



25-01-2026  
Total pilgrims: 84,014  
Tours: 35,151  
Hundi Kanakal: 3,69CR  
Waiting Compartments...Out side  
line at Octopus Building  
(Near Gogabam Dam circle).  
Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam  
(with out SSD Tokens)...20 H



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



German defense  
minister urges Trump  
to apologize for  
Afghanistan remarks

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



## INBRIFS

Gold Prices Hit  
Rs 1.6 Lac For The  
First Time Ever



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

## Republic Day: PM Modi's deep maroon, golden motif turban steals show

New Delhi (TSIT): On the occasion of India's 77th Republic Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's choice of headgear once again became a major talking point, drawing widespread admiration, media attention, and social media buzz across the country. While paying solemn tributes to fallen soldiers at the National War Memorial early in the day, PM Modi wore a deep maroon Rajasthani-style turban (pagdi), which immediately attracted public and media interest.

The turban featured intricate golden zari motifs, vibrant yellow accents, and subtle elements of the classic bandhej (tie-dye) pattern, often associated with Rajasthan's rich textile heritage and traditional craftsmanship. The rich maroon hue, symbolising bravery, sacrifice, and valour, perfectly complemented the occasion's reflective and patriotic tone, while the golden peacock feather motifs and mus-



tard-yellow highlights added a sense of regal elegance and cultural depth. Paired with his signature light blue bandhgala coat, navy blue kurta, and white trousers, the pagdi stood out as a distinctive blend of tradition, symbolism, and contemporary style.

Many observers interpreted the choice as a nod to Rajasthan's warrior legacy and India's armed forces, with some reports suggesting

subtle tributes to historical valour, self-reliance, and national pride, themes central to this year's Republic Day celebrations. The headgear quickly went viral on social media platforms, with users praising its craftsmanship, colour combination, and aesthetic appeal. Several posts highlighted the turban as a reflection of India's diverse cultural traditions. News outlets also highlighted

it as one of the standout elements of the day's events, with headlines describing how the deep maroon, golden motif turban "stole the show" during the ceremonial proceedings.

Comparisons to PM Modi's previous Republic Day looks - ranging from bright red Bandhani styles to multi-coloured safas - underscored his long-standing tradition of incorporating regional Indian craftsmanship into national occasions. Fashion analysts noted the pagdi's impeccable tying in the classic Rajasthani style, emphasising its role in projecting cultural pride amid the grandeur of the military parade at Kartavya Path. As images circulated widely across digital platforms, the turban came to symbolise how personal style can honour national heritage, unity, and collective identity. This year's choice further reinforced PM Modi's pattern of meaningful attire on Republic Day, turning a simple headgear into a powerful emblem of respect, tradition, and contemporary leadership.

## India, EU concludes

negotiations for  
FTA successfully



NEW DELHI (TSIT): India and the European Union (EU) have successfully concluded negotiations for the proposed free trade agreement, which will help boost two-way commerce and strengthen economic ties between the two sides, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said on Monday, January 26.

He said the trade deal from the Indian perspective is balanced and forward-looking, which will help in the better economic integration of

India with the EU. It will provide trade and investments in both economies, he said.

"Negotiations have been successfully concluded. The deal has been finalised," Agrawal said. Legal scrubbing of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) text is underway, and the endeavour will be to complete the processes and sign the pact at an early date, he said. The deal is expected to be signed this year, and it may come into effect early next year.

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

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

## CM Revanth begins executive education at Harvard University

### Hyderabad (TSIT):

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy began his executive education at the famed Kennedy School at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, with program orientation and cohort introduction.

The program, "Leadership in the 21st Century", began on Sunday afternoon local time with the session on "Analysing Authority and Leadership", according to a statement from the Chief Minister's Office.

Monday morning classes started from 7 a.m. with the cohort taking on several different classes, large class case analysis, and consultative group work. Classes will close late evening, around 6 p.m.

Meanwhile, winter emergency is on in the entire area, with a raging snow storm. Fern, marked by snowfall in excess of 2 feet (24 inches) and temperatures below -20 degrees Celsius in the Boston area. The Chief Minister had left for the United States last week after attending the



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

group projects with fellow global participants.

The class will have students from over 20 countries spread across five continents.

The Chief Minister will receive program course certification from Harvard, the first for any current Chief Minister in office in Indian history.

Opposition BJP criticised Revanth Reddy enrolling for the program, questioning the timing and financial prudence of the move. BJP State chief spokesperson N. V. Subash remarked that leadership is not acquired through short-term courses but demonstrated through governance, accountability, and results on the ground. "Shouldn't such academic pursuits have been completed earlier in life?" he asked, adding that the Chief Minister's primary classroom today should be the state he governs, not an overseas campus. Subash further questioned whether the trip reflects a prioritisation of personal aspirations over public responsibilities.

### Hyderabad/Amaravati (TSIT):

Patriotic fervour marked 77th Republic Day celebrations on Monday in the Telugu states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Governors of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh led the celebrations by hoisting the national flag at the main official functions in their respective states.

Ministers and top officials led the celebrations held in the districts. Flag hoisting at government offices, educational institutions, public places and in residential areas marked the occasion. Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma unfurled the tricolour at the main ceremony held at Parade Grounds, Secunderabad.

He reviewed a colourful parade by the contingents of armed forces, police and paramilitary forces and took the salute. As Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is on a visit to the US, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka accompanied the Governor in paying tributes at the Martyrs' Memorial. The Governor hosted At Home at Lok Bhavan in the evening. Deputy Chief

Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, Chief Justice of Telangana High Court Aparash Kumar Singh, Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar, Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy, State ministers, and leaders of Congress, BRS and BJP attended the event. Telangana Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar and Legislative Council Chairman Gutta Sukhender Reddy hoisted the flag at the ceremony held at the Legislature complex.

Chief Justice Aparash Kumar Singh hoisted the national flag during the Republic Day programme held at Telangana High Court. In Andhra Pradesh, the main

official function to mark Republic Day was held for the first time in the state capital, Amaravati. Governor S. Abdul Nazeer hoisted the national flag and reviewed the parade.

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, ministers and top officials attended the ceremony. The Governor hosted 'At Home' in the evening at Lok Bhavan in Vijayawada. Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, ministers, leaders of various political parties and top officials were present. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu hoisted the national flag at his official residence.

## From Op Sindo to indigenous missiles: India flaunts military might at 77th Republic Day



NEW DELHI (TSIT): India ushered in its 77th Republic Day on Monday with a grand display of its cultural heritage, economic growth and military might that included warplanes, indigenously-built missiles, newly-raised units and lethal weapons used during Operation Sindo.

President of the European Council Antonio Costa and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen graced the celebrations as chief guests, marking a significant diplomatic moment alongside the military display.

The annual military parade reflected India's strategic autonomy and diverse sour-



ing of its defence hardware with Russian-origin platforms showcased alongside US-manufactured ones.

Although the overarching theme of the event was 150

years of 'Vande Mataram', the Indian military's Operation Sindo too found prominence at the parade on the Kartavya Path, the centrepiece boulevard of the national capital.

The parade commenced with the President Droupadi Murmu taking the salute shortly after she, Costa and von der Leyen, flanked by the Indian president's bodyguards, arrived at the Kartavya Path in a traditional buggy. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, several other Union ministers, the country's top military brass, foreign diplomats and senior officials were among the spectators.

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



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

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

The annual military parade reflected India's strategic autonomy and diverse sour-

ing of its defence hardware with Russian-origin platforms showcased alongside US-manufactured ones. Although the overarching theme of the event was 150

NEW DELHI (TSIT): The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) showcased several of its path-breaking innovations aimed at strengthening national security during the 77th Republic Day Parade at Kartavya Path.

The display highlighted India's growing indigenous defence capabilities, with a focus on advanced missile systems and cutting-edge naval technologies.

Among the key systems showcased were the Long Range Anti-Ship Hypersonic Missile (LR-ASHM) and the DRDO tableau themed 'Naval Technologies for Combat Submarines'.

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

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

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ing of its defence hardware with Russian-origin platforms showcased alongside US-manufactured ones. Although the overarching theme of the event was 150

## 7.80 Crore Proposals Submitted for New R&B Guest Houses in Sangareddy and Sadashivpet



Hyderabad: Proposals for the construction of new Roads & Buildings (R&B) guest houses in Sangareddy and Sadashivpet towns, with a total estimated cost of Rs.7.80 crore, are set to receive early financial approval. Officials have prepared plans to construct a new R&B Guest House in Sadashivpet at a cost of Rs.3.80 crore, replacing the existing dilapidated structure. The proposed building will feature four suite rooms and modern amenities to cater to visiting officials and dignitaries. Similarly, considering Sangareddy's status as a district headquarters and the frequent movement of VVIPs and VIPs, officials have proposed the construction of an additional R&B Guest House within the existing R&B Guest House. The new facility, estimated at Rs.4 crore, will also comprise four suite rooms, as the current accommodation is inadequate to meet demand. Senior Congress leader Jaggareddy personally met R&B Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy and submitted the detailed proposals for both projects. After reviewing the plans, the Minister directed senior R&B officials to accord approval and sanction funds at the earliest to facilitate the commencement of construction works. Once completed, the new guest houses are expected to significantly improve accommodation facilities for government guests and visiting dignitaries in Sangareddy district.

## MRO S. Prabhudas Receives 'Best Ward' Award on Republic Day

Medchal: S. Prabhudas, Mandal Revenue Officer (MRO) of Balanagar, received the Best Ward Award on the occasion of Republic Day in recognition of outstanding administrative performance and effective implementation of government programmes. The award was presented by Medchal-Malkajgiri District Collector Manu Chowdhury during the Republic Day celebrations held in the district.

