



**NATION | NEWS**

PM Modi expresses excitement over address at Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue on Jan 12



**WORLD | NEWS**

Will US ever order Putin's capture like Maduro? Trump's 'very disappointed' reply

**SPORTS | NEWS**

Whatever is written in my destiny, no one can take that from me: Shubman Gill



**IN BRIEF**

India, EU reaffirm strong political resolve to address pending issues towards free trade pact

**New Delhi:** India and the European Union (EU) have reaffirmed the strong political resolve on either side to address pending issues through constructive engagement towards a mutually-beneficial free trade agreement (FTA), an official statement said on Saturday. During the latest ministerial-level discussions, both sides emphasised the strategic importance of concluding a fair, balanced, and ambitious agreement that aligns with their shared values, economic priorities, and commitment to a rules-based trading framework, said Ministry of Commerce and Industry in a statement. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal concluded a significant two-day visit to Brussels, marking a decisive step forward in the India-EU FTA negotiations.

Rapido driver held for sexually harassing woman software professional

**Bengaluru, Jan 10 :** A Rapido bike taxi rider was arrested on Saturday on the charges of harassing a woman software professional in Bengaluru. The 29-year-old woman, who works with a software company as manager, had booked a Rapido bike taxi to commute from her residence to Manayata Tech Park on Wednesday. During the journey, the rider, identified as Vivek, allegedly misbehaved with her. When the woman objected to his behaviour, the accused touched her inappropriately. When the woman questioned his actions, the accused allegedly abused her verbally and shouted at her. The woman raised an alarm and immediately alerted the local traffic police, who in turn informed Hoysala patrolling squad. The victim later lodged a written complaint with the police. The police have arrested the accused at his residence and launched an investigation. The police stated that the accused confessed to the crime and told investigators that he had touched her inappropriately.

## CM Calls for Preventive Cardiac Care at Fellows India Conference in Hyderabad

**Hyderabad (TSIT)** The Chief Minister expressed happiness over the Fellows India Conference being held in Hyderabad and said the city is rapidly emerging as a major hub for life sciences, pharmaceuticals and healthcare innovation.

Addressing the conference, which saw participation of over 500 cardiologists from across India and neighbouring South-East Asian countries, the Chief Minister welcomed the delegates and lauded their commitment to continuous learning even after achieving professional success.

Stating that constant learning is the key to sustained success, the Chief Minister said doctors hold a special place in society as people entrust their lives to their care. He urged cardiologists to always remember their responsibility towards humanity.

Chief Minister reiterated that healthcare is a top



priority for the Telangana government and said the government is open to working closely with medical professionals to improve healthcare poli-

cies in the larger public interest. He invited doctors to share suggestions and feedback.

Highlighting rapid advancements in technol-

ogy, artificial intelligence and quantum computing, he called upon doctors to stay updated with new technologies while maintaining a strong human touch in patient care.

Expressing concern over rising deaths due to heart diseases, the Chief Minister called for a collective mission to prevent cardiac ailments and save lives. He suggested that initiatives such as doctors volunteering to teach CPR techniques to school students could significantly improve survival outcomes.

Emphasising the importance of preventive medicine and public awareness, the Chief Minister urged doctors to work towards improving the overall quality of healthcare and strive to make India's healthcare system among the best in the world. Concluding his address, the Chief Minister said, "Keep learning, keep serving, keep rising."

**Kolkata (TSIT)** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday wrote to Chief Election Commissioner Ganesh Kumar, alleging that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls has been turned into an exercise to exclude voters rather than correct records. In her letter, Banerjee accused the Election Commission of political bias and high-handedness during the exercise.

"The hearing process has become largely mechanical, driven purely by technical data and completely devoid of the application of mind, sensitivity and human touch," she said in the three-page letter. She said the exercise's aim seemed "neither of correction nor of inclusion... but solely of deletion and of exclusion".

**Banerjee accuses the Election Commission of political bias & high-handedness during the exercise**

Banerjee claimed minor spelling or age discrepancies were leading to coercive hearings, harassment and loss of wages for ordinary people.

She also highlighted the plight of women who changed surnames after marriage, stating that they were being summoned to prove their identity, which she called a grave insult. She also raised concerns over the selective targeting of "logical discrepancies" in certain constituencies, the use of a different portal in West Bengal, and backend changes causing confusion among officials.

## BENGAL SIR

## ECI reviews claims over I-PAC staff roles



**Kolkata, Jan 10 :** Amid the controversies of the Enforcement Directorate (ED)'s raid and search operations at the office of the Indian Political Action Committee (I-PAC) and the residence of the entity's co-founder Pratik Jain on Thursday, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has decided to conduct a review of the complaints received about I-PAC staff allegedly being appointed as data-entry operators in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in West Bengal after being shown as contractual state government employees.

The Commission had taken the complaints of the I-PAC staff being appointed as data-entry operators seriously, considering the crucial nature of the clerical work done by them in the revision exercise.

The main task of the data-entry operators is to make manual entry of the details of the enumeration forms of the voters collected by the Booth-

Level Officers (BLOs) and submitted to the Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and the Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROS) concerned. Hence, erroneous entries, inadvertent or willful, made at this stage could impact the final decision on the fate of voters in retaining their names in the final voters' list.

Already after the enumeration stage, which was the first stage of the three-stage SIR exercise, there had been instances of wrong entries causing inconvenience for a certain section of voters.

Hence, the CEO's office insiders said, the Commission is taking the demand of re-checking the backgrounds of the contractual state government employees appointed as data-entry operators quite seriously. The draft voters' list in West Bengal was published on December 16 last year.

Dhaka, Jan 10 : As violence against minorities continues to mount across Bangladesh, another Hindu man died after consuming poison over a debt of 500 Bangladeshi Taka in Dirai upazila of Sunamganj district, local media reported.

The victim, identified as 19-year-old Joy Mohapatra, died on Friday morning while undergoing treatment at M A G Osmani Medical College Hospital in Sylhet.

Citing the deceased's cousin, Ayan Das, Bangladeshi Bengali media outlet Sylhet View 24 reported that Joy had purchased a mobile phone for 5,500 Taka from grocery shopkeeper Amirul Islam. He paid 2,000 Taka in cash and agreed to pay the balance in weekly installments of 500 Taka. Although he made the payments regularly, the final installment was delayed.

It is alleged that Joy went to Amirul Islam's shop Thursday to pay the installment but was beaten up, humiliated and had his

mobile phone seized.

Ayan said that Joy admitted to consuming poison on Thursday evening. He was rushed to the Dirai Upazila Health Complex, and when his condition deteriorated, the on-duty doctor referred him to Sylhet.

Moni Rani Talukder, resident Medical Officer of Dirai Upazila Health Complex, said, "I was on duty at the time. As the patient's condition was critical, he was immediately referred to Sylhet."

Recalling the tragic incident, Joy's mother, Shelly Mohapatra, was quoted as saying by Sylhet View 24, "When they asked for money from him in the morning and did not get it, they took my son's mobile phone away. Later, when he

Telangana issues 'stop use' notice for Almont-Kid Syrup after CDSCO alert

**HYDERABAD (TSIT):** The Telangana Drugs Control Administration on Saturday issued an urgent advisory to immediately stop the use of Almont-Kid Syrup, commonly



prescribed to treat allergies, hay fever, and asthma in children, as it was allegedly found adulterated with Ethylene Glycol (EG), a highly toxic substance. A notification of the DCA said it received an alert from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), East Zone, Kolkata, regarding a laboratory report that has declared the syrup (Levocetirizine Dihydrochloride and Montelukast Sodium Syrup) as adulterated.

This marks the eighth incident in 22 days and the fourth incident this week, highlighting a disturbing surge in violence targeting Hindu communities throughout Bangladesh.

Earlier on Tuesday, another Hindu man, 25-year-old Mithun Sarkar, died after jumping into a canal in a bid to save his life from a mob that accused him of robbery in Mohadevpur upazila of Naogaon district, Bangladesh's Bengali newspaper Daily Manobkantha reported.

## CM Stalin eyes 200+ seats, lauds cadre's poll work



nearly 50 per cent of the preparatory work has already been completed, while the remaining work is in progress. "All political parties, including our ideological opponent, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) envy our preparatory work."

"Earlier, based on the cadres' work, I had predicted that the DMK could win around 200 seats. Now, after evaluating their efforts, I am confident that the party will win more than 200 seats," he said.

Appreciating the DMK cadres for their election-related work, Stalin said

## Incredible opportunities ahead for India & US: Sergio Gor



**NEW DELHI:** US ambassador-designate Sergio Gor, known to be a key member of President Donald Trump's inner circle, has arrived in New Delhi amid an unprecedented estrangement in ties between the two countries.

Gor, 38, was sworn in as the US envoy to India in mid-November.

"Great to be back in India! Incredible opportunities ahead for our two nations!" he said on social media after landing in the national capital on Friday night. His arrival in India came as a fresh row erupted between the two sides following US Commerce

Secretary Howard Lutnick's claim that the proposed trade deal between the two countries couldn't be sealed last year as Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not make a telephone call to President Donald Trump. New Delhi on Friday

reeling under severe stress after Trump doubled tariffs on Indian goods to a whopping 50 per cent, including a 25 per cent additional duty for India's purchase of Russian crude oil. Apart from tariff, the relations witnessed a downturn on a number of other issues, including Trump's claim of ending the India-Pakistan conflict in May last year and Washington's new immigration policy.

Gor was serving as the White House personnel director when President Trump named him in August to be the next US envoy to New Delhi. The India-US ties have been

country's most important international relationships and that's the strategic partnership with India." Trump had said after Gor's oath ceremony.

Gor had described his new role as "an honour of a lifetime" and said he looks forward to "enhancing" the relationship between the US and India.

He played a major role in the political action committee (PAC) of Trump's campaign in the run-up to the 2024 presidential election, and his influence increased manifold after he was tasked with vetting political appointees in the new administration.

"We will return to the House with 200-plus MLAs," Stalin said, participating in Pongal celebrations at Perambur in Chennai. He added that the achievements of

Dravidian model schemes, implemented since 2021, are self-explanatory. It is you, the people, who should explain these schemes to others.

Appreciating the DMK cadres for their election-related work, Stalin said

## Bhatti Vikramarka Urges Centre to Support Key Telangana Projects

New Delhi: Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka on Saturday appealed to the Union Government to extend financial support for major development and infrastructure projects in Telangana at the Pre-Budget Consultative Meeting held at Ashoka Hotel, New Delhi, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Addressing the meeting, Bhatti Vikramarka thanked the Union Finance Minister for consulting states in the budget-making process and said that strong Centre State coordination was essential for national progress. He noted that involving states in budget formulation strengthened cooperative federalism and supported the goal of building a Viksit Bharat.

Deputy Chief Minister said Telangana currently contributes 5.1 per cent to the country's GDP and, under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, has launched the Telangana Rising 2047 Vision to transform the state into a USD 3 trillion economy by 2047, aiming to raise its share in the national GDP to 10 per cent.

