 mm of rainfall.

## Antibiotics and 6 other medications linked to disrupted gut microbiome

The study, published in the American Society for Microbiology's Journal mSystems, found that, in addition to antibiotics, antidepressants, beta-blockers, stomach acid reducers, and anti-anxiety drugs, these substances could continue to disrupt the microbiome long after use.

Babak Firoozi, MD, board certified gastroenterologist at MemorialCare Orange Coast Medical Center in Fountain Valley, CA, welcomed the study, but urged caution when interpreting the findings: "The methodology was robust, and convincingly linked changes in gut microbiome to medication uses, but this was not a controlled trial. There are far too many variables that cannot be accounted for, such as environmental factors, diet, geographic location. The most surprising finding is how many classes of drugs appeared to have influence on the gut biome."

The researchers utilized data from 2,509 adults in the Estonian microbiome cohort, a component of the Estonian biobank — a population-based databank of volunteers in Estonia. The volunteers, who were ages between 23 and 89 years, provided blood, cheek swab, and stool samples. The researchers then used shotgun metagenomics sequencing- Trusted Source on the stool samples to analyze the make-up of their gut microbiomes. A subsample of the cohort — 328 people — provided a second stool sample after a median follow-up period of 4.4 years, which the researchers also analyzed.

They accessed details of participants' current and historical prescription drug usage from their electronic health records. At the time of the first sample, participants were using a total of 433 different prescription drugs, and in the five years preceding it, they had used 507 different medications. Just over one-third of the participants (857 people) were taking no medications at the time of the first sample, and those taking medications were using, on

average, three different types of medication. The researchers did not assess the effects of antibiotics at the first time point, so they excluded anyone who had taken antibiotics within 90 days of the first sample, but the second sample was assessed for the effects of antibiotics.

In total, the researchers analyzed the effects of 186 drugs. Of these, 167 affected the microbiome in some way, and 78 showed long-term effects on the composition of the microbiome.

Measurable changes in the microbiome were seen in people who had taken the following medications:

Antibiotics — medications that treat bacterial infections by killing bacteria or stopping them from multiplying Antidepressants — these increase neurotransmitters in the brain to relieve symptoms of depression Antipsychotics — medications that treat psychosis associated with some mental health conditions, such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder Beta-blockers — medications used to treat cardiovascular symptoms, such as angina and high blood pressure Biguanides — metformin, used to treat type 2 diabetes Proton pump inhibitors (PPIs), which reduce stomach acid to treat acid reflux, heartburn, and stomach ulcers Benzodiazepines, which are prescribed for anxiety and sleep disorders. As well as antibiotics, beta-blockers, benzodiazepine derivatives, glucocorticoids, PPIs, biguanides, and antidepressants all had effects on the microbiome that were seen many years after previous drug intake. The researchers found that the longer people took medications for, and the more medications they took, the greater the effect on the microbiome. Multiple medications appeared to interact and have a greater impact on the microbiome, but for individual drugs, it was benzodiazepines that seemed to have the greatest negative impact. In their paper, the authors warned:

## Flavanol-rich foods may protect blood vessels from damage caused by prolonged sitting

Modern lifestyles mean that people spend an increasing amount of time sitting, whether working at a desk, watching TV, or travelling by car, train or plane. Prolonged sitting can adversely affect the function of the blood vessels. A new study has found that foods high in flavanols — antioxidants found in plant foods, such as cocoa, tea, and some fruits and vegetables — may improve vascular function during sitting or being sedentary. Sitting for long periods is linked to declines in vascular function, particularly in the legs, even in people who are physically fit. Recent research suggests that adults in the United States sit for at least 6 hours every day, and adolescents even more. Decline in vascular function can increase the risk of cardiovascular diseases Trusted Source, such as strokes and heart attacks. However, many of us have sedentary jobs, spend a lot of time travelling by car, train, or plane, or enjoy watching TV or playing computer games, so we may spend much of the day sitting down. Now, researchers from the University of Birmingham, in the United Kingdom, have found that flavanols may help counteract the effects of prolonged sitting.