The recognition was conferred for exemplary service delivery, efficient revenue administration, and coordinated efforts in ensuring welfare schemes reached eligible beneficiaries at the ward level. Collector Manu Chowdhury appreciated the dedication and commitment of MRO S. Prabhudas and the entire Balanagar revenue team, stating that such performance sets a benchmark for good governance and people-centric administration. Speaking on the occasion, S. Prabhudas expressed gratitude to the district administration and credited the achievement to teamwork and the cooperation of staff and local representatives. He reaffirmed his commitment to continue working towards transparent, responsive, and efficient public service.

## Dr. Rekha Attends 77th Republic Day Celebrations at Gandhi Bhavan

Hyderabad: 77th Republic Day celebrations were held in a grand manner at Gandhi Bhavan on Sunday. Telangana Pradesh Mahila Congress State Vice President Dr. Rekha

Boyalapalli participated in the programme and paid tributes to the Constitution and the leaders of India's freedom movement. The celebrations included the unfurling of the National Flag, rendering of the National Anthem, and homage to the architects of the Indian Constitution. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Rekha Boyalapalli underlined the importance of safeguarding constitutional values such as democracy, secularism, equality, and social justice. Several Congress leaders, Mahila Congress representatives, and party workers were present during the celebrations, which were marked by patriotic fervour and enthusiasm at Gandhi Bhavan.

## International Magician Samala Venu Performs Illusion Show at Nampally Exhibition

Hyderabad: Internationally renowned magician and Guinness World Records holder Samala Venu enthralled audiences with a spectacular illusion show at the 85th All India Industrial Exhibition at the Exhibition Society Grounds, Nampally. The performance drew large crowds, with Samala Venu presenting a series of breath-taking illusions and magic acts that left spectators spellbound. Known for his innovative presentation and world-class stagecraft, the magician showcased why he is regarded as one of India's leading illusionists. The show was one of the major attractions of the ongoing exhibition, adding entertainment value to the historic annual event and receiving an enthusiastic response from visitors of all age groups.

## Bottuguda Government School Transformed into Komatireddy Pratheek Govt Primary and High School

Nalgonda: Nalgonda is set to witness a major milestone in public education with the inauguration of the newly rebuilt Komatireddy Pratheek Government Primary and High School at Bottuguda. The transformation has been undertaken through the Komatireddy Pratheek Foundation under the initiative of Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy. One of the oldest government schools in Nalgonda district, the Bottuguda institution has a rich legacy spanning several decades and has educated generations of students. Over the years, the school faced infrastructure limitations, which have now been completely addressed through a comprehensive reconstruction.

With an investment of nearly



Rs.8 crore, the school has been redeveloped into a modern campus with state-of-the-art classrooms, digital learning facilities, a library, activity zones, and child-friendly infrastructure, creating a safe and inspiring learning environment for students.

A key highlight of the upgraded school is the introduction of Waldorf-based education, focusing on holistic development, creativity, experiential learning, emotional well-being, and value-

based education. The adoption of globally recognised teaching practices in a government primary and high school is being seen as a pioneering step in Telangana's public education system.

Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy has emphasised that quality education should be accessible to all and not confined to private institutions. The rebirth of the Bottuguda school reflects his vision of strengthening government schools and restoring public confidence in the public education system. Established in memory of his late son, the Komatireddy Pratheek Foundation continues to contribute significantly to education and social development in Nalgonda district. The Bottuguda school stands as its flagship initiative.

## Garden City University Commemorates the 77th Republic Day of India

Garden City University solemnly commemorated the 77th Republic Day of India with an official ceremony held on its campus, reflecting the spirit of patriotism and national unity. The programme commenced with a floral tribute offered by the Chief Guest, Air Commodore (Dr) Harindra Kumar Dhiman, VSM, to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, honouring his sacrifice and contribution to the nation.

The ceremony proceeded with the hoisting of the National Flag by the Chief Guest, followed by a formal Guard of Honour presented by the NCC cadets. The occasion was marked by disciplined ceremonial protocol and a profound sense of respect for the Tricolour.

In a key segment of the programme, the Chief Guest was formally felicitated by the Vice Chancellor, Dr Rama Chandra Gowda; Pro Vice Chancellor, Dr Rajesh Palayil; Registrar, Dr



Sheeba M S; and Director-Strategy and Planning Mr. Christo Joseph, acknowledging his distinguished service to the nation and his gracious presence at the event. Addressing the gathering, the Vice Chancellor, Dr Rama Chandra Gowda, emphasised the importance of maintaining discipline and responsibly utilising the resources provided by the university to achieve personal and institutional excellence. He also extended his warm wishes to the entire GCU fraternity on the occasion of the 77th Republic Day of India, urging everyone to uphold

constitutional values and national pride. The Chief Guest, in his address, highlighted the significance of the day as a reminder of the sacrifices behind India's freedom and urged the youth to uphold discipline, integrity, and service to the nation. Conveying his wishes on behalf of the Chancellor, Dr Joseph V.G., Mr Christo Joseph extended warm Republic Day greetings to the campus and encouraged the GCU community to continue contributing meaningfully to nation-building through education and ethical leadership.



BEST EMPLOYEE AWARD RECEIVED BY NEELIMA, PRO, TTD ON THE OCCASION OF REPUBLIC DAY.



BEST EMPLOYEE AWARD RECEIVED BY P.DAYAKAR, SUPDT, TTD ON THE OCCASION OF REPUBLIC DAY...

## International Evangelist Dr. John Wesley Inspires Believers at Beraccha Thanksgiving Special Meeting

Hyderabad: A profound atmosphere of worship and spiritual renewal prevailed at the Beraccha Thanksgiving Special Meeting, held on Monday, where International Evangelist Dr. John Wesley delivered an impactful and faith-filled message, calling for the revival of the Church and praying for an outpouring of God's blessings like refreshing rain upon His people.

Addressing thousands of believers gathered for the special thanksgiving service, Dr. John Wesley spoke passionately on spiritual awakening, renewed commitment to Christ, and the need for the Church to stand united in faith and service. His message, rooted deeply in the Word of God, touched the hearts of the congregation, with many testifying to being spiritually strengthened and blessed through the sermon.

The meeting was conducted under the leadership and guidance of Beraccha founders Rev. Dr. Yesupadham and Rev. Prabhavathi Yesupadham,

whose vision and dedication continue to inspire believers across regions. Prominent church leaders including Rev. Pastor Joshua and Sister Blessy, Rev. Pastor Caleb and Sister Sharon, Shekina Glory Caleb, and several other pastors and ministry leaders were present and participated actively in the service.

The thanksgiving meeting witnessed a massive turnout, with thousands of believers participating in collective worship, prayers, and praise ses-

sions. The programme was marked by a spirit of unity, devotion, and hope, reinforcing the message of spiritual renewal and divine blessing. Organisers stated that the Beraccha Thanksgiving Special Meeting was organised to thank God for His faithfulness and to encourage believers to walk in renewed faith and purpose. The event concluded with special prayers for families, the Church, and the nation, leaving the gathering spiritually uplifted and inspired.

wishers describe him as a disciplined, soft-spoken, and principled individual who embodies the values of the Armed Forces. His life reflects the quiet dignity of countless veterans who placed the nation above personal comfort and continue to live with grace and self-respect.

Social activists and citizens have highlighted his story as a reminder of the sacrifices made by defence personnel and have expressed hope that both the Central and State governments will take note of his service and ensure that all eligible welfare measures,

including housing and veterans' benefits, reach him.

They emphasised that supporting veterans like Adhi Sheshaiah is not charity, but a rightful acknowledgment of their contribution to the nation's freedom, security, and peace.

As India celebrates its freedom and honours its defenders, the life of Piduguralla Adhi Sheshaiah serves as an inspiring example of patriotism, resilience, and quiet heroism—proving that true service often speaks not through words, but through a lifetime of sacrifice.

## DGP Couple Attend Governor's 'At Home' Programme on Republic Day

Hyderabad: On the occasion of the 77th Republic Day, Director General of Police (DGP) B. Shivadhar Reddy, along with his wife Hemalatha, attended the traditional 'At Home' programme hosted at the Governor's residence in Hyderabad. The event, organised as part of the Republic Day celebrations, witnessed the presence of several senior officials and dignitaries. Hyderabad Police Commissioner V. C. Sajjanar and other senior officers also participated in the programme.

The 'At Home' reception reflected the spirit of unity and constitutional values, marking the significance of Republic Day with dignity and ceremonial warmth.



## Safeguarding the Constitution is everyone's responsibility: TWJF leaders

Khammam: The District President and Secretary of the Telangana Working Journalists Federation (TWJF), Syed Khadeer and Kothapalli Srinivas Reddy, have emphasized that protecting the Indian Constitution is a collective responsibility of every citizen.

They were speaking at the Republic Day celebrations organized by the TWJF at the Khammam Press Club on Monday, where the National Flag was unfurled.

The event was presided over by Press Club President Daggubati Madhava Rao.

Addressing journalists and attendees, the TWJF leaders expressed concern that the Constitution, demo-

cratic institutions, and democracy itself are currently passing through a phase of uncertainty. They pointed out the gradual erosion of core constitutional values such as Liberty, Equality, Fraternity, Sovereignty, Socialism, and Secularism.

Recalling the historical importance of the Constitution, they said it was drafted under the leadership of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar to honor the sacrifices of freedom fighters and to secure a strong and progressive future for the nation.

## International Evangelist Dr. John Wesley Inspires Believers at Beraccha Thanksgiving Special Meeting



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The thanksgiving meeting witnessed a massive turnout, with thousands of believers participating in collective worship, prayers, and praise ses-

## Indian Air Force War Veteran Piduguralla Adhi Sheshaiah A Life of Service, Simplicity and Silent Sacrifice

Hyderabad: Piduguralla Adhi Sheshaiah, a proud Indian Air Force veteran who served the nation during the 1963 and 1970 wars, stands as a living symbol of courage, discipline, and selfless service. Even decades after safeguarding the country during some of its most challenging periods, the veteran continues to lead a life marked by humility and simplicity.

Adhi Sheshaiah served in the Indian Air Force with dedication and honour, contributing to national defence during two major war periods. His service during these

critical years played a vital role in protecting the sovereignty of the nation and strengthening India's defence preparedness.