He stressed the need to increase Telangana's infrastructure investment rate from 37 per cent to 50 per cent of GSDP and urged the Centre to raise the fiscal deficit



limit of states to at least 4 per cent annually. He also requested that the 50-year interest-free loans to states be converted into grants and doubled in amount.

Bhatti Vikramarka sought exemption of education and health sector spending from FRBM limits, highlighting Telangana's initiatives including over 1,000 residential schools and the establishment of Young India Integrated Residential Schools in all 119 Assembly constituencies. He also referred to the setting

up of super-specialty hospitals and medical colleges across the state. Raising concerns over fiscal transfers, he pointed out that the growing share of cesses and surcharges had reduced the effective tax share of states. He urged the Centre to divert surcharge collections to infrastructure funding or merge them with basic tax rates to ensure fair distribution. Deputy Chief Minister also requested immediate approval for the Regional Ring Road (RRR), early clearance for

Hyderabad Metro Rail Phase-II, establishment of an IIM in Hyderabad, new airports at Peddapalli, Warangal, Adilabad and Kothagudem, and national project status for the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Project. He further sought funds for Musi Riverfront Development, radial roads and Hyderabad sewerage projects. He expressed confidence that the Union Government would consider Telangana's proposals in the spirit of cooperative federalism.

### MLA Naini Rajender Reddy Reviews Bhadrakali Temple Chariot Arrangements



Hanamkonda: Members of the Bhadrakali Temple Trust and temple officials held a meeting at the camp office of Warangal West MLA Naini Rajender Reddy at Balasamudram to review arrangements related to the installation of the Bhadrakali Ammavari Rath (chariot).

During the meeting, the MLA instructed officials to design the chariot with all traditional embellishments, strictly adhering to the divine art and sculptural traditions associated with the Bhadrakali temple. He stressed that there

should be no compromise on quality in the construction of the chariot, keeping in mind the spiritual sentiments of devotees.

Naini Rajender Reddy directed officials to prepare a clear action plan to ensure that the chariot is completed well before the Dasara Navaratri celebrations and asked them to expedite all related works.

Temple officials informed the MLA that the process of developing mada streets around the temple premises was progressing swiftly. They said efforts were being made to

improve basic amenities and traffic facilities to ensure a hassle-free experience for devotees.

Stating that the Bhadrakali Temple is a renowned Shakti Peetham in Telangana, the MLA said the Dasara festivities should be conducted in a grand manner through coordinated efforts of the government, public representatives and temple management. He assured full support to complete all arrangements in line with devotees' faith and to ensure the successful conduct of the festival.

Hanamkonda: Mandala Sammaiah, State Executive Member of the Telangana Fishermen Congress Committee, congratulated Enugala Venkatram Reddy on the occasion of his swearing-in as the President of the Hanamkonda District Congress Committee (DCC) at Congress Bhavan.

Speaking on the occasion, Mandala Sammaiah said that the appointment of Enugala Venkatram Reddy as Hanamkonda DCC President would further strengthen the

Congress party at the district level. He expressed confidence that under his leadership, the party would work with renewed commitment to address public issues and strengthen the organisation from the grassroots.

Mandala Sammaiah wished Enugala Venkatram Reddy a successful and impactful tenure and reaffirmed the support of the Telangana Fishermen Congress Committee in achieving the party's goals in Hanamkonda district.

### TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud Attends 19th Rajiv Gandhi Under-19 League T20 Championship Finale



Hyderabad: Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud attended the closing ceremony of the 19th Rajiv Gandhi Under-19 League T20 Cricket Championship-2026 held at LB Stadium, Hyderabad, on Saturday. The tournament was organised under the leadership of former Member of Parliament Hanumantha Rao.

Ministers Vakiti Srihari Mudhiraj and Adluri Laxman also participated in the programme and distributed prizes to the winning teams and players. Speaking on the occasion, Mahesh Kumar Goud said that such tournaments play a crucial role in encouraging young

sportspersons and help in identifying future cricketing talent. He stressed the need for continued support to grassroots-level sports to nurture excellence among youth.

The event was attended by Government Advisors Keshava Rao and Harkara Venugopal, Farmers Commission Chairman Kodanda Reddy, Corporation Chairmen Mettu Sai Kumar and Shivasena Reddy, former MLC Ramulu Naik, DCC Presidents Mothe Rohith and Syed Saifullah, along with several Congress leaders, sports organisers and young cricketers.

The championship concluded on a high note, celebrating sporting spirit and youth talent from across the state.



### TPCC President Bomma Mahesh Kumar Goud Releases Wall Poster

Hyderabad: Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Bomma Mahesh Kumar Goud on Saturday released wall posters related to the Mandal Formation Decennial Celebrations and Sankranti festivities being organised under the aegis of the Harihara Foundation. Earlier, Maragani Srinivasa Rao, educationist from Annapureddipalli, Founder President of the Harihara Foundation, and a key initiator of the recon-

struction of the Bhramaramba Sametha Mallikarjuna Swamy Temple, paid a courtesy visit to the TPCC President. The wall posters pertain to the celebrations scheduled to be held at the premises of Ankamma Thalli Temple in Annapureddipalli Mandal Centre, Bhadravati Kothagudem district. On the occasion, Bomma Mahesh Kumar Goud appreciated the Harihara Foundation for organising traditional village festivals, stating that such ini-

tiatives help preserve cultural heritage and promote social harmony. He advised the organisers to ensure that the festivities are conducted in a peaceful and well-organised manner. The TPCC President also extended advance Makara Sankranti greetings to the people of the mandal.

TPCC General Secretaries Praveen Kumar and Komaraiah, along with Coordinator Macha Varalakshmi and others, were present at the programme.

### Minister Komatireddy Slams False Media Campaign Targeting Women IAS Officers



Hyderabad: Senior Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Saturday strongly condemned what he described as a deliberate and baseless media campaign targeting women IAS officers, calling such reports irresponsible, misleading and deeply disturbing.

Clarifying the administrative process, the Minister stated that individual ministers have no role in the transfer or posting of IAS officers or District Collectors. "IAS postings are decided strictly by the Chief Minister in accordance with established norms. Any suggestion of ministerial or political interference is completely false," he said.

Emphasising the dignity of the civil services, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said that becoming an IAS officer requires

years of hard work and dedication, and reckless allegations against officers especially women were unacceptable. He urged media organisations to uphold professional ethics and refrain from publishing unverified reports that cause mental harassment to officers and undermine public confidence in governance.

The Minister expressed serious concern over false narratives being circulated on social media, stating that while political leaders are often subjected to criticism, dragging IAS officers particularly women officers serving in the Chief Minister's Office into such campaigns was unjustifiable. He categorically rejected recent reports linking him and Nalgonda district to alleged interference in

postings, calling them "entirely fabricated".

Komatireddy Venkat Reddy revealed that the matter had been taken up with the Director General of Police, and senior police and intelligence officials have been instructed to conduct a thorough inquiry into the source and spread of fake news. "Once the inquiry report is submitted, strict legal action will be taken against those responsible," he warned.

Reiterating that there is no political interference in Collector postings, the Minister said anyone with genuine evidence should approach the authorities instead of indulging in false propaganda. He made it clear that the continued circulation of misinformation would not be tolerated.

Reflecting on his political journey, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy recalled that he had resigned from a ministerial post during the Telangana movement and continued public service despite personal tragedy. He noted that he had been elected five times as MLA and once as MP, winning with record margins. "Subjecting me to mental harassment through false reports is unjust and unacceptable," he said.

Expressing confidence in the rule of law, the Minister said the police inquiry would expose the truth and ensure that those behind the false campaigns are held accountable.

### SCs should aim to make Rahul Gandhi Prime Minister: Dr. Kavvampally

Karimnagar, January 10, TSIT : Manakondur MLA Dr. Kavvampally Satyanarayana has called upon Dalits to work hard from now on with the goal of winning Rahul Gandhi as the Prime Minister in the next elections. On the occasion of his first visit to the district center on Saturday after being elected as SC Cell Chairman, Ambedkar Chowrastha he attended the welcome ceremony presided over by DCC President Medipalli Satyam. On this occasion, Kavvampally Satyanarayana said that Dalits who have been supporting the Congress party for 140 years should aim to make Rahul Gandhi the Prime Minister in the next elections.

The welfare of Dalits is possible only under Congress rule. He said that when the Congress party was in power at the center and in the state, it respected Dalits by giving them high positions.

He reminded the Dalits of the insults they faced during the same BRS rule.

He assured that he will fulfil this post given by Chief Minister Revanth

Reddy responsibly.

He said that he will do his best to solve the problems of Dalits across the state and strengthen the Congress party.

District Congress Committee President Choppadandi MLA Medipalli Satyam said

when the Congress party was in a difficult situation, Kavvampally Satyanarayana took the reins and provided security to the party.

He mentioned that Kavvampally's efforts were great as 8 MLAs won in the joint Karimnagar district. Kavvampally Satyanarayana was given the title of SC Cell State Chairman in recognition of his services to the party. He has full confidence that Dr. Kavvampally Satyanarayana will do full justice to the post of SC Chairman of the Congress Party.

He said that justice is being done to the SCs after the Congress party



came to power in the state like never before.

Earlier, not even one SC got a place in the cabinet, but now four SCs have been given ministerial positions.

The Congress government is supporting the economic and social development of Dalits.

In such situations, all the SCs should stand by the Congress party and the government.

Suda Chairman Komati Reddy Narendra Reddy, City Congress President Vaidyula Anjan Kumar and many other leaders laid flower garlands and covered them with shawls.

At Maneru Bridge

the first time after being appointed as SC Cell Chairman

Dr. Kavvampally Satyanarayana, who arrived at Karimnagar District Center on Saturday, was accorded a warm welcome at Maneru Bridge.

On this occasion Suda Chairman Komati Reddy Narendra Reddy, City Congress President Vaidyula Anjan Kumar and many other leaders laid flower garlands and covered them with shawls.

Peace and anger are the same.

He said that the Congress party became stronger under the leadership of Kavvampally during the difficult times.

Former legislators Koduri Satyanarayana Goud, Areppalli Mohan, City Congress President Vaidyula Anjan Kumar, MLA Medipalli Satyam welcomed him with a warm welcome.

Mahila Congress District President Karra Satyaprakash Reddy, Urban Bank Chairman



## Jaggareddy Condemns Social Media Posts Targeting Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy

Hyderabad: TPCC Working President Jaggareddy on Saturday strongly condemned the recent social media posts targeting State Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, stating that a deliberate and malicious campaign was being carried out to damage the Minister's reputation.

He said the baseless and irresponsible narratives circulating on social media over the past few days were highly objectionable and reflected a dangerous trend of character assassination. "Smearing an individual with false stories is not a healthy practice in a democracy," he remarked.

Jaggareddy asserted that any attempt to provoke or encourage such defamatory content against Komatireddy Venkat Reddy was a grave mistake. He questioned whether such issues had any relevance to public interest or governance, and said personal interactions were being deliberately misrepresented to create unnecessary controversy.

Highlighting Komatireddy Venkat Reddy's political journey, Jaggareddy said the Minister was a leader with strong charisma and a distinct identity in Telangana politics. He recalled that Komatireddy Venkat Reddy had risen step by step from NSUI, as a student



leader and Youth Congress activist, to become a Minister through years of hard work and public service. "He has a history and a legacy in state politics," he said.