In their small-scale study, published in The Journal of Physiology Trusted Source, researchers found that young men who drank a high-flavanol cocoa drink before sitting for 2 hours maintained better blood flow in the femoral (leg) and brachial (arm) arteries than those who drank a low-flavanol version of the drink. "Even though the trial was small, its randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, crossover design gives it strong internal validity for detecting acute physiological changes. However, the external validity is narrow: all were young, healthy, male, and the experiment lasted only two hours. The outcome, flow-mediated dilation, is a well-validated marker of endothelial function but still a surrogate, not a clinical endpoint. Thus, the findings are mechanistically meaningful but not clinically definitive."

— Christopher Yi, MD, board certified vascular surgeon at MemorialCare Orange Coast Medical Center in Fountain Valley, CA, who was not involved in the study.

High vs. low flavanol cocoa Researchers recruited 40 healthy men, ages between 18 and 34, into the study. Half were high in fitness, and half were low, as measured by a cardiorespiratory fitness test conducted by the researchers. Before the experimental visits, participants fasted for 12 hours, and avoided caffeine, alcohol, polyphenol-containing foods and drinks, and any vigorous exercise for 24 hours. Upon arrival, they rested in a supine position for 15 minutes, after which researchers measured their blood pressure, resting heart rate, flow-mediated dilatation (FMD, a higher value indicating better



vascular function) in the superior femoral and brachial arteries, and tissue oxygenation in the gastrocnemius (calf) muscle. As soon as these tests were completed, participants sat still in a comfortable chair for 2 hours, with their legs parallel and both feet flat on the floor. They were allowed to make gentle arm movements, such as using a computer, writing, or texting. When they sat down, researchers gave them a randomly assigned high-flavanol cocoa or low-flavanol cocoa drink to consume within 10 minutes. The drinks, made using cocoa and 350ml spring water, were identical apart from their flavanol content, 695mg in the high-flavanol drink, and 5.6mg in the low-flavanol. During sitting, researchers recorded tissue oxygenation in the medial gastrocnemius, and after 2 hours, they repeated the other 4 tests done at the start. Get downloadable timelines, step-by-step instructions, and more expert guidance on Medicare open enrollment with our 4-day series.

Researchers assessed FMD of the superior femoral and brachial arteries using ultrasound.

They found no differences in retrograde shear rate Trusted Source (a measure of friction that can damage the lining of arteries) or blood flow between the groups. However, there were differences in FMD. In both arteries, FMD reduced during sitting in the low-flavanol group, and not in the high-flavanol group. After sitting, FMD remained higher in the high-flavanol than the low-flavanol group. Neither measure was influenced by the individual's fitness. "We have known for some time that flavanols have beneficial effects for blood flow from observational studies. It is surprising we can see such strong effects from one off dose on negative effects of sitting down."

— Eamon Laird, Assistant Lecturer in Human Nutrition at Atlantic Technological University Sligo and Adjunct Assistant Professor Trinity College Dublin, who was also not involved in the study. "Previous research already showed that prolonged sitting impairs endothelial function, and that cocoa flavanols acutely enhance FMD in other contexts. The novel contribution here is

showing that flavanols can preserve both upper- and lower-limb endothelial responsiveness during sitting and that cardiorespiratory fitness did not confer natural protection."

Why might flavanols have this effect? Laird told Medical News Today:

"Essentially, [flavanols] increase nitric oxide (NO) production that helps blood vessels relax and dilate, improving circulation. They can also reduce inflammation and have been associated with reduced oxidative stress. We are also unsure if the other dietary components that are often found with flavanols may also have an additive beneficial effect."

Yi explained further: "Flavanols enhance endothelial nitric-oxide (NO) signaling by stimulating endothelial NO synthase (eNOS) activation, reducing oxidative stress and superoxide-mediated NO breakdown, and improving vascular smooth-muscle responsiveness to NO."

"By preserving NO bioavailability, flavanols maintain vasodilatory capacity and counteract the temporary endothelial 'stiffening' that occurs when leg blood flow and shear stress fall during sitting," he added. Together with exercise, flavanols may help vascular function Experts agreed that although flavanols had a positive effect on vascular function, exercising or keeping active throughout the day is likely the most effective approach.