Blessed with three sons and three daughters, Adhi Sheshaiah is currently residing at Indira Hills, Shamshiguda, Hyderabad. Despite his long and distinguished service to the country, he lives a modest life and does not own a house of his own. Yet, those who know him say he carries no bitterness—only pride in having served the nation.

Local residents and well-



## BJP Undermining Constitution, Says TPCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud

Hyderabad (TSIT): Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president Mahesh Kumar Goud on Sunday alleged that the BJP is attempting to weaken the Constitution and erode democratic and secular values in the country.

A addressing Congress leaders and workers at Gandhi Bhavan on the occasion of Republic Day, he said the rights enjoyed by citizens today are the result of sacrifices made by Congress leaders during the freedom struggle. He alleged that leaders who did not participate in the freedom movement have been in power since 2014 and are now trying to



amend the Constitution.

Mahesh Kumar Goud accused the BJP of removing Mahatma Gandhi's name from the MGNREGA scheme to erase the legacy of the Congress and of dismantling welfare pro-

grammes introduced by the UPA government. He further alleged that the BJP is damaging democratic institutions, promoting communal divisions, and undermining secularism. Referring to

Telangana, he said the previous BRS government had caused financial distress, while Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is now working to steer the state towards development. He said the Congress government is committed to implementing a caste survey, providing 42 per cent reservations for Backward Classes, and creating employment opportunities.

He urged people to understand and oppose what he termed BJP's conspiracies and paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, and former Congress leaders for their role in building the nation.

## ITC Master Chef Launches Piri Piri Frozen Prawns

Hyderabad: ITC Master Chef has expanded its frozen foods portfolio with the launch of Freshly Frozen Piri Piri Prawns, offering a convenient and flavour-packed seafood option for consumers.

The ready-to-cook prawns are frozen within 15 hours of harvest to retain freshness and



are paired with spicy Piri Piri masala sachets, enabling restaurant-style preparation in minutes. High in protein and easy to cook, the product is aimed at fast-paced, taste-conscious consumers.

Speaking on the launch, Ashu Phakey, Vice President and Business Head - Frozen

and Fresh Foods, ITC Limited, said the brand continues to focus on delivering high-quality, convenient food solutions while expanding its non-vegetarian range. The 212-gram pack, including seasoning sachets, is priced at Rs.275 and is available across leading retail stores and e-commerce platforms.

## Golden Oak School, Warangal, celebrates 77th Republic Day with patriotic fervor



Warangal: Golden Oak School in Shivnagar marked India's 77th Republic Day with vibrant celebrations, instilling a sense of patriotism and civic responsibility among students.

The school premises were adorned with patriotic decorations, creating a festive atmosphere. The event was graced by the school chairman, Sri Ganta Ravi Kumar, who inspired students with his address. He emphasized the importance of democracy, unity, and national pride, and encouraged students to follow the five principles of family harmony, social harmony, social responsibility, self-planning, and environmental protection. Students showcased India's rich cultural diversity through colorful performances, reflecting creativity, discipline, and a deep respect for the nation. The school principal, Gorantla Manohar Rao, along with teachers, staff, and parents, actively participated, ensuring the event's success. The celebrations not only highlighted the spirit of Republic Day but also reinforced values of responsibility, harmony, and love for the country among the students.

## Rathan Nomula takes charge as BJP Warangal District Social Media In-charge



Warangal, January 26, 2026: Under the leadership of BJP Warangal District President Sri Ganta Ravikumar, Rathan Nomula officially assumed charge as the BJP Warangal District Social Media In-charge in a program attended by state and district leaders.

Addressing the occa-

## Madam of the Masses Lata Jain Emerges as Beacon of Hope for the Voiceless



Hyderabad: In a world increasingly marked by injustice and social neglect, Lata Jain, a social worker, journalist, and legal advocate, continues to rekindle hope among the most vulnerable through her unwavering commitment to justice and humanitarian service. Actively associated with organisations such as Leo Club, Diamond International, Shivanand Sanstha, Rogi Sahayata Trust, and Taruni, Jain has dedicated her life to supporting abandoned children, distressed women, tribal communities, and the underprivileged. She has also launched her own initiatives—Gagar Foundation and Pyasa—working extensively in tribal areas of Uttoor in Adilabad district, providing education, healthcare, and essential support.

Despite managing family responsibilities and battling serious illness, Jain pursued higher education, completing postgraduate degrees in multiple disciplines and earning her LLB with merit. Her legal

expertise has played a crucial role in securing justice for victims of exploitation and false implication.

Among her notable interventions, Jain recently helped a seriously ill truck owner in Hazaribagh, Jharkhand, recover his seized vehicle through free legal assistance, restoring his livelihood. In another case, she exposed a wrongful arrest by Nampally police, approaching the Human Rights Commission and successfully securing bail for the falsely accused groom from Hyderabad. She has also worked towards reconciliation in cases of domestic abandonment, ensuring dignity and stability for affected families. Jain's humanitarian work extends beyond Telangana to states such as Jharkhand, where she has fought atrocities, facilitated free medical treatment for critically ill patients, and distributed blankets to tribal communities.

Though honoured with several awards for her contributions to women's empowerment and social justice, Jain remains rooted in humility, measuring success by the lives she transforms rather than recognition. Widely regarded as a "Madam of the masses," Lata Jain continues to stand as a powerful voice for the voiceless, proving that compassion backed by action can bring meaningful change to society.

## GITAM Hyderabad celebrates 77th Republic Day with patriotic fervour



Hyderabad, January 26, 2026: GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, celebrated the 77th Republic Day with great enthusiasm and patriotic zeal at Gandhi Square on Monday, resonating with the spirit of Vande Mataram and the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

The celebrations commenced with the hoisting of the National Flag by Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof. D. S. Rao. Addressing the gathering, he emphasized the vital role of universities in nation-building through technology, innovation, and sustained excellence. He encouraged students and faculty to remain focused, resilient, and committed to achieving world-class standards in their respective fields.

The programme featured a ceremonial parade by NCC and NSS cadets along with university security personnel, showcasing discipline and unity. This was followed by vibrant cultural performances presented by Kalakriti and Anvesha student clubs, which included

traditional dances and patriotic songs that captivated the audience.

On the occasion, certificates of appreciation were presented to NCC cadets, NSS volunteers, and security staff in recognition of their dedicated service and commitment.

Organised by the Student Life team, the event concluded with refreshments, leaving the campus filled with national pride, unity, and patriotic spirit.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is to inform the general public that Smt. Full Devi Choudhary & Sri. Pema Ram Choudhary are intending to purchase a residential house property bearing Municipal No. 3-2-217 (PIN No. 1030306819), Plot No.165, S.B.H. Employees Co-op Housing Society, Bahadurguda Village, Saroor nagar Mandal, GHMC, Ranga Reddy District. Any person having any objection, claim or interest over the said property may submit the same in writing with proof within 7 days from the date of publication, failing which the transaction will proceed.  
Place : Hyderabad  
Date : 24-01-2026  
Sd/- Gopal Balaraju, MA, LLB, Advocate,  
HUDA Colony, Saroor Nagar, Rangareddy District, Hyd, Cell: 7337082570.

## Laryngectomy survivors set world record by singing National Anthem at Basavtarakam Cancer Hospital



Hyderabad, January 26, 2026: In a deeply emotional and inspiring moment, Basavtarakam Indo-American Cancer Hospital & Research Institute (BIACH&RI) created history on India's 77th Republic Day by hosting a World Record National Anthem recital performed by total laryngectomy survivors.

The unique rendition of "Jana Gana Mana" was sung using electrolarynx devices and tracheoesophageal voice prostheses (TEP), symbolising the success of voice rehabilitation after total laryngectomy.

Managing Trustee of the Smt. Nandamuri Basava Taraka Ramarao Memorial Cancer Foundation and Hon'ble MLA, along with hospital board members, senior oncologists, staff, and a representative from the World Book of Records.

Following the record-setting performance, the survivors also sang "Vande Mataram" as part of the 150-year commemoration of the iconic song. The programme concluded with felicitation of the survivors, addressed by hospital leadership and

the records representative, and group photographs, making it a memorable Republic Day celebration.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Nandamuri Balakrishna Garu said the achievement showcased how determination, care, and support can transform even the greatest loss into strength and national pride. Dr. L. M. Chandra Sekhara Rao, Chief - Head & Neck Oncology at BIACH&RI, described the recital as a powerful reminder that dignity, confidence, and communication can be reclaimed even after profound physical loss.

The event was part of the hospital's ongoing Total Laryngectomy Rehabilitation Meet and highlighted the vital role of BIACH&RI's Laryngectomy Rehabilitation Club, which provides counseling, peer support, and communication training to survivors. The historic achievement stood as a strong message that loss of voice does not mean loss of spirit, turning silence into strength on a day of national pride.

## Arohan 2026 – 38th Annual Day Celebrations of Sri Triveni School



Hyderabad 26 January, 2026:

Sri Triveni School celebrated its 38th Annual Day, "Arohan 2026 – Rising to New Heights," with great enthusiasm and grandeur at Minerva Gardens, Champat. The event witnessed the gracious presence of eminent digitaries, parents, teachers, students, and well-wishers, making it a memorable occasion in the institution's journey of excellence.

The programme was graced by the Chief Guest, Dr. V. Sarala, Technology Director, RCI, DRDO. Addressing the gathering, she emphasized the importance of scientific temperament, innovation, discipline, and perseverance in shaping young minds to meet future challenges. She also encouraged students to dream big and work with dedication and integrity.

Guests of Honour included Srinivasulu Siramdas, Principal, College of Allied Health Sciences, Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS), and Raju Keerchipally, Co-Founder, Infotechcor Solutions Ltd., London, UK. Their presence and words of encouragement greatly inspired the students.