The TPCC Working President urged social media users and self-styled commentators to focus on people's issues and public welfare instead of indulging in mudslinging. He warned that writing reckless content under the guise of journalism would not succeed in damaging the Minister's stature.

"Komatireddy Venkat Reddy is Komatireddy Venkat Reddy. No amount of slander can alter that reality," Jaggareddy asserted.

## Speed Mentoring Program on Women's Safety Held at Cheriyal



RANGAREDDY : The Legal Aid Society of ICFAI Law School, IFHE, Shankarpalli, conducted a speed mentoring and legal awareness program on the role of the National, State, and District Women Commissions on January 10, 2026, at the Cheriyal Gram Panchayat meeting hall, Kandi Mandal. The program was organized for women sarpanch, ward members, and ASHA workers to enhance awareness on women's safety and welfare mechanisms.

The program was attended by Chevella Reka, Sarpanch of Cheriyal village and Working President of the Telangana

State Women Sarpanch Federation, and Athelli Sangeetha, Sarpanch of Kyasara village. Sarpanch from Yeddumailaram, Cherlagudam, and Bhanor villages, along with ward members and ASHA workers, also participated.

Speakers highlighted the role of the National Commission for Women in addressing injustices against women and protecting their rights. Digital support platforms such as the Her Legal Guide app and SHe-Box were explained, and participants were urged to know their rights, emphasizing that awareness is the first line of defense.

## KIMS Hospitals Inaugurates First-of-Its-Kind Total Laboratory Automation in Telangana & AP



Hyderabad, January 10, 2026: KIMS Hospitals today announced the successful inauguration of its Total Laboratory Automation (TLA) system at its Secunderabad facility, marking a significant milestone in diagnostic excellence. This advanced automation setup is the first of its kind in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, reinforcing KIMS Hospitals' commitment to precision, speed, and quality in patient care.

The state-of-the-art TLA facility was inaugurated on January 10, 2026, at the 2nd Floor Laboratory, KIMS Hospitals,

enhances diagnostic accuracy by reducing manual intervention, minimizing pre-analytical and analytical errors, improving biosafety, and ensuring faster turnaround times. They added that the seamless integration of workflows and transition toward advanced dry chemistry technologies supports consistent quality, efficient resource utilization, and timely clinical decision-making, ultimately improving patient outcomes.

The newly inaugurated TLA system offers key advantages including reduced turnaround time for routine and emergency investigations, improved result consistency, enhanced patient safety, and the capacity to efficiently manage high diagnostic volumes. With this launch, KIMS Hospitals further strengthens its position as a leader in advanced diagnostics, aligning innovation with its vision of delivering high-quality, patient-centric healthcare.

# AP/Telangana

HYDERABAD  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026

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## Real festival is spreading love and joy among orphans: Dr. Anitha Reddy

Balasamudram, January 10 (TSIT): Girls' Ananda Nilayam at Balasamudram organized Muggula (rangoli) competitions as part of Sankranti festival celebrations, bringing joy and festive spirit to the children. On the occasion, sweets and snacks were distributed among the inmates.

Anurag Society Chairman and Kakatiya University Governing Body member Dr. Anitha Reddy participated in the programme as the chief guest and observed the muggulu created by the children. Appreciating their creativity, Dr. Anitha Reddy said such activities help children express their talent while learning about culture, traditions, and festivals in an engaging manner.

She emphasized that along with education, teaching children good manners, values, and cultural traditions is highly commendable. Dr. Anitha Reddy noted that organizing Sankranti celebrations for children without parents conveys the message that society stands with them and cares for their happiness.

"Spreading love and joy among these children is the real meaning of a festival," she said, extending Sankranti greetings to everyone.

The programme concluded with the distribution of sweets and cultural dances performed by the children. Ananda Nilayam Superintendent Sarita, staff members, and children participated enthusiastically in the celebrations.



## B.Tech. Final year 7 Students placed @ 7LPA in "Egen" MNC held at KITS Warangal Campus placements Drive



WARANGAL, January 10, TSIT : Training & Placement Office (TPO), Kakatiya Institute of Technology & Science, Warangal (KITSW) organized Campus placements Drive through "Egen" (or Egen Solutions), a global technology services company held at Silver Jubilee Seminar Hall, told by the Principal, Prof. K. Ashoka Reddy.

Seven (7) B. Tech. final year students were selected from circuit branches such as CSE and CSN as software engineers with the package of 7.0 Lakh Per Annum (LPA). For this

academic year (2025-26) there were a total of 324 placements till date from the 10 branches including Civil and mechanical engineering, ECE, IT, EE & ECI branches. These students were secured jobs through the on Campus recruitment drives. he added.

On this occasion Former MP, Rajya Sabha Capt.V. Lakshmi Kantha Rao, chairman, KITS Warangal, KITSW treasurer, P. Narayana Reddy, former MLA & KITSW Additional secretary, Vodithala Satish Kumar, Principal, Prof. K. Ashoka Reddy has

congratulated and appreciated the selects.

According to the Dean - Training and Placements Prof. Y. Purandar, this Egen company focusing on cloud, data engineering, analytics, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and platform engineering, helping businesses modernize and create digital solutions, with offices in the US, Canada, Europe, and India. A number of MNC's have accepted to conduct campus placement drives with high CTC at KITSW for this academic year (2025-26).

In this regard Dean - Training and Placements Prof. Y. Purandar, department of CSE, Professor & head, Dr. P. Niranjana and department of CSN, Professor & head, Dr. V. Shankar, Manager Corporate Relations E. Kiran Kumar, TPO, Dr. T. Chandrabai, Associate professor of chemistry, Dr. D. Prabhakara Chary, Soft Skills trainers; G. Dhanush, all the Heads, all the Deans have congratulated and appreciated the selected students on their fabulous achievement.

## CBIT hosts national FDP on AI-driven sustainable engineering practices



Hyderabad: The Department of Chemical Engineering, Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT), Hyderabad, successfully organized a one-week National Faculty Development Programme (FDP) titled "Smart and Sustainable Engineering Practices Using Artificial Intelligence for SDG Attainment" from January 5 to 9, 2026, in offline mode.

The FDP aimed to create awareness and provide in-depth knowledge on the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a special focus on sustainable engineering practices across diverse industrial sectors. The programme highlighted the use of AI-driven tools and digital transformation to support clean energy initiatives, water and wastewater treatment, sustainable

manufacturing, circular economy models, and climate action.

The programme was convened by Dr. M. Mukunda Vani, Professor and Head, Department of Chemical Engineering, and coordinated by Dr. P. Madhuri and Dr. M. Mallaiyah. It featured eminent resource persons from premier academic and research institutions, including Dr. Ch. Venkateswarlu, former Chief Scientist, CSIR-IIT; Prof. Kishalay Mitra, Professor in Chemical Engineering, AI, and

Climate Change at IIT Hyderabad; Prof. Arnab Dutta, Professor, Chemical Engineering Department, BITS Hyderabad; Dr. Reddi Kamesh, Principal Scientist, CSIR-IIT; Dr. Ravi Gujjula from the ICFAI Group; and Mr. Serish Gandikota, Co-director, AI Frugal Hub, University of Cambridge.

The experts delivered

insightful lectures on emerging themes such as Industry 4.0, smart manufacturing, AI applications in chemical and allied industries, environmental

sustainability, and SDG-oriented research, offering both academic and industry perspectives. The FDP witnessed enthusiastic participation from faculty members and industry professionals. The sessions were highly interactive and received positive feedback, with participants appreciating the technical depth, clarity, and practical relevance of the discussions.

The programme concluded with a valedictory session during which certificates were distributed to participants who successfully completed all five days. The Department of Chemical Engineering expressed gratitude to the Principal, Vice Principal, Directors, and Advisors of CBIT for their continued support, and thanked the resource persons, coordinators, and participants for making the FDP a grand success.



including nanofluids, micropolar fluids, couple stress fluids, and Herschel-Bulkley fluids. Established analytical methods were employed to ensure accuracy and consistency in the findings.

The GITAM academic community, including Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof. D. S. Rao, Resident Director Dr. D. V. V. S. R. Varma, and Director-School of Science and Head, Department of Mathematics Prof. M. Reza, extended their warm congratulations to Dr. B. Sreekala on her commendable academic accomplishment.

## GITAM congratulates Dr. B. Sreekala on Ph.D. achievement

Hyderabad (TSIT): GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, has congratulated Dr. B. Sreekala on the successful completion of her Ph.D. in Mathematics. Her doctoral thesis, titled "Mathematical Analysis and Modeling of Peristalsis and Stenotic Region Flows in a Tube," provides valuable insights into the mathematical modeling of complex fluid flows relevant to physiological systems.

The research was carried out under the guidance of Prof. K. Maruthi Prasad, Department of Mathematics. Dr. Sreekala's work focuses on peristaltic transport and fluid flow through stenotic regions in elastic tubes, with important applications in understanding blood flow and other biological transport mechanisms. Her study also examines the impact of thermal effects on various non-Newtonian fluids,

## Rs.10 Crore Released for Rural Development in Shadnagar: Veerlapalli Shankar

RANGAREDDY : Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar said the government has sanctioned Rs.10 crore for the development of villages in the constituency, with the objective of strengthening rural infrastructure and supporting newly elected sarpanch. He was speaking at a media conference held at his camp office on Saturday.

The MLA stated that the funds have been released in the first phase and assured that financial assistance would soon be extended to all gram panchayats. He said priority development works have been identified and are being taken up in Faroognagar, Kothur, Kondurg, Jilled Chowdrguda, Keshampet, and Nandigama mandals.

Veerlapalli Shankar emphasized that the Congress government is committed to carrying out development works in every village without any political bias. He noted that the release of funds ahead of the Sankranti festival has brought a festive mood to rural areas. Reiterating the party's stand, he said the Congress believes in delivering on its promises and prioritizing public welfare without compromise. Market Committee Vice-Chairman Mohammed Ali Khan Babar, along with Krishna Reddy, Konkalla Chennayya, Chendi Tirupati Reddy, Agunuru Baswam, Purushottam Reddy, Raju, Mubarak, Khadeer, Ashok, and others, attended the meeting.



## Telangana devotees selected for Sabarimala Ayyappa Swamy Shobhayatra



Khammam: Dr. T.V. Pulla Raju, Telangana State President of the Akhil Bharatiya Ayyappa Dharma Prachara Sabha (ABAP) and patron of the Alangad Yogam Trust, announced that 25 devotees from Telangana have been specially selected to participate in the prestigious "Yogam Petta Purappad" Shobhayatra in Kerala.