"Flavanol consumption may buffer the short-term vascular stress caused by sitting, but movement remains the most powerful tool for vascular health. [...] The most effective strategy is to take regular breaks from sitting by standing up or walking for a few minutes every 30 minutes, which helps restore blood flow and shear stress in your arteries. Even small movements, such as calf raises, fidgeting, or using a foot pedal under your desk, can keep circulation active and reduce the negative effects of prolonged immobility."

"In addition to movement, maintaining a consistent aerobic exercise routine strengthens overall endothelial health, while a diet rich in fruits, vegetables, tea, berries, and other polyphenol-containing foods provides further antioxidant and anti-inflammatory support. Managing blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood sugar remains essential for long-term vascular protection. Flavanol-rich foods and drinks should be viewed as helpful adjuncts — not replacements — for an active lifestyle."

Laird echoed this warning: "These findings [...] are highly significant and could be an easy, enjoyable way to try and stave off effects of sitting down. However, it is not a magic bullet and we shouldn't take this study as evidence to eat chocolates everyday as they contain fat, sugar, and energy!"



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

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

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



From a 20-member team in 2020, Zoho has scaled the Kumbakonam facility by transforming marriage halls into workplaces, to around 200 people, as part of its effort to replicate the Tenkasi model of decentralised product development. Two such facilities are already in operation

where even a Zoho School of Technology operates, providing opportunities for undergrads to take up on the job training with stipends of Rs 10,000. These undergrads are from in and around Kumbakonam as they chart out their career path with an assurance of being absorbed in Vembu

Zoho's ERP foray is the culmination of nearly 18 years of work in finance and operations software. As per Sivaramakrishnan Iswaran, global head, Zoho's Finance and Operations Business Unit and CEO of Zoho Payment

Technologies, the push was driven by a clear market gap. "Most global ERPs are retrofitted for India. They are not designed for evolving regulations like GST and e-invoicing," he said. "Enterprises want something powerful, customisable and affordable, without the heavy consulting-led cost structures."

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



risk. The style factor landscape in 2025 was defined by the strong performance of contrasting factors, driven largely by sector- and stock-specific moves. Market breadth remained narrow and momentum was weak, reinforcing a selective and low-risk appetite investing environment.

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

PL Asset Management's analysis indicates that Indian equities are currently trading near multi-cycle relative lows compared with gold and silver. Historically, such valuation divergences between financial and real assets have coincided with phases where diversification beyond pure equity exposure has helped investors preserve capital and manage volatility more efficiently. Importantly, this does not

signal a structural shift away from equities, but rather highlights the importance of balance during transitional phases of the market cycle.

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

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

## Motorola elevates the flagship segment in India with Motorola Signature

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

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

Extending the experience beyond hardware, Motorola Signature introduces India's first smartphone with exclusive Signature Club privileges, delivering a 24/7, on-demand privilege access service seamlessly inte-



grated into the device. Every Motorola Signature user receives a complimentary one-year Signature Club app subscription, unlocking curated support across travel, golfing, wine and dining, art and culture, shopping, and business services, alongside everyday lifestyle assistance such as wellness sessions, pet care, laundry, and event coordination. To welcome users into the experience, Signature Club also offers an exclusive Welcome Offer, where the first service is complimentary, up to INR 6,000\*. Designed to complement modern, aspirational lifestyles, Signature Club elevates smartphone ownership with unmatched convenience, personalized support, and premium experiences — whenever they're needed.