The event was further enriched by the presence of Special Invitees, A. J. Sandhya Varshini, Film Music Director, and Sampath Kumar, Lyricist and Folk Singer, who added charm and inspiration to the celebrations. The programme was presided over by Jitta Surendra Reddy, Chairman and K. Goverdhan Reddy, Executive Director, Sri Triveni Group of Schools. The event was conducted under the able leadership of Principal Mrs. Sharada.

## HINDUJA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

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 Securitization 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 or Guarantor/s. After completion of 60 days from date of receipt of the said notice, The Borrower/s or Guarantor/s having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s or 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. Mr. Bolla Ramesh, H No-2-8/1, Yarkaram, Surveyat Main Road Yarkaram, Surveyat Urban Surveyat, Telangana India 508213.....Borrower	15.05.2025 Rs.16,35,465/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Thirty-Five Thousand Four Hundred Sixty-Five Only)	26-01-2026 Rs. 18,44,577/-
2. Mrs. Bolla Kaveri, H No-2-8/1, Yarkaram, Surveyat Main Road Yarkaram, Surveyat Urban Surveyat, Telangana India 508213.....Co-Borrower Loan No. AP/HDB/SPR/400000266		

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY : All that House Property Plot No.s 81, 82, 83 & 84 in Sy.No.574/B4, 575/B4/1, 576/B4/2 & 579/B2 Total Extent 844 Sq. Yds/705.69 Sq.fts. Construction "HAPPY HOMES" APARTMENT First Floor Flat No. 102 Undivided Share Land 42.20 Sq.Yds/35.25 Sq.fts R.C.C. (1050 Sq.fts in cluding common area) Of Pallamalari Revenue Village situated at Surveyat Municipal Limits residential area within the limits of Surveyat Municipality, Surveyat District bounded by: Full Apartment Boundaries:North Plot No.80 & 85, South 40 Feet Road, East:40 Feet Road:40 Feet Road First Floor Flat No.102 Boundaries:North: Open to Sky, South: Open to Sky, East:Open to Sky, West:Stair Case and 7 Feet Corridor The Borrower/s or 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 : Warangal.  
Date : 26-01-2026  
Sd/-Authorised Officer  
For Hinduja Housing Finance Limited

## Grand "Republic Day" celebrations at Greater Warangal Press Club

Balasamudram, January 26, TSIT : After unfurling the national flag by President Vemula Nagaraju at the Greater Warangal Press Club on the occasion of Republic Day, the journalists who attended the programme sang the national anthem. First, President, Secretary, Treasurer Vemula Nagaraju, Bollaram Sadayiah and Bolla Amar paid tributes to the portraits of Constitution maker Dr. BR Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi.

On this occasion, President of Greater Warangal Press Club Vemula Nagaraju said that no matter how many pressures are faced in the development of the club, there will be no reduction. With the help of NPDCL, the compound wall at the back, the guard wall at the front and the north side were constructed with the funds of legislator Naini Rajender Reddy, he said.

He said that the CC cameras and greenery inside the club compound will be completed within a few months with the cooperation of Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation Mayor Gundu Sudharani. Without spending a single penny of the club's funds, we have done development work with nearly 50 lakhs of government funds and announced that we are committed to fulfill the long-standing wish of Vemula journalists. He said that we are starting a massive programme of buying private land and giving it to honorary members. Media Academy Chairman K Srinivasa Reddy, TUWJ, IJU State President Secretaries K Virhat Ali, Rannarayana, State Housing and Welfare Committee Chairman Vallala Venkataramana, State Vice President Gadipelli Madhu, Hanmakonda District President, Secretaries Gaddam Rajireddy, Thota Sudhakar, Former President Gaddam Kesavamurthy, various It has been announced that this historic programme will be undertaken with all the leaders of various unions in various positions.

## Protest Erupts Over Temple Demolition in Kishan Nagar



RANGAREDDY : Tension prevailed in Kishan Nagar village of Farooqnagar mandal, Rangareddy district, following the demolition of a temple late on Saturday night. The incident, reportedly carried out using an unidentified vehicle, has triggered strong reactions and protests from Hindu organizations.

Vishwa Hindu Parishad State Pramukh Matham Rachaiyah, along with Ranganna, VHP members, and Bajrang Dal activists, reached the site soon after the incident came to light and staged a protest condemning the act. They demanded that the police immediately launch a thorough investigation, identify those responsible, and ensure they are punished severely.

Addressing the gathering, the protestors warned that if the authorities fail to act promptly, they would intensify their agitation and launch large-scale protest programs.

## Uphold constitutional values, says Ponguleti

Khammam (TSIT): Stating that the Indian Constitution stands as a global model, Revenue, Housing and Information Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy on Monday called upon citizens to move forward in the true spirit of constitutional values. He was speaking after hoisting the national flag at the Khammam camp office on the occasion of the 77th Republic Day.

The Minister said the country attained freedom through the sacrifices of several great leaders and that the Constitution was shaped by their vision and intellectual contribution. He noted that India's strength as the world's largest democracy lies in its commitment to equality, justice and democratic principles enshrined in the Constitution. Describing the steady growth of India as a matter of pride for every citizen, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy paid tributes to the architects of the Constitution and extended Republic Day greetings to the people. Wyra MLA Ramdas Naik, Congress leaders and party workers were present at the programme.

## Need to Create Awareness on the Constitution: Shadnagar Additional District Judge Swathi Reddy



included badminton, cricket, chess, carrom, and ring ball for women. Judge Swathi Reddy presented trophies and prizes to the winners. Addressing the

R A N G A R E D D Y : Shadnagar Additional District Judge Swathi Reddy has stressed that a disciplined and orderly society is possible only when every citizen is aware of the values and principles enshrined in the Constitution. She was speaking during the 77th Republic Day celebrations organised by the Shadnagar Bar Association on Monday. As part of the Republic Day celebrations, prizes were distributed to advocates who emerged victorious in various sports competitions organised by the Bar Association. The events, conducted in the run-up to Republic Day,

## GRAND CELEBRATIONS OF 77TH REPUBLIC DAY, HELD AT KITS WARANGAL CAMPUS

WARANGAL, January 26, TSIT : Republic day March Past by the 101 Men and Women KITSW NCC cadets during the celebrations told by the Principal Prof. K. Ashoka Reddy. Grand celebration of Seventy Seventh (77) Republic day-2026 is held at Kakatiya Institute of Technology & Science, Warangal (KITSW) an autonomous institute under Kakatiya University. Flag hoisting celebration took place at 8.00 am by the Principal Prof. K. Ashoka Reddy in front of Administrative Block, KITSW campus. On this occasion the former MP Rajya Sabha and KITSW Chairman, Capt. V. Lakshminatha Rao and Treasurer, P. Narayana Reddy and KITSW Additional secretary & Husnabad former MLA, Vodithala Satish Kumar have congratulated and appreciated the faculty, staff and a dynamic team of students for organizing and grand celebration of 77th republic day.

On this occasion the Principal Prof. K. Ashoka Reddy highlighted that faculty and students have to utilize the latest innovation and research facilities for achieving competencies under Outcome Based Education(OBE) at KITSW campus. He also introduced the history of formation of the Indian constitution, supreme sacrifices of our great freedom fighters and responsibility of the student community for the progress of our country. Students maintain unity and equality with discipline.

He suggested the young budding engineers to be patriotic towards the country and work for the prosperity of the nation. He also motivated the student community by his memorable speech and inspiring words with heartfelt love and affection. The students transformed from dependent learning to independent learning by providing a hybrid mode of teaching that leads to industry ready engineers. For the present academic year (2025-26) there were 442+ B. Tech. final year students achieved the placement in the reputed MNCs with the package of 3.6 to 35 lakhs CTC, he added.

He concluded that in this great mission of our country KITSW institute is producing highly professional and competent engineers for the benefit of the society. He also extended his warm greetings to the management, all the students, faculty, staff and their family members & esteemed Media members. In this celebration 101 Men and Women KITSW NCC cadets, 250 above students from Student Activity Center(SAC), Registrar Prof. M. Komal Reddy, Administrative Officer, Prof. P. Ramesh Reddy, dean academic affairs, Prof. K. Venumadhav, Associate NCC Officer Capt. Dr. M. Ranadheer Kumar, Head Physical Education, Dr. M. Srinivas Reddy, head, Center for i2RE, Prof. K. Rajanarender Reddy, CoE Prof. V. Rajagopal, Heads of the various departments, Prof. P. Srikanth, Prof. V. Shankar, Prof. P. Nirajan, Prof. K. Shivani, PRO, Dr. D. Prabhakara Chary, 400 above teaching and non teaching staff and 300 students were present

## Republic Day Celebrations: Neerudi Kiran Kumar Mudiraj Honours Students at Sri Sathyasai Prasanthi School in Rayadurgam

SERILINGAMPALLY TSIT: The Republic Day festivities were celebrated with great enthusiasm at Sri Sathyasai Prasanthi School in Rayadurgam. The event featured a grand hoisting of the national flag attended by students, teachers, parents, and distinguished guests.

Kiran Kumar Mudiraj, President of the Telangana State BC Yuva Galam (Backward Classes Youth Wing), graced the occasion as the chief guest. He participated in the flag-hoisting ceremony, paying tribute to the nation's ideals of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. Following the flag hoisting, Mudiraj felicitated and awarded prizes to students who had excelled in various fields, recognizing their outstanding achievements and encouraging them to continue their pursuit of excellence. The gesture was warmly received, inspiring young minds to contribute positively to society. The programme saw active participation from teachers, students, and parents, who joined together in celebrating the spirit of the Indian Republic. Patriotic songs, cultural performances, and speeches highlighting the significance of the Constitution marked the event.