The sacred procession will commence on Sunday, January 11, beginning at the Manappuram Mahadeva Temple in Aluva. It will pass through Alangad Yogam Petta Kettal and conclude at Erumely, serving as a prelude to the traditional Petta Thullal ritual associated with the Sabarimala pilgrimage. The Petta Purappad is an inseparable part of the Sabarimala pilgrimage, blending profound devotion with ancient martial traditions. Dr. T.V. Pulla Raju said the Alangad Yogam Petta Purappad is an inseparable part of the Sabarimala pilgrimage, blending profound devotion with ancient martial traditions. The Alangad Yogam Trust represents Lord Shiva, the father of Lord Ayyappa, while the Ambalappuzha Yogam represents Lord Vishnu in the form of Mohini, Ayyappa's mother. Together, they perform the Petta Thullal, symbolizing divine unity. The procession commemorates the

legendary victory of Lord Ayyappa over the demon king Udayan, achieved with the support of warriors from Alangad and Ambalappuzha. As part of tradition, members of the Alangad Yogam wear white dhotis, apply vibhuti and sandalwood paste, and carry the Golaka—a silver replica of Sri Dharmasastha—along with blue flags. The exclusive authority to conduct these sacred rituals was granted to the Alangad and Ambalappuzha Yogams by the Pandalam Royal Family.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. T.V. Pulla Raju said the Alangad Yogam Petta Purappad is an inseparable part of the Sabarimala pilgrimage, blending profound devotion with ancient martial traditions. He expressed pride and happiness that devotees from Telangana have been invited to take part in such a culturally and spiritually significant event, calling it a moment of honor for the state.



# EDITORIAL

## Why You Should Let Your Child Fail, And Falter, And Learn

Growing up, many of us had the basics: roti, kapda aur makaan. Sometimes, that came with conditions. There were promises we held on to like prizes at the finish line - a new media player if we topped the class, branded sneakers or a festive outfit if we "earned" it. We learned to wait. To work toward something. To defer gratification. Patience was a life skill, not a luxury. It stretched us, sometimes uncomfortably, but it shaped us. Today, that word feels almost alien to many young children. Patience has been replaced by immediacy. Waiting replaced by wanting. Earning replaced by expecting.

### From Grit to Gentle Parenting

Cut to now: we listen differently. We respond differently. We show up differently. We sit for hours listening to our children's emotional outbursts - decoding feelings, soothing anxieties, untangling invisible fears. We pause life to help them make sense of their world in a way no one ever did for us. And we find ourselves wondering: would our parents have done this, or simply asked us to "go play in the park" and figure it out? Something has shifted. Dramatically.

Our parents built our strength through exposure: "The world is tough, become tougher." We try to build resilience through conversation: "The world is tough, talk to me about it." Neither is fully right nor fully wrong - but the swing between them is enormous. Those of us raised before the 2000s lived through an unspoken curriculum of resilience. Emotions were private. Fear was swallowed. Pain was not a topic; it was an experience. Childhood wasn't bubble-wrapped; it was rough-edged and unedited. Today, we parent with heightened emotional fluency. We negotiate with tantrums, reason with tears, and offer choices for everything - from food to feelings. We aren't just raising children; we are trying to give them the childhood we wish we had. In doing so, we may be healing ourselves. But are we helping them?

### The Survival Gap

Our struggles built internal muscle: discomfort tolerance, resourcefulness, resilience. We fell, and no one rushed to edit the world to be softer. We failed, and no one restructured systems to make success easier. It wasn't perfect, but it built something essential: inner scaffolding.

Today, in protecting our children from struggle, we risk protecting them from strength. We clear the path instead of preparing them to walk it. We soften consequences. We step in before discomfort can harden into resilience.

Are we preparing them for the world, or preparing the world for them? Because the world will not always bend.

### The Guilt We Parent With

Another layer sits quietly beneath our overprotection: guilt. We are a generation working longer hours, living under constant performance pressure, juggling homes, commutes, deadlines, and the emotional labour of being "present" even when we are depleted. We rush through evenings, negotiate with time, and parent from the margins of professional ambition-after meetings, between calls, in the car, on borrowed energy. So we compensate. We offer softness where we cannot offer time. We say yes where a boundary should stand. We protect because we cannot always participate. And somewhere, without meaning to, we begin to soothe our guilt more than their needs. Are we comforting our children, or are we comforting ourselves?

### The Safety Anxiety Generation

A significant shift in parenting today comes from the weight of safety - not just physical, but emotional and digital. The threats have multiplied and digitised: online predators and manipulated identities, bullying, body shaming, comparison culture, social media filters rewriting self-worth, a world that enters our homes long before our children enter the world outside.

# The insulted dignity of university, power and literature



PRIYANKA  
SAURABH

The public mistreatment of senior Hindi fiction writer Manoj Roopda during a literary event held at Guru Ghasidas University, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, is not just an unfortunate incident but a clear indication of the deepening crisis in academic and cultural life in our times. Humiliating an invited writer on stage and asking him to leave the event is completely contrary to the tradition in which universities have been seen as centers of free exchange of ideas, respect for dissent, and constructive dialogue. This incident is not limited to an individual; it is a direct attack on literature, freedom of expression, and intellectual dignity. The historical role of universities has not been to be subservient to power. From ancient learning traditions like Nalanda and Takshashila to modern universities, these institutions have always fostered a culture of questioning, reasoning, and challenging established notions. Universities are not merely degree-granting machines; they are centers that guide the consciousness of society. Here, diversity of thought, dissent, and debate are not considered weaknesses but intellectual strengths. Therefore, when scenes of power-mongering, arrogance, and intolerance emerge within a university, it becomes evidence not just of a program's failure but of the erosion of institutional values. Manoj Roopda is a powerful and respected name in contemporary Hindi fiction. His stories and novels boldly expose the complex rela-

tionships between power, society, and the individual. He is among those writers who have considered literature not merely a subject of beauty but a medium of social intervention. Inviting such a writer should have been a symbol of the university's intellectual commitment and openness. However, his treatment demonstrates that discomfort with critical thinking and independent thought has somehow triumphed over prudence. It is natural to ask will universities now be limited to formal events, eulogies, and power-friendly speeches? A position like that of Vice-Chancellor requires not only administrative competence but also ethical leadership and academic sensitivity. This position should symbolize restraint, dialogue, and inclusion. If the head of a university begins to perceive criticism or dissent as a personal challenge, its impact is not limited to a single program. An atmosphere of fear gradually spreads throughout the campus. Teachers become reluctant to speak openly, students fear asking questions, and creativity succumbs to self-censorship. In such a situation, the university deviates from its original purpose and, instead of being a center of knowledge, becomes an instrument of discipline and control. Another worrying aspect of this incident is that the institutional level lacked the sensitivity and firmness required to protect the honor of the invited writer. The success of literary events is not measured solely by stage decorations, posters, and formal speeches, but by how open, respectful, and meaningful the dialogue is. When a writer is insulted and an institution remains silent, that silence becomes a form of acquiescence. This silence encourages further oppressive behavior in the future and undermines the institution's moral credibility. It's important to remind ourselves that universities are not the private fiefdom of any individual or official. They are governed by public resources, taxpayer funds, and the trust of society. The decisions made and the behavior displayed here serve as a message to society. If power, personal ego, and intolerance dominate universities, a culture of confrontation and fear begins to flourish in society, replacing dialogue. This trend is detrimental not only to literature and education, but also to democratic values, for the very foundation of democracy is the respect for plurality of opinions and dissent. Literature and intellectual discourse have played a vital role in the soul of Indian democracy. From the freedom struggle to social reform movements, writers and thinkers have questioned power and inspired society to introspect. If writers and thinkers are humiliated in universities today, it would be a grave insult to the tradition that has made us a vibrant democratic society. It is ironic that if the institutions expected to provide ideological leadership begin to set examples of intolerance, where will society be headed? It is certainly noteworthy that some university faculty members attempted to manage the situation and find a respectful solution. This demonstrates that discretion and sensitivity have not yet completely vanished within the institution. However, it is also true that when the intoxication of power overrides discretion, individual efforts often prove ineffective. Institutional culture can only change when the leadership itself is willing to engage in dialogue and self-criticism. This incident also forces us to reconsider the role of writers and intellectuals. When injustice is done to a writer and the entire literary community remains silent, this silence itself becomes a political and moral statement. History bears witness that silence has always strengthened power and weakened resistance. If there is no clear and collective response to this incident today, tomorrow it will be repeated by another writer, another idea, and another platform. The fundamental nature of literature is one of questioning and resistance. It was born not to bow down to power, but to hold it up to the mirror. If writers themselves do not stand up to defend their dignity and freedom, literature will gradually be reduced to mere careers and awards. Then it will become a decorative tool of the system, not the soul of society. Today, it is essential that university administrations, faculty, students, and literary societies learn a lesson from this incident. Universities must introspect about the kind of academic environment they are fostering. Are they encouraging dialogue and debate, or fear and obedience? Literary events must be viewed not as mere formalities, but as vibrant ideological platforms where even dissent can be expressed with respect. This incident is shameful and warrants strong condemnation, but beyond condemnation, we need to engage in substantial introspection and reform. Universities must ensure that no invited author or speaker is treated this way in the future. Academic freedom and dignity are protected not by mere paper policies, but by behavior and culture. Ultimately, the question isn't just about Manoj Roopda or any one program. The question is what kind of university and what kind of society we want to build. If we fear thought, are afraid of questions, and try to suppress dissent with insults, we will move from a vibrant democracy to a society of fear. Universities must remember that they exist not by the grace of power, but by knowledge, dialogue, and independent consciousness. If this consciousness is crushed, universities will become mere buildings—monuments not of knowledge, but of silence.

## Stalin And Vijay : Tactical Support vs Tactical Silence



Street-smart, thinking, three steps ahead, reading the mind of the opponent, speaking your mind. Almost every reel adult character played by Thalapathy Vijay in the last 33 years in Tamil cinema has embodied these attributes. In his political avatar, however, Vijay has been conspicuous by his silence. Even when the Censor Board went out of its way to ensure his farewell movie Jana Nayagan did not get the Pongal release it wanted, there was not a word from Vijay. Intriguing to say the least, more so when assembly elections are three months away, the movie is his campaign vehicle and he claims his party, the TVK, would win the election. It is a political opportunity missed. On the other hand, the developments over the past 48 hours have been a win-win for the DMK.

With Jana Nayagan out of the way till January 21, unless the Supreme Court grants a reprise next week, Parasakthi, the period drama based on the anti-Hindi agitation of the mid-1960s, will have a free run at 1000-odd screens across Tamil Nadu. Pongal 2026 was touted as the Jana Nayagan vs Parasakthi clash. But now the latter has emerged as the solo big release this festival season. The DMK has literally 'owned' Parasakthi. The title has a clear Karunanidhi connection as the former

chief minister wrote the screenplay and dialogues for the original Parasakthi in 1952, the subject is part of the DMK ideology and it has backed the film financially, with the DMK's first family-run Red Giant movies as distributor. Unlike Vijay, who embraced silence, Tamil Nadu chief minister MK Stalin struck when the iron was hot. Proving he is the 'Thalapathy' of realpolitik. He condemned the moves by the Censor Board calling it a "political tool" of the Union government, thereby wielding the tactical stick to beat the BJP with. Ideally it should have been Vijay who should have gone to town, screaming subterfuge and pressure tactics used by the BJP to weaponise the Censor Board. But by staying silent, he has allowed the Congress

- and now the DMK - to hijack the issue. TVK, the political start-up, badly needs a team of strategists. If Vijay thinks scripted dialogues on the big screen alone would be good enough to win over the politically aware electorate of Tamil Nadu in 2026, he is mistaken. By indirectly supporting Vijay, Stalin also effectively took the sting out of the Congress leaders' support for the actor-turned-politician.