The Motorola Signature comes with moto ai 2.0, delivering next-level intel-

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

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

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

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

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



clear category leadership. "Every region in India requires a tailored go-to-market strategy that is built keeping in mind the different nuances but unified with a vision to extend state-of-the-art technology to our customers. From AI PCs and premium gaming and consumer notebooks,

our efforts have been focused on making the right technology accessible to more consumers. We are elated to shared that ASUS in southern markets of India has witnessed a consistent and strong growth that has defied market volatility. As we move forward in 2026, our

priority remains building scale, with a sharper focus on AI PCs and premium segment," said Arnold Su, Vice President, Consumer & Gaming PC, System Business Group, ASUS India

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

From a category standpoint, consumer notebooks (NB) continued to be the primary growth engine, contributing 57% of total volumes, followed by gaming PCs (NR) at 40%. Gaming notebooks

performed particularly well in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, reinforcing ASUS' leadership in the high-performance and enthusiast segments.

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

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

CHENNAI: Amazon has decided to lay off about 16,000 employees as part of efforts to reduce its administrative costs, said a Daily Thanthi report.

Starting from January 27, 2026, roughly 14,000 to 16,000 employees will be laid off.

The US-based e-commerce company is among the world's largest firms. Amid economic pressure and the impact of artificial intelligence on business, many companies have been reducing their workforce, and Amazon has continued with layoffs in recent years.

Between 2022 and 2023, Amazon had cut around



27,000 employees for various reasons, and on October 14, 2025, it eliminated about 14,000 positions. With the latest round of layoffs, Amazon plans to cut a total of about 30,000 corporate jobs in its

30-year history. The job cuts are expected to affect senior officials and software engineers working in Amazon Web Services, retail, Prime Video and human resources divisions.



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



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

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

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

Cambodian leaders have repeatedly denied that the base is for use by any single foreign power, following US

media reports in 2022 saying the new facilities at Ream — originally built partly with US funds — would be exclusively for the Chinese navy.

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

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

Beijing has since 2022 been contributing to a revamp of the Ream Naval Base, which was originally built partly using US funds. Western concerns about the

base go back as far as 2019, when The Wall Street Journal reported on a secret draft deal allowing China to dock warships there.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Analysts say a military build-up could give Trump the option to carry out strikes, though so far he's avoided that despite repeated warnings to Tehran.

Meanwhile, Iran's top prosecutor denied a claim by Trump that his intervention so far had halted the execution of 800 prisoners detained in the demonstrations, calling his comments “completely false.”“While President Trump now appears to have backtracked, likely under pressure from regional leaders and



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

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

recalls the chaos surrounding Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution.

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

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

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



KYIV: Russian attacks on Ukraine killed at least one person and wounded 23 overnight into Saturday, as negotiators from Ukraine, Russia and the United States were set to meet in Abu Dhabi for a second day of talks to end Russia's nearly four-year full-scale invasion. One person was killed and four wounded in Russian drone attacks on the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, according to Kyiv City Military Administration head Tymur Tkachenko. In Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv, drone attacks wounded 19 people, Kharkiv Mayor Ihor Terekhov said Saturday. The attacks came as envoys were expected to meet in the United Arab Emirates for a second day of talks on Saturday. The talks are the first known instance that officials from the Trump administration have sat down with both countries as part of Washington's push for progress to end Moscow's nearly 4-year-old invasion. The UAE's foreign ministry said the talks are part of efforts “to promote dialogue and identify political solutions to the crisis.” The White House described Friday's first day as productive.

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

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

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



A video accompanying the post announcing the latest strike shows a boat moving through the water before exploding in flames. The US

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

# Think again: why AI is unlike previous tech booms

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

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

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

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

Political influence now matters as much as market power

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

Second, AI's operating-cost structure undermines traditional economies of scale. In earlier tech cycles, marginal costs per user collapsed as platforms grew. Whether it was social media, software, or ride-shar-



ing apps such as Uber, costs were spread across an expanding customer base, enabling platforms to sustain high margins as they scaled up. Those models were also marked by low operating expenses. Once Facebook reached sufficient scale, the marginal cost of adding users became negligible. As a result, companies paid little attention to the cost of serving each user, as it rarely threatened financial viability.

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

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

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

For legacy tech companies, the combination of falling marginal costs and network effects amplified the benefits of scale, fueling a race to capture as many eyeballs as possible. That strategy made sense for companies like Facebook, which created value by monetizing consumer attention through

advertising. AI companies confront a different cost structure. Each new iteration of their product requires additional capital investment. Every additional user increases costs, particularly inference costs. While training expenses can be amortized across a larger user base and some economies of scale may emerge, usage growth still leads to higher operating costs.