Republic Day celebrations Flag hosting at Government Medical College Nizamabad on 26/01/2026 Participants Dr N. Krishna Mohan Addl/DME Principal Dr P. Srinivas Superintendent Dr BV Nagamohan Rao Vice Principal Dr. jalaganthi Thirupathi Rao Vice Principal, Dr. Kishore Kumar AD K. Ramadevi AO Madhusudhan Superintendent Peddolla Nagaraju, Gangadher staff Govind, Sai Baba Ravichandra, Prudhvi, Gayathri, Jyothi, all Doctors, UG, PG Students and Staff Of Government Medical college Nizamabad Thanks With regards By Principal GMC Nizamabad (photo--A.kalidas)

## Republic Day celebrations in Warangal with grandeur: Collector

WARANGAL (TSIT) To celebrate the 77th Republic Day of India, Republic Day celebrations were held with grandeur on Monday at Khila Warangal Khush Mahal grounds in Warangal district headquarters. District Collector Dr. Satya Sharada unfurled the National Tricolor and received a salute from the police.

The welfare and development programmes implemented by various departments in the district and the progress achieved were explained. On this occasion, the government officials who have rendered the best service



es, along with District Collector, Additional

Collector Sandhyarani and DCP Ankit Kumar presented certificates of appreciation to the employees and voluntary organizations.

As part of the Republic Day celebrations, the cultural programmes performed by the students of various government schools impressed the participants with patriotic dances and songs, and they were also awarded certificates of appreciation. After that Agriculture Department, Horticulture Department, Lead Bank, Health Department, Welfare Department, on the welfare and development programs

implemented in the district by the Rural Development Department, Handloom Industries Department, Women's Self Help Societies and other departments.

Collector Dr. Satya Sharada, Mayor Gundu Sudharani, GWMC Commissioner Chahat Bajpai and DCP Ankit Kumar inspected the exhibition halls set up.

On this occasion, for the successful implementation of innovative voter awareness programmes and the establishment of green polling centers as part of district-wide election management.

## Rathan Nomula takes charge as BJP Warangal District Social Media In-charge

## Collector Pamela Satpathy unfurls National Flag at grand Republic Day celebrations in Karimnagar



Karimnagar, January 26 (TSIT): The 77th Republic Day of India was celebrated with grandeur and patriotic fervour at the Police Parade Ground in Karimnagar district on Sunday. District Collector Pamela Satpathy unfurled the National Flag and received the ceremonial salute from the police. Addressing the gathering, she highlighted the welfare and development programmes being implemented by various government departments in the district and briefed the progress achieved so far.

Police Commissioner Goush Alam, Additional Collectors Ashwini Tanaji Wakade and Lakshmi Kiran, Municipal Commissioner Prapul Desai, and senior officials from various departments participated in the celebrations.

## Chairman hoists National Flag

Tirumala, 26 January 2026: On the occasion of the 77th Republic Day, the TTD Trust Board Chairman Sri BR Naidu hoisted the National Flag at his Camp Office in Tirumala on Monday. TTD Trust Board members Sri Sadasiva Rao, Sri Naresh Kumar, Sri Shantaram, Smt Panabaka Lakshmi also offered Salute to the National Flag on the occasion.



Warangal: Under the chairmanship of BJP Warangal District President Sri Ganta Ravikumar, Rathan Nomula officially assumed charge as the BJP Warangal District Social Media In-charge in the presence of state and district leaders.

Speaking on the occasion, District President Ganta Ravikumar said that social media plays a key role in effectively taking the party's principles and programs to the

people. He expressed confidence that Rathan Nomula has the capability to discharge this responsibility efficiently.

After assuming charge, Rathan Nomula expressed his sincere gratitude to the party leadership for trusting him with the responsibility. He assured that he would work tirelessly to strengthen the party and actively propagate BJP's programs, along with the development and welfare schemes of the central

government and BJP-led state governments, through social media platforms. He further affirmed his commitment to realizing the vision of a developed India under the leadership of Honorable Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi, and under the guidance of BJP National President Sri Nitin Nabi and BJP State President Sri Ramachandra Rao. Several state and district-level leaders and party workers participated in the program.

## Shadnagar Zone DCP Sirisha Highlights Police Commitment to Safety and Drug Eradication



under the supervision of ACP Laxminarayana. Addressing the gathering, she noted that policing is a demanding profession that requires dedication and constant alertness to ensure peace and security.

The DCP expressed her happiness on being entrusted with the respon-

sibility of Shadnagar Zone and said that officers and staff have been briefed on duties and procedures in accordance with the directions of senior officials. She further stated that awareness programmes against drug abuse would be strengthened to protect youth and society at large.

The Republic Day programme was attended by ACP Laxminarayana, CI Vijay Kumar, DI Venkateshwarulu, SB SI Devaki, SIs Pranay and Srikanth, ASIs, and other police personnel.

## Rising-2047 sets direction for Telangana's future growth

Khammam (TSIT): The Telangana government is moving forward with a clear roadmap to position the state as a model of inclusive development, Khammam District Collector Anudeep Durishetty said while addressing the 77th Republic Day celebrations here on Sunday. He said the Telangana Rising-2047 vision document, prepared under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, provides a strong direction for the state's long-term progress with equal focus on development and welfare. The Collector said several flagship welfare and development initiatives have delivered tangible benefits to people across the dis-

tinct. Schemes such as free bus travel for women, Gruha Jyothi, farm loan waiver, expansion of Rajiv Aarogyasri, paddy procurement with bonus, and accelerated irrigation projects have strengthened economic security for farmers, women and vulnerable sections. Investments in irrigation, power, roads and urban infrastructure were driving sustained growth, he said.



Republic Day celebrations Flag hosting at Government Medical College Nizamabad on 26/01/2026 Participants Dr N. Krishna Mohan Addl/DME Principal Dr P. Srinivas Superintendent Dr BV Nagamohan Rao Vice Principal Dr. jalaganthi Thirupathi Rao Vice Principal, Dr. Kishore Kumar AD K. Ramadevi AO Madhusudhan Superintendent Peddolla Nagaraju, Gangadher staff Govind, Sai Baba Ravichandra, Prudhvi, Gayathri, Jyothi, all Doctors, UG, PG Students and Staff Of Government Medical college Nizamabad Thanks With regards By Principal GMC Nizamabad (photo--A.kalidas)

## Rahul Gandhi invites citizens to share air pollution impact stories on 'Awaaz Bharat Ki'



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Jinnah" alongside phrases like "Long Live revered Bapu" and "Long live Bhagat Singh, Inquilab Zindabad." Students also alleged that he made comments glorifying Pakistan, claiming "paradise lies in Pakistan."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



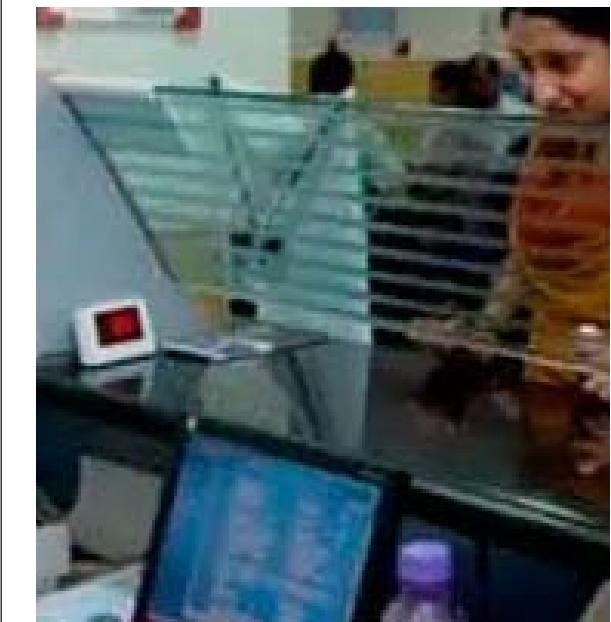
2026, with others (RIL, MRPL, HMEL) staying out as of now," he said. Indian refiners are currently sourcing Russian crude through a mix of channels, but the trend for most buyers has shifted toward newer non-sanctioned intermediaries rather than clean, direct liftings from the major Russian producers.

"Direct deliveries linked to Rosneft and Lukoil are still taking place, but they are increasingly concentrated with Naryara, which has continued lifting Russian barrels given its different risk posture and Russian linkage,

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

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

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



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

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

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

## Uttarakhand temples to restrict entry to Hindus only, BKTC confirms

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

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



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

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

## Editorial

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

## ECI's duty to the Republic

Republic Day homilies this year sound distinctly ironic in the context of all that's being done by the Election Commission of India (ECI) to enervate India's democracy. In a message to citizens on National Voters' Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi described voting as "a sacred constitutional right" and voters as the "bhagya vidhata" (deciders of destiny) of India. That sentiment simply does not square with the ECI's arbitrary and ongoing disenfranchisement of millions of voters, even as the republic enters its 77th year. The irony is complete when you consider that National Voters Day commemorates the founding of the ECI on January 25, 1950, one day prior to the birth of the republic. How macabre that one of the near twins is presiding over the eclipse of the other.

The ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls has become an instrument of exclusion of citizens from the republic, which is directly opposite to the ECI's self-professed mandate of leaving no voter behind. So far, approximately 7.24 crore voters' names have been deleted from the rolls, provisionally or finally, across 13 states and union territories. That's about 13.2% of the pre-SIR voter population in these jurisdictions and 7.3% of India's total of 99.1 crore electors.

This hasty overhaul, with deadlines ranging from January 26 to February 7, is likely to translate into a political upheaval when elections are held in these states. We have already seen what it can do in Bihar. There, 65 lakh voters' names were deleted after the slapdash SIR exercise, representing 8.3% of the pre-SIR total electorate of 7.89 crore. This led to an astoundingly one-sided verdict in the subsequent elections, with the two main parties in the ruling coalition each achieving a win percentage above 85%. Disregarding the outcry from the opposition, voters and both-level officials alike, ECI has pressed on with the SIR in 12 more jurisdictions. Provisional deletions have been steep there as well, with Uttar Pradesh having the highest (2.89 crore), followed by Tamil Nadu (97.38 lakh), West Bengal (58.2 lakh), Madhya Pradesh (42.7 lakh), and Kerala (24.08 lakh).