To be fair to the makers, they have stayed true to history because the anti-Hindi agitation was mounted against the Congress party's central government at that time. So while in the present context, an anti-Hindi stance is interpreted as anti-BJP, in the world of the 1960s Parasakthi, it is the Congress that is on target.

## Manumukt 'Manav' Trust organized World Hindi Day celebrations



Narnaul. The Manumukt 'Manav' Memorial Trust organized a grand virtual celebration to mark World Hindi Day, in which one and a half dozen literary figures and scholars from six continents and ten countries, including India, Nepal, Australia, Singapore, Qatar, Ghana, Bulgaria, Sweden, Trinidad, and the United States, participated. Narayan Kumar, Honorary Director of the International Hindi Centre at Rabindranath Tagore University, Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), was the chief guest. Dr. Shweta Deepthi, Professor and Chairperson of the Hindi Department at Central Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu (Nepal), was the special guest, and Dr. S. Anukriti, Senior Economist at the World Bank, Washington, DC (USA), was the welcome speaker. Following a prayer song presented by Industry Extension Officer Dr. Sunil Bhardwaj, the ceremony, which was held under the inspiring guidance of Trustee Dr. Kanta Bharti and the able stewardship of Dr. Pankaj Gaur, commenced with Chief Trustee Dr. Ramniwas 'Manav' introducing the topic and highlighting the global expansion of Hindi through a couplet: "China, Russia, Britain to all, across the seven seas. Hindi has expanded throughout the world." In his inaugural address, Chief Guest Narayan Kumar described Hindi as a language of communication and harmony, stating that due to Indians spread across the globe, Hindi has now become a global language. Special Guest Dr. Shweta Deepthi advocated linking Hindi with employment, while Dr. Jawahar Karnavat, in his presidential address, highlighted the crucial role of Indian diaspora in the development of Hindi through a couplet: "China, Russia, Britain to all, across the seven seas. Hindi has expanded throughout the world." 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## Congress spreading false narrative on G-RAM-G scheme, says Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy

Bengaluru : Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy on Tuesday accused the Congress party of spreading a false narrative about the G-RAM-G (Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission – Rural) scheme and challenged state Congress leaders to an open public debate with documents to expose what he termed as "blatant lies."

Expressing strong displeasure over the misinformation campaign, Kumaraswamy said the era of people blindly believing Congress propaganda is over. He was addressing a joint press conference in Bengaluru along with Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka and BJP State President B.Y. Vijayendra. Kumaraswamy alleged



through fake bills under MGNREGA not enough?" he asked, questioning why the Congress failed to curb fake job cards and bogus bills during its tenure.

Clarifying that MGNREGA has not been discontinued, Kumaraswamy said the Modi government has only corrected long-standing irregularities and introduced reforms to plug loopholes. He rejected claims that the G-RAM-G scheme reduces the powers of Gram Panchayats or state governments. He stated that while funding for the scheme comes from the Centre, state governments are responsible for proper utilisation. "There was no transparency earlier. Fake bills were generated and money was siphoned off. That is why a new structure was introduced," he said.

Launching a sharp attack, he said Congress leaders are now calling Assembly sessions and planning padayatras only to divert attention. "Was looting public money

## Congress lacks funds to implement VBG Ram Ji scheme, says Opposition Leader R. Ashoka

Bengaluru : Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka on Monday alleged that the Congress government in Karnataka does not even have sufficient funds to provide its share for the VBG Ram Ji scheme, claiming that the state treasury is virtually empty.

Speaking to reporters, Ashoka said that earlier, under the MGNREGA scheme, Congress governments had indulged in large-scale corruption. He stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced the VBG Ram Ji scheme to bring greater transparency. While earlier the Centre used to bear the full cost, the new scheme follows a 60:40 funding pattern between the Centre and the state. However, he alleged that the Congress government is unable to arrange even its 40

per cent share. Ashoka pointed out that many development projects, including railways and metro works, are implemented through cost-sharing between the Centre and the states. He said the Congress government should either accept the new funding pattern or provide the entire amount on its own.

He further claimed that during the Manmohan Singh-led UPA government, around 2 lakh crore was allocated for such schemes, whereas under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, nearly 8 lakh crore has been provided. Ashoka remarked that when the state government is struggling to fund schemes like Griha Lakshmi, arranging its share for centrally sponsored schemes has become extremely difficult

for Congress leaders. Accusing the government of wasting public money, Ashoka said Congress is convening special sessions and holding unnecessary discussions only to oppose good schemes brought by the Centre. He added that experts had earlier warned that the guarantee schemes would become a financial burden, but the Congress went ahead with them regardless. The Opposition Leader also recalled that the previous BJP government had introduced the Vidyanidhi scheme and a bicycle distribution scheme for students, both of which were later scrapped by the Congress government. He alleged that while the Congress opposes beneficial central schemes, it has no hesitation in cancelling welfare programmes introduced by the BJP.

Kia India showcases all-new Seltos in Bengaluru; prices start at Rs.10.99 lakh

Bangalore : Kia India showcased its All-New Kia Seltos at Bangalore, offering customers the opportunity to experience the next-generation mid-SUV. Reinforcing Kia's commitment to design leadership, advanced safety and progressive technology, the All-New Kia Seltos is being launched at a price starting 10.99 lakhs (ex-showroom).

Built on Kia's global K3 platform, making its India debut, the All-New Kia Seltos represents a clear evolution in scale, sophistication and capability. With segment-leading length at 4,460 mm, enhanced width at 1,830 mm, and longer wheelbase at 2,690 mm, the SUV delivers enhanced road presence, cabin roominess and ride stability, while strengthening its position as a benchmark in the mid-SUV segment. The exterior design reflects Kia's



Opposites United philosophy and is highlighted by the new Digital Tiger Face, Ice Cube LED projection headlamps, Star Map LED DRLs and connected LED tail lamps, sporty 18-inch crystal-cut alloy wheels, and first-in-segment automatic streamline door handles, reinforcing a confident and contemporary SUV character. The All-New Kia Seltos will be available in 10 mono-tone colour options, including the two new colours Morning Haze and Magna Red. Commenting on the occasion, Atul Sood, Senior Vice President, Sales & Marketing, Kia India said.

## Education Beyond Marks: A Leadership Vision for India's Future":Padmashri Dr C. N. Manjunath

Bengaluru : At the Radisson Atria Hotel, Bengaluru, the National Education Leadership Conclave – 2026, organised by Big Tree Property Management & Beacon4Minds, featured an inspiring and thought-provoking address by Member of Parliament, Padma Shri Dr. C. N. Manjunath. He spoke in depth about the future of education, leadership, and nation-building, emphasizing that today's education system must not remain confined to marks and degrees alone.

In an era where Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning are advancing rapidly, Dr. Manjunath highlighted the importance of maintaining a balance between technology and human



values. He explained that the direction of learning is more important than its speed, noting that even rapid progress is meaningless if it is not aligned with the right path. Marks, he said, are not the sole measure of success; it is hard work, discipline, attitude, behaviour, and commitment that enable individuals to sustain excellence over the long term. Success, he reminded

the audience, is not a destination but a continuous journey, and teachers are not merely instructors but architects who shape the character and personality of future generations. Expressing concern over the rising mental health challenges among today's youth, Dr. Manjunath warned that excessive use of mobile phones and social media has become a serious

threat to children's well-being and future. He emphasized that true education is reflected not in certificates, but in one's conduct, values, and way of life. Leadership, he said, is not about seeking praise, but about taking greater responsibility for failures while accepting less personal credit for success.

With India being a

## 5 km Walkaluru foot-path walk held in Kammanahalli

Bengaluru : The 9th edition of the "Project Walkaluru" foot-path walk was conducted in the Kammanahalli-Kalyan Nagar area to promote clean, safe, and continuous foot-paths. The 5 km walk was flagged off by Bengaluru North City Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar, in the presence of Joint Commissioner Mohammed Naem Momin. More than 120 participants, including local residents, corporation officers, and staff, took part in the walk. People of all age groups—from children to senior citizens aged up to 80 years—successfully completed the route. The participation of two citizens from the Netherlands was a special highlight of the event. With this walk, a total of 72 km of footpath walks have been completed across Bengaluru city under the Walkaluru project.

## Convincing the Governor on the Hate Speech Prohibition Bill: Opposition Leader R. Ashok

### Insult to Kannada Language in Kerala, This is Pre-Planned Match-Fixing



Bengaluru : Opposition Leader R. Ashok said that The Hate Speech Prohibition Bill will snatch away freedom of speech. We will convince the Governor about this.

Speaking to reporters, he said that there should have been an opportunity for discussion on the Hate Speech Prohibition Bill in the session. When bringing such a bill, one must consider its impact on the people. The Constitution drafted by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar provides for discussion on bills. The Legislative Assembly exists for presenting and discussing bills, not for creating chaos. However, the Congress government did not allow discussion on this. When I tried to discuss the bill,

this matter has also disappointed me.

In the BJP, 15 MLAs were supposed to speak on this. After that, we had decided to refer the bill to the House Committee. But suddenly, the bill was passed. Now it has gone to the Governor. On Monday, I, the state president, and other leaders will go to the Governor and convince him about this. This is a bill that snatches the freedom of the people and the media. Just like freedom of speech was snatched during the Emergency, here too, freedom is being snatched through the bill. The government does not give us an opportunity for our complaints. Therefore, we are going to the Governor.

## Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy's Push Pays Off: Rs.14 Cr Sanctioned for Mandya Sporting facility



New Delhi / Mandya: In a significant boost to sports infrastructure in Karnataka, the Union Government has sanctioned 14 crore for the construction of a multi-purpose indoor sports facility in Mandya district under the Khelo India Scheme, following the initiative of Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy.

Administrative approval has been granted for the construction of a multipurpose indoor sporting hall at the University of Agricultural Sciences, Mandya, with an approved project cost of 14 crore. The sanction was accorded by Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya after Kumaraswamy personally wrote to him, highlighting the district's sporting potential and the urgent need for modern infrastructure.

In his communication, Kumaraswamy emphasized that the proposed facility would benefit local athletes, sports teams, and the wider community by promoting physical fit-

ness, encouraging sports development, and fostering social interaction. He noted that Mandya has a strong sporting legacy, with several athletes representing the state and the nation at national and international levels,

and many currently training at national camps. Kumaraswamy also pointed out that the new facility could host district, state, and even national-level events, thereby boosting tourism and contributing to the local economy. Seeking support under the Khelo India Scheme, he said the project would make a meaningful difference to the sporting ecosystem of the region. Expressing gratitude after the sanction, Kumaraswamy thanked Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya for his prompt and positive response in approving the project for Mandya. He said the approval reflects the Centre's commitment to strengthening grassroots sports infrastructure.