The fourth difference lies in the shift from market fragmentation to instant saturation. Earlier tech platforms grew within largely siloed markets: Google dominated search; Amazon focused on retail. By seeking distinct niches like college students (Facebook) and professionals (LinkedIn), companies had time to mature before competition intensified. AI, by contrast, is a general-purpose technology that cuts across industries. With users able to gain access to it instantly through apps or application programming interfaces, companies no longer have the luxury of reaching maturity before competitors emerge. This dynamic gives AI the potential to disrupt not just individual sectors but every existing technology business model. Fifth, political influence now matters as much as market power. Earlier innovation waves did not require companies to engage with governments and regulators to the extent AI must. While social media platforms eventually faced scrutiny over their addictive effects, the perceived risks posed by today's emerging technologies are deeper, and, in many ways, existential, given AI's potential to cause job displacement, exacerbate inequality, and undermine democratic governance. With AI companies confronting both market forces and political pressures, firms that can shape regulation, influence

public opinion, and absorb reputational risk are better positioned to succeed. Microsoft is a prime example of such a firm. In a clear effort to gain political and social legitimacy, the company recently pledged to cover the electricity costs of its data centers, so that higher prices would not be passed on to consumers. Lastly, AI may be less susceptible to winner-take-all dynamics. Scale, near-zero marginal costs, and strong network effects enabled companies such as Facebook, Google, Amazon, and Apple to dominate social media, search, e-commerce, and smartphones, respectively. The AI sector, at least initially, is unlikely to follow that pattern. Rather than converging on a single monopolistic winner, it could support multiple dominant players, each controlling its own niche. To be sure, an AI company could reach a point at which its technological lead becomes self-reinforcing and effectively insurmountable. Through continuous self-improvement and overwhelming product superiority, or even the development of artificial general intelligence, such a firm could achieve lasting market power, allowing it to dominate the field.

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

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

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

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

heavy rain continue to complicate search and rescue operations,” said Teten Ali Mungku Engkum, who heads West Java's Disaster Management Office.

He said local authorities rapidly assessed the damage and deployed emergency response teams immediately after the landslide. Families living within 100 meters (yards) of the landslide zone were evacuated due to fears of further slope failures. Authorities urged residents in landslide-prone areas to remain vigilant and evacuate



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

Some eight bodies were pulled out in the worst-hit hamlet of Pasir Kuning after the 3 am landslide swept away homes and people. Television stations broadcast footage of workers and residents digging desperately in Pasir Langu, where roads and green-terraced rice fields were transformed into murky brown mud as the village was covered with thick mud, rocks and uprooted trees. “Unstable soil and

immediately if they hear rumbling sounds, see soil movement or believe conditions are unsafe. In December, catastrophic floods and landslides struck Sumatra, Indonesia's largest island, killing at least 1,200 people and injuring more than 7,000, the National Disaster Management Agency said. Seasonal rains and high tides from about October to April frequently cause flooding and landslides in Indonesia, an archipelago of more than 17,000 islands where millions of people live in mountainous areas or near fertile flood plains. Last January, more than 20 people were killed after being swept away in floods and landslides caused by torrential rains in Central Java province.



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

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

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



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

Sindhu's overall career record now stands at 500 wins from 732 singles matches, translating into an impressive win percentage of around 68.3 per cent.

On the BWF Tour alone, she has recorded 456 wins against 227 losses.

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

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



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

way to 227 runs off 219 balls, registering the fifth double hundred of his first-class career. His commanding knock, played at a strike rate of 103.65, was studded with 19 fours and nine towering sixes, underlining his aggressive intent throughout the innings. One of the standout features of his knock

was his dominance against India pacer and Hyderabad captain Mohammed Siraj, from whom he plundered 45 runs off just 39 deliveries, unsettling the opposition attack.