With elections due in Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Kerala in a few months, the large-scale and debatable deletions have created a situation ripe with suspicion regarding the role of the commission. Any attempt by the BJP to vitiate the atmosphere there with polarising rhetoric risks turning them into tinder boxes. It would be wise, therefore, for the ECI to conduct the remaining part of the SIR process with due deliberation and fairness. Unrest in these vital and identity-proud states will do the republic no good. Apart from the partisanship of the ECI, well-documented in elections past, the SIR suffers from a systemic bias against poor, rural and migrant voters. They are more likely than other categories of voters to not have the documents demanded by SIR or the resources to fetch them, such as birth certificates or proof of residence or legacy. As Nobel laureate Amartya Sen has said, this class bias is likely to express itself in the election verdict and thereon in governance itself.

Disregarding the outcry from the opposition, voters and both-level officials alike, ECI has pressed on with the SIR in 12 more jurisdictions.

## The case for a new Red Sea security architecture

Recent events in Yemen, Sudan and Somalia have underscored the need for the nations overlooking the Red Sea to coordinate more closely to end these conflicts. These three cases represent examples where local problems have gradually entangled regional and international players with differing interests. Other disputes also affect this region and require coordination among the littoral states, including the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Egyptian-Ethiopian dispute over sharing the Nile and the more recent Ethiopian quest for sea access.

While restoring peace and security should be the primary goal of this coordination, promoting trade, investment and development and protecting the marine environment should also be part of a new and robust security architecture to safeguard the Red Sea region.

International trade and trade among the littoral states have been severely affected by these conflicts. The international community should be concerned about the economic effects of these simmering conflicts on trade. For millennia, the Red Sea has been a vital corridor for trade, connecting three continents — Asia, Africa and Europe. In normal times, this route handles 12 percent to 15 percent of international maritime trade and about 30 percent of global container traffic, according to the World Shipping Council. In 2023, the Suez Canal recorded 26,434 vessel transits, including 5,847 container ships, averaging about 16 container vessels daily.

The Houthis started attacking

ships in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden in October 2023. There have been about 120 such attacks since then. As a result, trade has diverted from the Red Sea to the longer and more expensive route around Africa. In 2025, the trade volume through the Bab Al-Mandab Strait declined to about 35 percent of 2023 levels, while Suez Canal traffic was about 41 percent compared to 2023. Large ships (7,500 tonnes and up) now largely avoid both passageways altogether. Container ship traffic through the Suez Canal is at about 6 percent of what it was in 2023 and only nine ships transited Bab Al-Mandab during 2025.

The Red Sea is also a vital route for oil and liquefied natural gas, the insecurity of which threatens supplies for Europe and other regions. Before the crisis, about 9.2 million barrels per day of crude oil and refined petroleum products passed through the Red Sea, according to US Energy Information Administration figures. This volume represented about 12 percent of total global sea-borne traded oil before 2023, when Houthi attacks started.

While Yemen has turned a new page with the restoration of government authority over areas overlooking Bab Al-Mandab and the Gulf of Aden, large parts of the country's Red Sea coast remain under Houthi control. Somaliland's unilateral quest for independence has taken a bad turn as it has entangled outside players, such as Israel. The war in Sudan also took a turn for the worse in 2025, affecting the security of the whole region.

For millennia, the Red Sea has



been a vital corridor for trade, connecting three continents — Asia, Africa and Europe.

Trade and security are both at risk when security for underwater fiber optic cables is breached because they are essential for data transmission between Africa, Europe and Asia.

Similarly for environmental hazards, Houthi attacks on oil tankers create risks of major ecological disasters in the region.

Terrorism remains a serious threat, with the Houthis and Al-Shabab joining forces to destabilize the region. Human trafficking,

illegal migration and drugs remain perennial threats as well.

The region is highly militarized, with numerous foreign bases in Djibouti, for example. The US has its largest African base there and the primary base for its Africa Command. China has its first overseas military

base there and France has its largest base abroad. Japan, Italy, Germany, the UK and others also maintain a military presence in the country.

In addition, the US launched its Prosperity Guardian operation in the southern Red Sea and the EU has its Operation Atalanta along the Somali coast and Aspides near Bab Al-Mandab. The Bahrain-based Combined Maritime Forces has dispatched a Red Sea task force as well. Turkiye is also enhancing its military presence in the region.

While these efforts from outside the region are welcome, there is an urgent need to coordinate the efforts of local players, not only on security issues but on a more comprehensive agenda that also includes diplomacy, economic integration, environmental protection and fighting illicit trade. All these issues argue for closer coordination among Red Sea and Gulf of Aden littoral states. Saudi Arabia is probably the country that is best placed to play the coordinating role, as it has the longest coast along the Red Sea and has deep historical ties with all countries overlooking both these bodies of water. Having the largest regional economy, it has an abiding interest in restoring stability and security in this region. It has committed enormous funds to promoting trade and tourism along its Red Sea coast and islands as part of its drive to diversify its economy under Vision 2030. The country is preparing to host Expo 2030, Fifa World Cup 2034 and other major events in the near future, which also call for keeping this region safe and secure.

## RANDOM VIOLENCE

## State terror has arrived for America



After the past three weeks of brutality in Minneapolis, it should no longer be possible to say that the Trump administration seeks merely to govern this nation. It seeks to reduce us all to a state of constant fear — a fear of violence from which some people may at a given moment be spared, but from which no one will ever be truly safe. That is our new national reality. State terror has arrived.

Since early January, when Immigration and Customs Enforcement expanded its operation in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, its officers have killed Renee Good, a white middle-class mother; menaced a pregnant immigration lawyer in her firm's parking lot; detained numerous US citizens, including one dragged out of his house in his underwear; smashed car windows and detained their occupants, including a US citizen on her way to a medical appointment at a traumatic brain injury center; set off crowd-control grenades and tear gas next to a car containing six children, including a 6-month-old; swept an airport, demanding papers and arresting more than a dozen workers; detained a 5-year-old; and killed another US citizen, Alex Jeffrey Pretti, an ICU nurse with no criminal record. It appears he was white. Agents had him on the ground, subdued, before they apparently fired at least 10 shots at point-blank range.

Confronted with a list like this, we look for details that might explain why these people were subjected to such treatment, details that might reassure us that we, by contrast, are not in danger. Good was married to a woman, and her wife spoke impertinently to an ICE officer. ChongLy Thao, dragged out of his house in his underwear, is an immigrant from Laos. The woman on her way to a medical appointment and the family with six children drove through areas where anti-ICE protests were taking place. The 5-year-old's family lacks permanent status. Little is known about Pretti, but his father said he participated in protests and may have been legally carrying a gun. We focus on these details not to justify ICE's actions, which are plainly brutal and unjustifiable, but to force the world to make sense and to calm our nerves. If we don't talk back, if we alter our routes to avoid protests, if we are lucky enough to be white, straight, natural-born Americans — or, if we are not, but we stay quiet — we will be safe. Conversely, we can choose to speak up and take a risk. Either way, we tell ourselves that if consequences are predictable, we have agency.

## BUT THAT'S NOT HOW STATE TERROR WORKS.

In the 1990s, when I spoke with people

in the former Soviet Union about their families' experiences of Stalinist terror, I was struck by how much people seemed to know about what had led to arrests or executions. Neighbors had informed on them, or colleagues had named them under duress. These stories were passed down through generations. How could they know so much? They couldn't. People crafted narra-

tion. That is how state terror works. Randomness distinguishes a regime based on terror from one that is merely repressive. Even in brutally repressive systems, one knows where the boundaries lie. Open protest leads to arrest; private conversation does not. Writing subversive essays gets you arrested; quietly passing them on probably does not. A terror regime deploys violence precisely to reinforce the message that anyone can be subjected to it.

When we think of terror regimes of the past, it's tempting to imagine a methodical plan, an extermination to-do list. This is how many people read Martin Niemöller's poem "First They Came." In reality, people living under those regimes never knew which group would be designated an enemy next. In Niemöller's day, terror was carried out by secret police and paramilitary forces such as the SA. In 1934, Adolf Hitler ordered the arrest and execution of the SA's own leadership, demonstrating that no one was immune. Stalin carried out similar purges. Terror was not the end goal, but nothing that followed would have been possible without it. The toolbox is not particularly varied. President Donald Trump is using all the instruments: reported ICE arrest quotas; paramilitary forces drunk on their own brutality; the spectacle of random violence in city streets; and postmortem vilification of victims. It's natural that our brains struggle to find logic in what we're seeing. There is a logic, and it has a name.

# 77th Republic Day celebrated with patriotic fervour in Mangaluru, Udupi

Mangaluru/Udupi, Jan 26: The 77th Republic Day was celebrated with patriotic fervour and grandeur across Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts on Monday, with ministers calling for peace, social harmony and responsible citizenship while highlighting the state government's developmental initiatives.

In Mangaluru, the district-level Republic Day celebrations were held at Nehru Maidan, where Dakshina Kannada district in-charge minister Dinesh Gundu Rao unfurled the national flag and delivered his address. He warned that the government would not tolerate any individual or organisation attempting to mislead local youth for personal gain or incite them into violent activities. The minister said peace and harmony would prevail only when people practised the true essence of their respective religions while respecting other faiths. He stressed that sustained law and order was essential for development and urged citizens to cooperate with the



administration. Divisive forces that seek to fragment society, he said, remain a major obstacle to progress.

Referring to development works, Dinesh Gundu Rao said the modernisation of the Mangaluru fishing harbour is being undertaken at an estimated cost of Rs 37 crore. The project includes construction of a 320-metre-long new jetty, development of modern infrastructure, reconstruction of auction halls and installation of

drainage facilities, fulfilling a long-pending demand of the fishing community. Delhi-based probationary IPS officer Ananya Srivastava served as the parade commander and conducted the parade commands in Kannada. During the programme, 10 government school students who secured the highest marks in the SSLC examination were honoured with cash awards of Rs 50,000 each in place of computers. KSRTC drivers who

completed 15 years of accident-free service were felicitated with silver medals. The family of Sindhu Shree, who donated organs after her death, was also honoured.