With the project now approved, Mandya is poised to enter a new phase of sports development. The upcoming facility is expected to provide quality training infrastructure for young athletes, host competitions, promote fitness among the public, and firmly place Mandya on the sports map of Karnataka.

## "Awareness and universal Continental check up is the key for Thalassemia free India":Padmashri Dr. C. N. Manjunath"



Bengaluru : Member of Parliament, Padma Shri Dr. C. N. Manjunath, addressed the Sankalp India Foundation program and spoke in detail about Thalassemia care and bone marrow transplantation.

He explained the meaning of "Sankalp" as Pratigya (a pledge) and appreciated the Foundation's long-term vision, including its goal of educating and supporting patients by 2030. He shared the inspiring journey of how Sankalp India Foundation began, highlighting the generous contribution of nearly 4 crore by a German family, which enabled the establishment of the Foundation and strengthened its humanitarian service. Dr. Manjunath recalled his role as a Director and policymaker in 2019, when the "Jeevana Sarthakathae" organ transplantation scheme was introduced in Karnataka. Under this scheme, heart, kidney, pancreas, and bone marrow transplants were made free of cost

for patients below the poverty line, ensuring access to life-saving treatment. He mentioned that efforts are underway to bring bone marrow transplantation under the National Organ Transplantation Programme, which would greatly benefit Thalassemia patients across the country. He emphasized that many Thalassemia patients are asymptomatic carriers, and therefore systematic screening is essential for

early identification and prevention. He underlined the importance of empathy and compassion, stating that compassion is the highest form of kindness.

Appreciating the work of Bhagwan Mahaveer Jain Hospital's pediatric unit and Sankalp India Foundation, he described all the participating doctors and institutions as "Thalassemia Ambassadors" serving humanity selflessly, without commercial motives.

Dr. Manjunath concluded with a powerful message on values, saying:

"Dedication is more important than designation, sincerity more than seniority, values more than marksmanship, effort more than results, progress more than perfection, loyalty more than rewards, and meaningful work more than paperwork." The program served as a strong source of motivation for healthcare professionals, donors, and partners, reaffirming the collective commitment to improving the lives of Thalassemia patients.

## Niri9 International Film Festival 2025 Inaugurated in Hyderabad; Two-Day Celebration of Cinema Begins



Hyderabad, January 10, 2026: The third edition of the Niri9 International Film Festival was successfully inaugurated today at Raj Bhavan Samskruti Auditorium, Hyderabad by marking the beginning of a vibrant two-day celebration of cinema, creativity, and powerful storytelling. The grand inaugural programme set an inspiring tone for the festival, bringing together filmmakers, artists, cultural icons, and cinema enthusiasts from across the country. The opening ceremony witnessed the gracious presence of several eminent dignitaries including acclaimed national award-winning bollywood actor Seema

Biswas, Telugu Filmmaker S.V. Krishna Reddy, legendary singer and cultural icon Lou Majaw, internationally renowned performer Carlyta Mouhini, former Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court, Shri Ajit Borthakur, LLR Kishor Babu, Executive Director of Telangana Film Development Corporation, along with prominent filmmakers and creative professionals from the Telugu and Assamese film industry, thereby, adding immense prestige to the festival's opening day.

On the occasion the official souvenir of Niri9 International Film Festival was also unveiled by Hon'ble

Cinematography Minister of Governor minister K. Venkat Reddy through a video message, the souvenir was edited by Jitu Roymedhi. These festivals are immersive cultural experiences. The inaugural ceremony featured Kuchipudi and Sattriya dance forms followed by spiritual songs both in Telugu and Assamese language by assamese singer Manisha Bordoloi, thereby setting the tone for two days of cinematic celebration of diversity, bringing together films from different parts of India, and beyond. In her Welcome address, Festival Director Dr. Jumani Devi Khaund stated, "Niri9 is a platform born out of the belief that stories have the power to heal, question, and unite. This festival is not just about films, but about voices that deserve to be heard and narratives that need space." Dr. Khaund also expressed heartfelt gratitude to all supporters, collaborators, artists, and partners who made the festival possible, while warmly welcoming all dignitaries, filmmakers, and guests to Hyderabad for this cinematic celebration.

## Vanilla Hour by Neer Ya Explores Love, Trauma, and the Courage to Begin Again



Bengaluru, January 10th 2026 — Author Neer Ya announces the release of her latest novel, Vanilla Hour, a deeply moving, genre-blending work of literary fiction that spans continents and decades, exploring resilience, motherhood, love, and the inescapable pull of the past.

Set between 2008 Delhi and 2025 Tokyo, Vanilla Hour follows Dr. Nandini Yadav, a respected geo-chemist who has painstakingly rebuilt her life after devastating personal trauma. Now settled in Japan with her sharp-witted teenage daughter Aani, Nandini exists within an unconventional yet nurturing family that includes her ex-husband Karan and his wife Yuki. Despite the

stability she has achieved, Nandini is haunted by unresolved memories—of a brutal assault and the sudden disappearance of Anoop Krishnamurthy, her brilliant first love, after a catastrophic fallout two decades earlier. The fragile equilibrium of her present unravels when

on an unconventional family—for protection and hope. The tension reaches a heartbreakingly climax when Aani uncovers the truth about her origins and runs into mortal danger. Blending emotional depth with gripping suspense, Vanilla Hour asks urgent questions about what defines a family, the cost of buried truths, and whether it is ever truly possible to outrun one's past. Speaking about the book, author Neer Ya says, "Vanilla Hour was written for anyone who has survived something they never speak about, for those who carry love and loss side by side. I invite readers to step into Nandini's world, to sit with her silences.

## NIOT's lidar buoys to capture marine weather data up to 20 km



CHENNAI: The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) is developing a new generation of radar and lidar systems capable of collecting weather data from sea level up to an altitude of 20 km, a move expected to significantly improve the accuracy of marine weather forecasting.

The system is being developed under the Union government's Mission Mausam, a Rs 2,000-crore programme aimed at strengthening India's weather and climate observation and prediction capabilities. NIOT plans to conduct initial trials of the new instruments in the open sea by February.

Unlike existing ocean buoys, which can collect atmospheric data only up to about three metres above sea level, the NIOT-designed radar and lidar systems mounted on buoys will measure wind speed and direction, cloud formation, humidity and temperature variations from 10 km to 20 km above the ocean surface. Scientists expect this method of collecting atmospheric data over the sea to enhance early and accurate prediction of cyclones, heavy rainfall and other extreme weather events.

Speaking to DT Next, NIOT Director Prof Balaji Ramakrishnan said the project would help scientists better understand future weather changes using high-quality ocean-based data. He noted

## No truck with AIADMK, casual meet with EPS misconstrued: Velmurugan

TIRUCHY: Clarifying reports about his meeting with AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami, Tamizhaga Vazhuvurimai Katchi (TaVK) chief T Velmurugan said it was an accidental encounter during a journey and had been misinterpreted.

Speaking to reporters after a party meeting in Karur, the TaVK leader added that their discussion was limited to the reservation policy followed by the previous AIADMK government and the welfare projects implemented during its tenure.

Velmurugan further said the DMK-led alliance enjoyed strong public support in the State, adding that the ruling party had earned goodwill among the people. "There is a bright chance of victory, and our cadres will work with full dedication for the alliance candidates," he said. He asserted that the party will remain part of the DMK-led alliance and that its cadres will work intensively to ensure the victory



of alliance candidates in the upcoming Assembly elections.

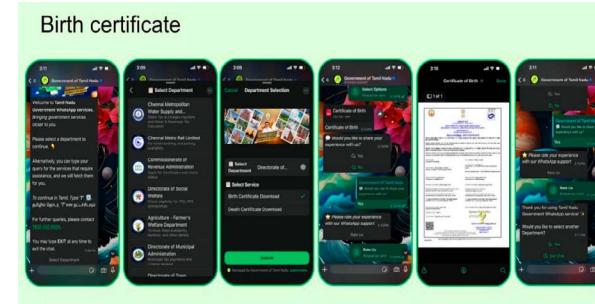
Velmurugan reiterated that TaVK would contest the elections as part of the DMK alliance, dismissing speculation about a shift. He said the ruling alliance in Tamil Nadu was strong and expressed confidence that Chief Minister MK Stalin would allocate a reasonable number of seats to alliance partners.

Commenting on the Congress's demand for a share in power, Velmurugan said the party was well within its rights to seek power-sharing. However, he pointed out that contradictory statements by Congress leaders on the issue could be a tactical move to bargain for more seats in the Assembly polls.

## Govt of TN launches 'Namma Arasu', a digital citizen services chatbot on WhatsApp

Bengaluru, January 10th, 2026: In partnership with Meta, the Government of Tamil Nadu today launched 'Namma Arasu', a unified WhatsApp chatbot that brings 51 essential citizen services to residents across the state. Unveiled at UImagineTN 2026, the launch marks a significant milestone in the state's journey towards simplified, people-centric digital governance. Available in Tamil and English, the WhatsApp chatbot can be accessed on +91 7845 252525 – and integrates

essential services into a single platform, making public service delivery faster, simpler, more inclusive, and accessible. Built with an intent-based search capability, residents can access a range of services across government departments, including certificate downloads; tax and utility bill payments; welfare schemes; transport-related services; property registration; agricultural information; ration card services; temple donations; grievance filing and tracking; tourism book-



ings; and more. The chatbot has been developed under the leadership of the Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA) as part of the state's ongoing efforts to strengthen digital public service delivery.

Arun Srinivas, Managing Director and Country Head, Meta (India), said, "We're proud to partner with the Government of Tamil Nadu on Namma Arasu, transforming WhatsApp into a unified gateway for essential public services. By connecting citizens to government services in real time, this initiative delivers real-time access to high-demand services like tax and bill payments, certificate downloads, eliminating complexity and bringing government support directly into citizens' daily lives. Namma Arasu sets a new benchmark for scalable, inclusive digital governance, empowering citizens across Tamil Nadu." Tamil Nadu's Namma Arasu joins the growing

and M.C. Paunraj were also examined.

Investigators said the leaders were questioned on a wide range of issues, including rally planning, permissions obtained, crowd estimates, security arrangements, and logistical coordination.

On December 4, Karur District Collector Thangavelam was summoned and questioned for over two hours regarding administrative approvals, inter-departmental coordination, and the response mechanisms in place on the day of the rally.

In a further escalation of the probe, the CBI has issued a formal summons to Vijay, directing him to appear before investigators at the agency's headquarters in New Delhi on January 12.

Sources said the questioning will focus on his role as the principal speaker, the planning and execution of the event, and decisions taken by the organising committee concerning crowd management. The investigation aims to fix accountability for the lapses that led to one of the deadliest political rally tragedies in recent years. Officials indicated that further questioning of key witnesses and scrutiny of documentary evidence will continue in the coming days.

## Stampede probe: CBI seizes Vijay's campaign vehicle used in TN's Karur

Chennai, Jan 10 : The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) seized actor-politician Vijay's campaign vehicle as part of its ongoing investigation into the deadly stampede that occurred during his public meeting in Karur on September 27 last year, which claimed 41 lives and left several others seriously injured.