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Dhoni, who stepped away from international cricket in 2020, continues to remain active in the IPL, where his association with CSK has become one of the league's most enduring

legacies. Heading into his 17th season with the Chennai-based franchise, he remains a vital figure in the team's leadership group and a guiding force in the dressing room.

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

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

Despite the dip in recent form, Dhoni's IPL record remains exceptional. He has amassed

5,439 runs in 278 matches at an impressive average of 38.80 and a strike rate of 137.45, including 24 half-centuries and a career-best score of 84 not out.

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

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

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

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

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



His father chose to invest everything into his training.

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

cial strain and personal sacrifice.

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

to ice skating after nearly a decade.

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

Along with his figure skating partner, Vacasya Lakshmi Narayanan, a gold medalist (Artistic Partner) at the Asian Roller Skating Championship, 2025, he co-founded Adler Vision,

enrolling future athletes pan India based in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Since its inception two years ago, the academy has enrolled more than 100 students.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

"An e-mail was sent last evening to Bangladesh

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

It must be noted that it is Bangladesh's sports ministry advisor Asif Nazrul, who has unilaterally taken

a decision against national team travelling to India, citing security issues despite being given repeated assurances by the ICC.

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

## Naomi Osaka withdraws from Australian Open before third-round match

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

The two-time Australian Open champion announced it on social media without divulging her injury, posting on

Instagram that she had to withdraw "to address something my body needs attention for after my last match." "I was so excited to keep going and this run meant the most to me, so having to stop here breaks my heart," Osaka posted, "but I can't risk doing any further damage so I can get back on the court."

A year ago at Melbourne Park, Osaka retired from

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





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

The trailer of the upcoming Telugu film Devagudi was launched grandly, creating strong buzz among film lovers. The movie is produced under the banner of Pushyami Film Makers and is presented by Bellam Sudha Reddy. Bellam Ramakrishna Reddy has written, directed, and produced the film. The trailer launch event was attended by the film's cast, crew, and several media representatives. Devagudi stars Abhinav

Shaurya, Narasimha, and Anushree in the lead roles, with prominent supporting performances by Raghu Babu, Annapurnamma, and Raghu Kunche. The makers described the film as an emotionally powerful story inspired by real-life incidents. The film is slated for a worldwide theatrical release on the 30th of this month, with screenings planned across major centres in both Telugu states, including RTC

Cross Roads, at normal ticket prices.

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

carries powerful dialogues and will be well received by audiences.

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



### Celebrities applaud Prime Video's Telugu crime thriller Cheekatilo

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

### Trimukha set for worldwide grand theatrical release on the 30th



The pan-India film Trimukha is all set for a grand worldwide theatrical release on the 30th of this month. The film stars Yogesh Kalle in the lead role, with Sunny Leone playing a pivotal character. The ensemble cast includes Akriti Agarwal, CID Aditya Srivastava, Motta Rajendran, Ashu Reddy, Sahithi Dasari, Praveen, Shakalaka Shankar, Suman, Ravi Prakash, Jeeva, Sammata Gandhi, and Gemini Suresh in key supporting roles. Produced by Sridevi Maddali and Ramesh Maddali under the Akhira Dream Creations banner, Trimukha is directed by debutant Rajesh Naidu. Made on a large budget and shot simultaneously in five languages, the film is positioned as a true pan-India project. It will release in Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam. The film's release date announcement press meet was held at the Hyderabad Film Chamber, where several cast and crew members shared their views. Actor Gemini Suresh described Trimukha as a strong, screenplay-driven

film and praised Yogesh's dedication and passion for cinema. Actor Praveen said the film offers meaningful roles for all artists and expressed confidence in the film's content. Actress Sahithi Dasari stated that the film blends entertainment with thrilling elements and said director Rajesh Naidu's execution does not feel like that of a newcomer. Director Rajesh Naidu explained that the film focuses on a powerful story with an engaging first half and a gripping, intense second half, with every character carrying significance. He also highlighted Sunny Leone's performance-oriented role and the impactful characters played by Praveen and Gemini Suresh. Hero Yogesh Kalle said Trimukha marks his debut as a lead actor and thanked the entire cast for their support throughout the journey. He added that Sunny Leone and CID Aditya Srivastava's performances would be major highlights and expressed confidence that the strong response to promotional content would translate into theatrical success.