Cultural programmes were presented by students of Bethel Resal, Yenepoya, Carmel and St Agnes schools. The Bharat Sevadal Mullakadu school team secured first place in the parade competition, while the Scouts boys team from government high school,

Kinnikambala, won second place and received the rolling shield.

Among those present were MP Capt Brijesh Chowta, deputy commissioner Darshan, IGP Amit Singh, police commissioner Sudheer Kumar Reddy, SP Arun Kumar, additional deputy commissioner Raju and heads of various corporations and academies. The programme was compered by Manjula Shetty and Umesh. Meanwhile, in Udupi, the 77th Republic Day was celebrated at the Mahatma Gandhi Stadium, Ajarkad. Udupi district in-charge minister and minister for women and child development, disabled and senior citizens empowerment Laxmi Hebbalkar hoisted the national flag and led the celebrations.

Addressing the gathering, Hebbalkar said January 26 marked the implementation of the Constitution of India and reminded citizens of their rights and duties. She paid tribute to freedom fighters and urged the youth to uphold moral values and

contribute responsibly to nation-building.

Highlighting government initiatives, the minister said 'Akkapade' centres have been established across all districts and police commissioners to support women and children facing abuse, neglect or exploitation. She noted that more than 100 bills had been passed in the last two-and-a-half years to address public issues, including the Hate Speech and Hate Crimes Prevention Bill aimed at maintaining social harmony.

On the occasion, progressive farmers were felicitated and scholarships were distributed to meritorious students. The Republic Day parade featured contingents from the district police, women police wing, fire and emergency services, home guards, NCC cadets, and scouts and guides from various schools and colleges.

The formal programme concluded with colourful cultural performances by students from across the district, reflecting India's unity in diversity.

## 77th Republic Day Celebration at The Mysore Electrical Industries Limited



Bengaluru: We should all work under the Constitution and uphold the importance of the Constitution and has MEI been contributing its own way for the progress of the country, said MEI President S. Manohar.

Speaking at the the 77th Republic Day celebrations in The Mysore Electrical Industries Limited, he said that on this auspicious day, the eminent personalities who died fighting for freedom will be remembered and all the great leaders who worked hard to implement the Constitution will be paid tribute.

S. Manohar asked the officers and staff to work towards further strengthening the organization in collaboration with the state government. Manohar gave the call and on this occasion, the struggle of Krantiveer Sangoli Rayanna was remembered and homage was paid to him, By the citizens, to the citizens.

The day when we ourselves dedicated the Constitution to ourselves in 1950 is Republic Day and the Managing Director of the organization, Mrs. Anita. C, addressed the program about the importance and hope of the Constitution and to act socially. Officers and employees of the organization were present on this occasion.

Raj Bhavan Chalo to save MGNREGA: DCM DK Shivakumar



Bengaluru, January 26: Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Monday announced that a "Raj Bhavan Chalo" protest will be organised on Tuesday to oppose the Centre's alleged move to weaken the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

Speaking to reporters at the KPCC office, Shivakumar said the protest would be accompanied by 5-km padayatras in every taluk and demonstrations at the panchayat level across the state. He termed it shocking that the Centre was attempting to dismantle a scheme introduced 20 years ago under the leadership of Sonia Gandhi and former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, which guaranteed employment to rural households.

He said all legislators, district in-charge ministers, panchayat members, and MGNREGA beneficiaries would mandatorily participate in the agitation. Shivakumar added that although there was an initial plan to gherao the BJP office, the party decided to organise Raj Bhavan Chalo instead.

Highlighting the importance of the scheme, the DCM said works worth nearly Rs 6,000 crore were carried out annually under MGNREGA in Karnataka, providing employment to lakhs of rural people. He asserted that the Congress would continue its protest under the leadership of Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi until the scheme is restored.

Shivakumar also stated that the issue would be raised in the Assembly, urging the Centre to withdraw the new law, similar to the repeal of the farm laws. Responding to allegations of irregularities in MGNREGA, he challenged critics to a public debate.

**Mark St. John's land and immediately begin work to install 5 portal piers for the flyover: Maheshwar Rao**



Bengaluru : The Chief Commissioner of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), Maheshwar Rao, instructed officials to mark the required land at St. John's and immediately begin work to install five portal piers for the Ejipura flyover.

He spoke at a meeting held with officials from the Traffic Police Department and St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences regarding the Ejipura flyover project.

Resolution of the St. John's land issue. The construct-

## How India should adapt to artificial intelligence in healthcare

By Sadhana S

India stands at a crucial moment in its healthcare journey, with Artificial Intelligence (AI) emerging as a powerful tool to address long-standing challenges of access, affordability, and efficiency. As millions continue to struggle with inadequate healthcare services, AI has the potential to become a vital support system—provided it is adopted responsibly and thoughtfully.

AI is already making inroads into Indian hospitals and clinics. Technologies that analyse X-rays, CT scans, and laboratory results are helping doctors detect tuberculosis, cancer, and heart diseases at earlier stages. AI-enabled telemedicine platforms are simplifying remote consultations through chat-based screening and triage, offering particular relief to rural and underserved populations. Government initiatives such as the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission are laying the groundwork for digital health records, a critical prerequisite for effective AI deployment. Meanwhile, startups are developing tools to monitor chronic illnesses, predict disease risks, and streamline hospital operations. Despite this progress, adoption remains uneven. Large urban hospitals benefit far more than small clinics and rural health centres,



many of which lack the digital infrastructure required to support AI tools. Health data in India is still fragmented across public and private systems, limiting the accuracy and usefulness of AI. Ethical concerns related to data privacy, patient consent, and accountability also pose significant challenges.

For AI to truly strengthen India's healthcare system, a structured and responsible approach is essential. Building a robust digital health backbone through secure and interoperable electronic health records must be the first priority.

Alongside this, clear regulatory frameworks are needed to ensure AI tools used in diagnosis and treatment are safe, transparent, and fair.

Equally important is aligning AI innovation with India's public health priorities—such as tuberculosis screening, maternal healthcare, chronic disease management, and rural telemedicine. AI should function as a support to doctors, easing workloads and enhancing decision-making rather than replacing human judgement.

Finally, capacity building is key. Healthcare professionals must be trained in AI literacy to use these tools ethically and effectively. Collaboration between government, healthcare institutions, academia, and technology companies will ensure that AI-driven innovation benefits all sections of society.

AI is not a cure-all for India's healthcare challenges. However, if implemented with care and responsibility, it can significantly improve access, affordability, and equity—while preserving the human connection that lies at the heart of medicine.

## Veteran actress Jayamala releases Amrutha Anjan trailer; film to hit screens on 30th



Producer Lokesh Nagappa expressed his happiness over backing Sudhakar's growth in cinema, stating that his belief in the young filmmaker's potential led him to produce the film. He emphasized that the focus was on content rather than commercial expectations and thanked Jayamala for her encouragement and support at the trailer launch.

Director Jyothi Rao Mohit said the inspiration for Amrutha Anjan came from his short film of the same name. He described the movie as a complete comedy entertainer with 80 percent humour and 20 percent sentiment, blending elements of love, friendship, relationships, songs, action, and humour. Thanking Jayamala for launching the trailer, he added that the film is being released through Jayanna Films and sought the audience's love and cooperation.

With strong backing from industry veterans and high expectations surrounding its youthful team, Amrutha Anjan is poised to entertain audiences when it releases on the 30th.

Bengaluru: The trailer of the upcoming Kannada film Amrutha Anjan was officially released by veteran actress, former MLC and former Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce president Jayamala at a special launch event held at Utsav Lagashi, GT Mall, Bengaluru.

Amrutha Anjan, which began its journey as a short film and garnered millions of views, has already won the appreciation of audiences for its entertaining content. Encouraged by the overwhelming response, a team of young talents from across the state has now brought the story to the big screen as a full-length

feature film, set for theatrical release on the 30th of this month.

Speaking at the event, Jayamala praised the dedication of the young team and shared her association with producer Lokesh Nagappa. She highlighted how talent and education can go hand in hand, citing the journey of Sudhakar, a former student with a strong passion for cinema.

Jayamala lauded the team's earlier work, including a popular comedy web series that clocked over two-and-a-half crore views, and wished the cast and crew great success. She urged audiences to watch and support the film made by young and promising talent.

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

Accordingly, the Chief Commissioner instructed the engineers and contractors to mark the area and commence the work immediately.

He also directed that barricades be installed as a safety measure while the work on the five portal piers is in progress. Further, space should be provided for storing construction materials until the work is completed, and the compound wall should be reconstructed immediately after the completion of the work.

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

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.

He instructed that the concerned officials in each City Corporation must personally inspect the ward boundaries and

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.

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, correction, 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 2022 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.

# CM Stalin: 2026 polls another Aryan-Dravidian battlefield



CHENNAI: Framing the forthcoming Assembly election as a renewed Aryan-Dravidian ideological battle, Chief Minister and DMK president MK Stalin on Sunday said the coming polls would determine whether Tamil language, culture and political autonomy would be protected or subjected to Delhi's domination.

Addressing a public meeting in Kanchipuram to mark Language Martyrs'

Day, Stalin declared that the electoral contest would be another battlefield of the Aryan-Dravidian struggle, aimed at defeating forces that, he alleged, were seeking to erode Tamil identity through political power and policy intervention.

Sharpening his attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP-led NDA, the Chief Minister accused the Union government of attempting to impose

Hindi and undermine federal principles through the National Education Policy (NEP) and the proposed three-language formula. He alleged that the Centre was using financial pressure to force compliance, pointing to the withholding of Rs 3,548 crore due to Tamil Nadu under education-related schemes. "Hindi imposition could not be done directly, so it is now being pushed through schools and universities using the

NEP," Stalin said, taking a swipe at Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan for "lecturing Tamil Nadu on language". Mocking Modi's double-engine government pitch, Stalin said the model had failed elsewhere and would never succeed in Tamil Nadu. "This 'dabba' engine' will not run here," said the DMK president. He accused the BJP of trying to use the AIADMK to gain a foothold in the State, and added that AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami had faced repeated electoral defeats since 2019.