According to officials, the campaign bus, used by Vijay during the rally and transported from Panaiyur to Karur, was currently being examined by investigators to verify movement logs, travel timings, and compliance with permissions granted for the event.

The driver of the vehicle is also being questioned to corroborate details related to the rally day schedule and crowd movement.

The tragedy reportedly occurred amid massive crowding and alleged lapses in crowd-control arrangements at the venue where Vijay addressed supporters.

Following directions to ensure an impartial inquiry, the case was transferred to the CBI, which has since intensified its probe by



questioning political leaders and district-level officials associated with the event. Earlier, on November 25, senior leaders of the Tamilaga Vettai Kazhagam (TVK) appeared before the CBI in New Delhi. Those questioned included party General Secretary Bussy Anand, Election Campaign Management General Secretary Adhav Arjun, and Joint General Secretary C.T.R. Nirmal Kumar. TVK Karur West District Secretary K.P. Mathiyazhagan

## New dietary guidelines abandon long-standing advice on alcohol



provides "an excuse to bond and socialise, and there's probably nothing healthier than having a good time with friends in a safe way." He said that people should drink "judiciously" in small amounts, and that, in healthy populations, it was often consumed in a celebratory context. But he said that "there was never really good data to support" the guidance of no more than one drink a day for women and two for men.

That definition, however, has been the standard that has informed hundreds of scientific studies comparing the health impacts of different levels of alcohol consumption, which have almost universally concluded that heavier levels of drinking are damaging to health.

Though there is robust debate within the medical community as to the relationship between moderate drinking and various forms of cardiovascular disease, there is more scientific certainty about the link between alcohol and at least seven types of cancer. Warnings about alcohol increasing the risk of breast cancer were included in the dietary guidelines 25 years ago. Former Surgeon General Dr Vivek Murthy last year called for putting cancer warning labels on alcoholic beverages, similar to those for cigarettes.

The new recommendations come at a pivotal time for the alcohol industry, which is experiencing a

slump in sales.

The percentage of US adults who say they consume alcohol has fallen to 54%, down from 62% in 2023, according to a recent Gallup poll, and 53% believe that even a drink or two a day is bad for health, more than double the percentage who thought so in 2011.

That the guidelines failed to mention the link between drinking and cancer is "a win for Big Alcohol," said Mike Marshall, CEO of the Alcohol Policy Alliance.

"The thing the industry fears most are consumers educated about the link between cancer and alcohol," he added. Amanda Berger, senior vice president for science and research at the Distilled Spirits Council, said she was not aware that any industry groups had advocated for scrapping the recommended drinking limits.

The council still relies on them, urging people who drink to do so in moderation as defined by the previous Dietary Guidelines. Several nutrition and public health experts said they were puzzled by the guidelines' omission of clear-cut definitions of moderate drinking.

"The word 'limit' isn't satisfactory," said Marion Nestle, a nutritionist who has written extensively about food policy. "Limit to what? That is exactly the question. You really need to know what it means."

Katherine Keyes, a professor of epidemiology at Columbia University who was one of the authors of a government interagency report that was withdrawn by the Trump administration, said she was concerned that people younger than 21 were not mentioned among those who should avoid alcohol altogether. The lack of clear daily recommended limits on drinking will cause confusion, she said.

"I don't think there's any magical cutoff," she said, though she added that the guidelines are "a benchmark for people" and "should always be updated with the most recent scientific evidence."

"If you talk to serious researchers who study alcohol and health, you'll find consensus that the relationship between alcohol and health risks is a dose-response relationship, and health risks start even at low levels," she said.

A dose-response relationship generally means that, as the level of exposure to a given substance increases, the effects increase in turn. While the putative benefits of moderate drinking with regard to cardiovascular disease have been a subject of heated controversy, there is no debate about either the health risks or social risks of heavy drinking, which has been linked to liver disease, alcohol use disorder, violent behavior and accidents. Until now, heavy drinking has been defined as consuming eight or more drinks a week for women, and 15 or more drinks a week for men. But some experts have endorsed the idea that there is no safe level of drinking, and that risks begin with the first sip. The World Health Organization, along with health authorities in many parts of the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, has been encouraging people to drink less, quit drinking altogether or aim for two to three alcohol-free days each week.

## Tamil Nadu BJP chief hits back at CM Stalin, asks does he not know that 'Parasakthi' cleared of censor issues

COIMBATORE: Tamil Nadu BJP chief Nainar Nagenthiran on Saturday lashed out at Chief Minister MK Stalin for his "Censor Board a new weapon of BJP government" remark and sought to know if he is aware that 'Parasakthi' film has been granted a certificate ahead of its release on January 10.

The Central Board of Film Certification followed its rules in certifying films and when it has cleared the 'Parasakthi' film, why should the Chief Minister link the certification issues for actor Vijay with the Central government, he asked.

Actor-politician Vijay's final film Jana Nayagan directed by H Vinod, couldn't be released on January 9, as originally scheduled due to some unexpected legal complications and censor board trouble. Following the controversy around the film's certification, its producer Venkat K Narayana (KVN Productions) said, "This has been an extremely emotional and

cate by the CBFC. Reacting to it, the film's official production house, Dawn Pictures, said on 'X', "A fire that speaks to all ages #Parasakthi censored with a U/A - striking theatres worldwide."

"Does he (Stalin) not know that the same censor board has cleared Parasakthi. Whose film is it? How did it get the certification? The CBFC has rules which it follows," Nagenthiran told reporters here when his attention was drawn to the Chief Minister's post on 'X' on Friday, accusing the BJP government at the Centre of employing the censor board as "a new weapon." Without mentioning Vijay's film, which has been caught in a row, the Chief Minister said on the social media platform 'X' 'CBI, ED, IT, Censor Board has also become a new weapon of the BJP government. Strong condemnations.'

Sudha Kongara and Sivakarthikeyan's film Parasakthi has been granted U/A 16+ certifi-

cated by the CBFC. Reacting to it, the film's official production house, Dawn Pictures, said on 'X', "A fire that speaks to all ages #Parasakthi censored with a U/A - striking theatres worldwide."

"Actor-politician Vijay's final film Jana Nayagan directed by H Vinod, couldn't be released on January 9, as originally scheduled due to some unexpected legal complications and censor board trouble. Following the controversy around the film's certification, its producer Venkat K Narayana (KVN Productions) said, "This has been an extremely emotional and

difficult moment for everyone who has poured their heart, soul and years of hard work into this film. Above all, we firmly believe that Thalapathy Vijay sir deserves the farewell he has earned through decades of love from his fans."

On the legal proceedings, he said in a video message that following the hearing on January 6 and 7, the court directed a U/A 16+ certificate to be issued. However, the CBFC immediately challenged this decision and the order to issue the certification was stayed, with an interim stay having been granted. He apologised to all for the delay.

When asked why so many hurdles were posed for 'Jana Nayagan', Nagenthiran replied, "The censor board followed rules."

Sudha Kongara and Sivakarthikeyan's film Parasakthi has been granted U/A 16+ certifi-

## Trump seeks \$100bn for Venezuela oil, but Exxon boss says country 'uninvestable'

US President Donald Trump has asked for at least \$100bn (£75bn) in oil industry spending for Venezuela, but received a lukewarm response at the White House as one executive warned the South American country was currently "uninvestable". Bosses of the biggest US oil firms who attended the meeting acknowledged that Venezuela, sitting on vast energy reserves, represented an enticing opportunity. But they said significant changes would be needed to make the region an attractive investment. No major financial commitments were immediately forthcoming. Trump has said he will unleash the South American nation's oil after US forces seized its leader Nicolas Maduro in a 3 January raid on its capital. "One of the things the United States gets out of this will be even lower energy prices," Trump said in Friday's meeting at the White House. But the oil bosses present expressed caution. Exxon's chief executive Darren Woods said: "We have had our assets seized there twice and so you can imagine to re-enter a third time would require some pretty significant changes from what we've



historically seen and what is currently the state." "Today it's uninvestable." Venezuela has had a complicated relationship with international oil firms since oil was discovered in its territory more than 100 years ago. Chevron is the last remaining major American oil firm still operating in the country. A handful of companies from other countries, including Spain's Repsol and Italy's Eni, both of which were represented

at the White House meeting, are also active. Trump said his administration would decide which firms would be allowed to operate. "You're dealing with us directly. You're not dealing with Venezuela at all. We don't want you to deal with Venezuela," he said. The White House has said it is working to "selectively" roll back US sanctions that have restricted sales of Venezuelan oil. Officials say they have been coordinat-

ing with interim authorities in the country, which is currently led by Maduro's former second-in-command, Vice-President Delcy Rodríguez. But they have also made clear they intend to exert control over the sales, as a way to maintain leverage over Rodríguez's government. The US this week has seized several oil tankers carrying sanctioned crude. American officials have said they are working to set up a sales process, which would deposit money raised into US-controlled accounts. "We are open for business," Trump said. Venezuela's oil production has been hit in recent decades by disinvestment and mismanagement as well as US sanctions. At roughly one million barrels per day, the country accounts for less than 1% of global supply. Chevron, which accounts for about a fifth of the country's output, said it expected to bolster its production, building on its current presence, while Exxon said it was working to send in a technical team to assess the situation in the coming weeks. Repsol, which currently boasts output of about 45,000 barrels per day, said it saw a path to triple its production in Venezuela over the next few

years under the right conditions. Executives at other firms also said Trump's promises of change would encourage investment and they were hoping to seize the moment. "We are ready to go to Venezuela," said Bill Armstrong, who leads an independent oil and gas driller. "In real estate terms, it is prime real estate." But analysts say meaningfully increasing production would take significant effort. "They are being as polite as humanly possible, and being as supportive as they can, without committing actual dollars," said David Goldwyn, president of the energy consultancy Goldwyn Global Strategies and former US state department special envoy for international energy affairs. Exxon and Shell are "not going to invest single-digit billions of dollars, much less tens of billions of dollars", without physical security, legal certainty and a competitive fiscal framework, Goldwyn said. "It's not really welcome from an industry point of view," he said. "The conditions are just not right." While smaller companies might be more eager to jump in and help boost Venezuela's oil production over the next year.

## EU reaches South America trade deal after 25 years of talks



The EU has reached a free trade agreement with South American countries, 25 years after talks began and despite opposition from farmers in several European countries. The deal with the Mercosur trading bloc - which includes Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay - will require the approval of the European parliament within the next few months. Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva hailed it as a "historic day for multilateralism" after the four South American countries put the final touches to the deal in Brussels. It comes against the backdrop of US President Donald Trump's

tariffs on countries around the world and his recent military intervention in Venezuela. The EU heralded what will be its largest free trade accord to date as a "win-win", although critics have argued that cheap imports may undercut European farmers in products including beef, poultry and sugar. "In an international scenario of growing protectionism and unilateralism, the agreement is a signal in favour of international trade as a driver of economic growth, with benefits for both blocs," President Lula posted on X. EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the deal will "bring meaningful benefits to consumers and businesses, on both sides". Farmers in several countries in Europe held last-ditch protests against the deal, with marches and demonstrations using tractors in France and Belgium. "There is a lot of pain," Judy Peeters, a representative for a Belgian young farmers' group, told AFP at a protest on a motorway south of Brussels. "There is a lot of anger." Von der Leyen said the Commission had listened to the concerns of farmers, and had acted on them including through introducing "robust safeguards" to protect their livelihoods in the agreement.