### MM Keeravani lends soulful voice to 'Jaali Padedhevadu' from Purushaha

Marital relationship-based stories revolving around husband-wife conflicts, playful arguments, and domestic emotions have always connected strongly with audiences. Staying rooted in this timeless theme while reflecting contemporary sensibilities, the upcoming film Purushaha explores the nuances of the husband-wife bond from multiple perspectives. Presented by Battula

The makers have already generated considerable buzz with posters, first-look reveals, and a teaser that impressed audiences with its humor. Adding further depth to the narrative, the makers have now released the film's theme song, "Jaali Padedhevadu... Magadi Meeda Jaali Padedhevadu." The song captures the core emotion of the film with sharp humor and subtle irony, highlighting the often-

warmth, and emotional resonance to the theme. Music director Shraavan Bharadwaj has composed a simple yet impactful tune that allows the lyrics and vocals to shine. Lyricist Anantha Sriram's thoughtful and witty words add depth to the song, cleverly reflecting marital dynamics, expectations, and emotional negotiations without revealing too much of the storyline. The film's technical crew includes cine-



Saraswathi, Purushaha is produced by Battula Koteswara Rao under the Kalyan Productions banner and directed by Veeru Vulavala. The film marks the debut of Pavan Kalyan Battula as a lead actor.

overlooked vulnerabilities of men in marital relationships. The track gains a special charm with its soulful rendition by Oscar-winning composer MM Keeravani, whose voice brings empathy,

matographer Satish Muthyala, editor Koti, and art director Ravibabu Dondapati. With post-production progressing at a brisk pace, the makers are expected to announce the film's release date soon.

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

The title song of the upcoming Telugu film Chai Wala was launched on Friday as part of the film's promotional activities. The event was attended by City Commissioner VC Sajjanar, Niloufer founder Baburao, and KIMS MD Ravi Kiran Varma as chief guests. Speaking on the occasion, VC Sajjanar urged audiences to watch the film and make it a success upon its theatrical release on February 6. Starring Shiva Kandukuri in the lead role, Chai Wala is produced by Radha V Papudippu under the Harshika Productions

banner and directed by Pramod Harsha. Venkat R Papudippu serves as the co-producer, while music is composed by Prashanth R Vihari. Rajeev Kanakala, Teju Ashwini, Rajkumar Kasireddy, Chaitanya Krishna, and Vadlamani Srinivas play key roles in the film. Addressing the gathering, VC Sajjanar said tea has become an integral part of everyday life and praised the title song for its appeal. Niloufer founder Baburao described tea as an emotion and expressed happiness over the film's title, wishing the team great recognition. Several

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



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

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

### Second song 'Sumathi Sumathi' released from Sumathi Sathakam



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

Produced by Sai Sudhakar Kommalapati under the Vision Movie Makers banner, Sumathi Sathakam is written and directed by MM Naidu. The film stars Amardeep Chowdary and Saylimchaudhri in the lead roles, with a strong supporting cast comprising Tasty Teja, Mahesh Vitta, JDV Prasad, Akella Gopi Krishna, Kiran Vijay, Mirchi Kiran, Nellore Neeraj, Malakpet Shailaja, and others. The romantic number 'Sumathi Sumathi' is penned by Krishna Madineni,

sung by Gold Devaraj, and composed by Subhash Anand. The song carries a youthful and melodious vibe, with lyrics such as "Na Kutti Kutti Sumathi, Na Chitti Chitti Sumathi..." beautifully expressing the emotions of a young man in love. The visuals feature Amardeep conveying his affection through simple yet engaging dance movements, making the song instantly relatable to younger audiences. Earlier, the film's first look, teaser, and the previously released song 'Ekkade Ekkade' received a positive response, raising expectations for the movie. With cinematography by S Halesh and editing by Nahid Mohammed, the makers are confident that 'Sumathi Sumathi' will strike a chord with audiences and emerge as a chartbuster ahead of the film's release.