Referring to Modi's recent visit, Stalin said the Prime Minister avoided questions on pending central funds, delimitation of parliamentary constituencies, major infrastructure projects and disaster relief. "There were no answers, only election rhetoric," he said.

Tamil Nadu has already achieved significant progress in economic growth, education, healthcare and social development, said Stalin, stating that it did not need governance lessons from the Centre.

Language Martyrs'

Day

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

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

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



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

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

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

and wellness.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hyderabad: State Bank of India, Local Head Office (LHO), Hyderabad, celebrated the 77th Republic Day with patriotic fervour, adopting the theme "150 Years of Vande Mataram." Shri S. Radhakrishnan, Chief General Manager, SBI Hyderabad Circle, unfurled the National Flag at the Northern Lawns of the LHO premises.

Addressing the gathering, Shri S. Radhakrishnan conveyed his Republic Day greetings and called upon the LHO team to draw inspiration from the Prime Minister's vision of excellence, emphasizing that "excellence is a habit." He stated that the Local Head Office sets the benchmark for the entire circle and urged all branches, ATMs and Customer Service Points (CSPs) to consistently deliver a superior customer experience in line with SBI's global reputation as the Best Consumer Bank. He noted that this cultural shift is crucial to achieving the Chairman's strategic goal



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

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

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

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

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

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

## LIC Zonal Manager Puneet Kumar Unfurls National Flag on Republic Day

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## AP Grameena Bank Celebrates 77th Republic Day in Guntur

Guntur (TSIT): Andhra Pradesh Grameena Bank celebrated the 77th Republic Day with great pride and patriotic fervour at its Head Office premises in Brodipet, Guntur. The celebrations were attended by Head Office staff, Heads of Departments, the General Manager (HR), General Manager (IT), and Vigilance Incharge Mr. Harish Betha. The programme was graced by the presence of the Chairman of the Bank, Sri K. Pramod Kumar Reddy. On the occasion, Chairman Sri K. Pramod Kumar Reddy unfurled the National Flag and addressed the gathering. In his speech, he highlighted the theme of this year's Republic Day and emphasized the enduring values enshrined in the Constitution, including unity, national integrity, and nation-building.

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

# German defense minister urges Trump to apologize for Afghanistan remarks



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

a message in response to a Reuters query — the first confirmation that Indonesia has possession of the advanced military aircraft after striking an \$8 billion deal with France in 2022 and expanding it last year. Sirait said the three aircraft arrived on Friday and were stationed at Roesmin Nurjadin Air Base in Pekanbaru, located on the western island of Sumatra. Three more jets are expected to arrive later this year, he added. Indonesia has been

one of the biggest players on the international fighter jet market as it looks to upgrade its aircraft, setting aside big budgets for defense spending. It has been considering a number of options alongside the Rafales, including China's J-10 fighter jets and US-made F-15EX jets. For the longer term, it has also signed a contract to buy 40 KAAN fighter jets from Turkiye, a fifth-generation aircraft powered by General Electric F-110 engines that are also used in fourth-generation Lockheed Martin F-16 jets.

## EU countries give final approval to Russian gas ban

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

Ministers from EU countries approved the law at a

meeting in Brussels on Monday, although Slovakia and Hungary voted against. Hungary said it would take the case to the European Court of Justice. The ban was designed to be approved by a reinforced majority of countries, nearly four years after Russia's 2022 full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

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

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

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



DHAKA: As Bangladesh prepares for the first election since the ouster of its long-serving ex-prime minister Sheikh Hasina, only 4 percent of the registered candidates are women, as more than half of the political parties did not field female candidates. The vote on Feb. 12 will bring in new leadership after an 18-month rule of the caretaker administration that took control following the student-led uprising that ended 15 years in power of Hasina's Awami League party.

Nearly 128 million Bangladeshis will head to the polls, but while more than 62 million of them are women, the percentage of female candidates in the race is incomparably lower, despite last year's consensus reached by political parties to have at least 5 percent women on their lists.

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

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

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

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

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

## Ex-Philippine leader Duterte to face ICC hearing Feb 23

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## US' Gaza 'Master Plan' clashes with reality

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

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

tradition or history.

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

Those are the significant near-term impediments. Delivering this plan, at a time when the conflict still rages, will be nigh on impossible.

Just clearing the 60 million tonnes of rubble, which is peppered with unexploded ordnance and a host of toxins, will take an age and cost a fortune.

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



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

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

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

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

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

Palestinians in Gaza would be won over by the project or where they would go during reconstruction. Kushner said Gaza would be run on free-market principles, as opposed to how Palestinians might wish to shape their economic future. It was clear that Kushner's presentation. The

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

Do Palestinians want tourism, given the beachfront is all labeled for coastal tourism?

Who decided on the importance of data centers at this stage? And how many of the companies making a fortune out of this dreamworld will be Palestinian and how many will be rich businessmen with no link to Gaza at all?

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



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

Leh (Ladakh), Jan 26 (UNI) Renowned Indian Ice skater Vishwaraj Rajen Jadeja overheard a conversation his coach Wim Nieuwenhuizen was having with someone in the Netherlands. That gentleman asked Wim, in Dutch, if Jadeja was talented. Wim replied: "No, he is not but is a Rajput. They don't give up no matter what." And that's exactly what Jadeja has done over the last 18 years he has spent in ice skating. Vishwaraj Jadeja has not given up! He has royal roots and comes from the Dhrol family - back in the day a small kingdom in the Jam Nagar district of Gujarat. His palace is now a school for women, where they need to pay just a nominal fee. Practically, free education as part of the family's



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hardik (2/23) set the tone in the opening over with a stunning backward-running catch to dismiss Devon Conway (1). He then struck in his next over as Rachin Ravindra (4) mistimed a short delivery and Bishnoi at deep square leg completed the formalities. Bumrah, introduced as second change, made an immediate impact and was again the pick of the bowling grabbing three for 17. Returning after being rested for the Raipur game, he knocked over Tim Seifert (12) with a full delivery that came in to uproot the off-stump. Bishnoi then bowled with precision, denying the batters any momentum. He prevented Glenn Phillips from reaching a deserved fifty, dismissing him for 48 with his figures reading 30-9-1 after operating in the fifth, eighth and 12th overs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Alcaraz said the locker room jokes keep it fun. Seeking an unpreceded 25th Grand Slam title, Djokovic has been blocked in the last two years by Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner, who have split the eight titles evenly. One missing element on Alcaraz's tennis CV is a trophy at Melbourne Park. He has never gone past the quarterfinals. He'll face either local favorite Alex de Minaur or No. 10 Alexander Bublik in the last eight this coming week.

Paul reached the Australian Open semifinals in 2023, so had that in his favor going into the fourth-round match with Alcaraz. The pair were going shot for shot in the first-set tiebreaker when a medical episode paused their match for more than 14 minutes.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mboko saved match points and played well

momentum and forced a tiebreaker only for Sabalenka to dominate.

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

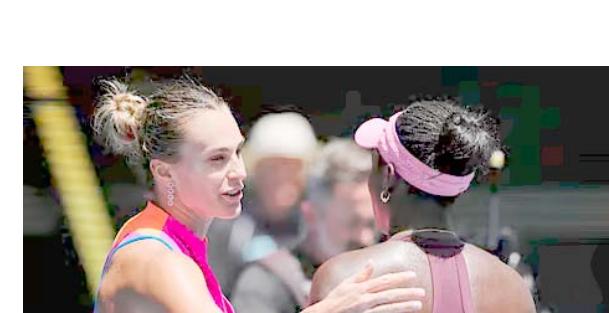
Sabalenka said playing the morning match at Melbourne Park came with some challenges, including shadows and bright sun. "Don't get me wrong, I like to play the first match, but the tricky part, at some point the sun goes right into your serve point. It's kind of like tricky. You can break the serve,"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

the serve. She did an incredible job serving on that side."

Jovic and Mboko were scheduled to play doubles together later Sunday on Kia Arena against fourth-seeded Elise Mertens and Zhang Shuai.

After her singles win when she broke Putintseva's serve six times and led 6-0, 4-0 before she dropped serve herself, Jovic said she'd just concentrate on her own game when she faced Sabalenka.

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





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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

The announcement of the Padma Awards on the occasion of India’s 77th Republic Day has brought a proud moment for Telugu cinema, with veteran actor Rajendra Prasad being conferred the prestigious Padma Shri by the Government of India. Born in Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh, Rajendra Prasad made his entry into Telugu cinema in 1977 with Sneham. Over a remarkable career spanning 48 years, he has portrayed an extraordinary range of characters, winning hearts across generations and earning the affectionate title Nata Kireeti. Expressing his heartfelt emotions after the announcement, Rajendra Prasad said the honour was a blessing from the people. He remarked: “This Padma Shri is my good fortune and the blessing of Telugu audiences. From the moment I heard the news, my heart was filled with happiness. I respectfully thank the Government of India for recognising an actor with such a great honour. I am also deeply grateful to the Andhra Pradesh Government and all elders who recommended my name. For me, this award truly belongs to the audience. For nearly five decades, they have embraced me not just as an actor, but as a member of their own family. The love with which they call me ‘our Rajendra Prasad’ is the greatest recognition of my life. The people of both Telugu states have always treated me like their own son, and I can never repay that affection. I congratulate all the distinguished personalities receiving Padma Awards this year and seek the continued blessings of my audience. As long as I live, I remain your Rajendra Prasad.” Rajendra Prasad’s Padma Shri honour celebrates not only his immense contribution to cinema but also the deep emotional bond he shares with Telugu audiences.



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



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

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

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

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

## Bronze statue of Sirivennela Seetharama Sastry unveiled at Anakapalli

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

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



## Kaithi 2 will happen after Allu Arjun film: Lokesh Kanagaraj

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

Why Kaithi 2 was delayed

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

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



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