## Shifting away from Russian oil imports currently won't hurt India fiscally

The prevailing low global oil prices mean that, if India chooses to shift away from importing Russian oil and switches to more oil from the U.S., the financial impact of this would be limited, according to experts as well as an analysis of India's import data. An analysis by The Hindu of the volume and value of India's oil imports show that in November 2025, the latest month for which there is data, India imported oil from Russia at the rate of \$482.7 per tonne. That month, oil imports from the U.S. cost \$523.3 per tonne. On average, India paid \$498.8 per tonne for its oil imports in November 2025. Declining discount data shows that, while the premium paid on oil from the U.S. has remained largely the same as three years ago, the discount received from Russia has shrunk considerably. Three years earlier, in November 2022, India received a discount of \$40.3 a tonne on its oil imports from Russia. The premium paid on



American oil stood at \$21.2 per tonne. "India was very keen to keep importing from Russia at a discounted rate while a discount existed," Vibhuti Garg, Director for South Asia at the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, said. "But that discount has now gone and global oil prices have fallen significantly. They are at about \$60 a barrel and could fall further. So, if India does cut down on its Russian oil imports significantly, this won't currently be damaging fiscally. However, she added that, if in the future prices go back up to \$80-90 a barrel, then the lack of this Russian dis-

count could start pinching the Indian government. A previous report by The Hindu shows how India's oil imports from Russia touched a six-month high in November 2025. However, since then, Reliance Industries, one of the biggest oil importers in India, said that it had not received any oil shipments from Russia in the last three weeks of December 2025 and did not expect any in January 2026. Limited impact According to Ajay Srivastava, founder of think-tank Global Trade Research Initiative and former Director General of Foreign Trade in the Government of India.

## 'Out of stock': What went wrong at luxury retailer Saks?

On a recent January morning, tourists admired the rows of Balenciaga and Burberry handbags on display at Saks Fifth Avenue's flagship midtown Manhattan location. But a conversation on the second floor hinted at financial troubles at one of America's most iconic luxury department stores. Penelope Nam-Stephen, a longtime customer, approached the Diptyque counter in search of a home fragrance that she had typically bought at Saks. Nam-Stephen, who splits her time between New York City and Boston, had been surprised to find the product unavailable at the Boston store just after Christmas. She hoped the New York location would have better inventory. "Do you have anything in the Berries fragrance?" she asked an employee. His response: "Everything is out of stock - candles, diffusers." Saks Global, which owns Saks Fifth Avenue and Neiman Marcus, is expected to file for bankruptcy protection

imminently as it struggles to shore up its finances, leaving big questions among shoppers, vendors and investors about the retailer's future. Saks has been plagued by worsening financial woes since Saks Fifth Avenue's parent company acquired Neiman Marcus in 2024 to create the luxury retail giant. Executives had argued the \$2.7bn deal would cut costs and bolster the brands. The department stores had already been under strain amid growing debt burdens and shifting shopping habits that benefited e-commerce rivals. Saks Fifth Avenue began

reporting double-digit quarterly sales declines in early 2023. But the touted benefits of the acquisition did not materialise. Saks failed to make a \$100m interest payment to creditors due in late December, tied to roughly \$2.2bn of debt that it took on to fund the merger. The missed deadline comes as Saks continues to draw frustration from its vendors, who have bemoaned months-long payment delays and many of whom have halted shipments of their products. Saks did not respond to requests for comment on inventory shortages and its plan to pay vendors.

## Avenue Supermarts Q3 result: Profit rises 18.28% to Rs. 855.78 crore



Avenue Supermarts Ltd on Saturday reported an 18.28 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 855.78 crore in the third quarter ended December 2025, on the back of higher revenue. The company, which runs a supermarket chain under the brand DMart, registered a consolidated net profit of Rs 723.54 crore in the same quarter last fiscal. Avenue Supermarts Ltd said in a regulatory filing. Consolidated revenue from operations in the latest third quarter stood at Rs 18,100.88 crore as against Rs 15,972.55 crore in the year-ago period, it added. Total expenses in

## Sebi set to clear way for NSE to launch its initial public offering



### Highlights

■ India's markets regulator will this month issue an approval needed for the country's biggest bourse, the National Stock Exchange, to launch its stock market offering, it said on Saturday. NSE, also the world's most active derivatives exchange, has been in litigation with the Indian market regulator Sebi since 2019 when it was fined 11 billion rupees (\$122.04 million) for failing to provide equitable access to all its trading members.

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## Makar Sankranti 2026: Adding Nourishment to Harvest Celebrations with California Almonds



said, "Festive foods are central to Makar Sankranti celebrations, but making small, thoughtful ingredient choices can go a long way in supporting health. Almonds are nutrient-dense, naturally satiating, and help manage blood sugar levels when paired with carbohydrate-rich foods. Whether added to ladoos, savoury dishes, or eaten whole, a handful of California Almonds daily helps families celebrate

without compromising on nutrition." From an Ayurvedic perspective, almonds are considered balya, meaning strength-enhancing, and are known to build ojas, which supports vitality and immunity. Particularly beneficial during winter and early spring, their warming nature helps balance Vata, supports digestion, and builds resilience. Dr. Madhumitha Krishnan, Ayurveda Expert, shared,

"Almonds are one of the most versatile ingredients you can add to festive cooking. They offer a unique mix of balancing the Doshas, improving the nourishment of the body, warming in nature, and very satiating. Whether blended into chutneys, ground into festive sweets, or enjoyed on their own, almonds enhance both nutrition and flavour." Highlighting the role of balanced nutrition in everyday wellness, Sheela Krishnaswamy, Nutrition & Wellness Consultant, added, "Makar Sankranti dishes are traditionally rich and celebratory, but the choice of ingredients makes all the difference. Almonds work well in festive cooking because they add natural texture and beneficial nutrients without relying on excess sugar or refined fats. Incorporating almonds into traditional preparations allows families to preserve the spirit of the festi-

# Trump says US needs to 'own' Greenland to prevent Russia and China from taking it

President Donald Trump says the US needs to "own" Greenland to prevent Russia and China from doing so. "Countries have to have ownership and you defend ownership, you don't defend leases. And we'll have to defend Greenland," Trump told reporters on Friday, in response to a question from the BBC. We will do it "the easy way" or "the hard way", he added. The White House said recently the administration is considering buying the semi-autonomous territory of fellow Nato member Denmark, but it would not rule out the option of annexing it by force. Denmark and Greenland say the territory is not for sale. Denmark has said military action would spell the end of the trans-Atlantic defence alliance. In a joint statement on Friday night, Greenland's party leaders, including



the opposition, reiterated their call for the US's disregard for our country to end". "We do not want to be Americans, we do not want to be Danes, we want to be Greenlanders," they said. "The future of Greenland must be decided by the Greenlandic people." Despite being the most sparsely populated territory, Greenland's location

between North America and the Arctic makes it well placed for early warning systems in the event of missile attacks, and for monitoring vessels in the region. The US president has repeatedly said that Greenland is vital to US national security, claiming without evidence that it was "covered with Russian and Chinese ships

all over the place". The US already has more than 100 military personnel permanently stationed at its Pituffik base in Greenland's north-western tip - a facility that has been operated by the US since World War Two. Under existing agreements with Denmark, the US has the power to bring as many troops as it wants to

Greenland. But speaking to reporters in Washington, Trump said a lease agreement was not good enough. "Countries can't make nine-year deals or even 100-year deals," he said, adding that they had to have ownership. "I love the people of China. I love the people of Russia," Trump said. "But I don't want them as a neighbour in Greenland, not going to happen." "And by the way Nato's got to understand that," the US president added. Denmark's Nato allies - major European countries as well as Canada - have rallied to its support this week with statements reaffirming that "only Denmark and Greenland can decide on matters concerning their relations". Stressing they were as keen as the US on Arctic security, they have said this must be achieved by allies, including the US, "collectively". They also

called for "upholding the principles of the UN Charter, including sovereignty, territorial integrity and the inviolability of borders". Concerns over the future of the territory resurfaced after Trump's use of military force against Venezuela on Saturday to seize its president, Nicolás Maduro. Trump previously made an offer to buy the island in 2019, during his first presidential term, only to be told it was not for sale. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio is to hold talks with Denmark next week. In recent years, there has also been increased interest in Greenland's natural resources - including rare earth minerals, uranium and iron - which are becoming easier to access as its ice melts due to climate change. Scientists think it could also have significant oil and gas reserves.

## Rescuers race to find dozens missing after deadly landfill collapse in Philippines



Rescue workers are racing to find dozens of people still missing following a landslide at a landfill site in the central Philippines earlier this week, an official has said. Mayor Nestor Archival said on Saturday that signs of life had been detected at the site in Cebu City, two days after the incident. Four people have been confirmed dead so far, Archival said, while 12 others have been taken to hospital. Conditions for emergency services working at the site are challenging, the mayor added, with hazards such as unstable debris and crew waiting for better equipment to arrive. The privately-owned Binaliw landfill collapsed on Thursday while 110 workers were on site, officials said. In a Facebook post on Saturday morning local time, Archival said: "Authorities confirmed the presence of detected signs of life in specific areas, requiring continued careful excavation and the deployment of a

more advanced 50-ton crane." Conditions for rescue workers at the site are difficult, with the wreckage still unstable. Relatives of those missing have been waiting anxiously for any news of their whereabouts. More than 30 people, all workers at the landfill, are thought to be missing. "We are just hoping that we can get someone alive... We are racing against time, that's why our deployment is 24/7," Cebu City councillor Dave Tumulak, chairman of the city's disaster council, told AFP news agency. Jerahmey Espinoza, whose husband is missing, told Reuters news agency at the site on Saturday: "They haven't seen him or located him ever since the disaster happened. We're still hopeful that he's alive." The cause of the collapse is still unclear, but Cebu City councillor Joel Garganera previously said it was likely the result of poor waste management practices.

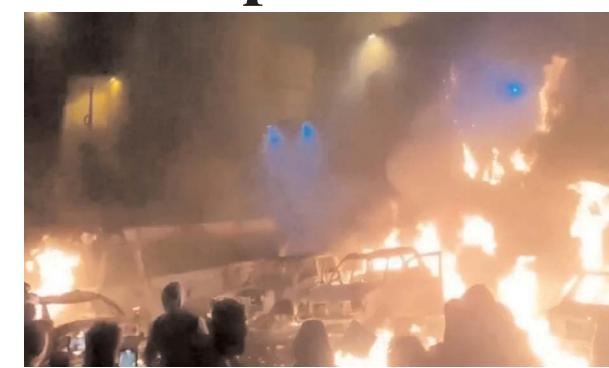
## Romance and parenthood feel remote in Ukraine: 'I haven't had a date since before the war'



Sitting in a wine bar in Kyiv on a Saturday night, Daria, 34, opens a dating app, scrolls, then puts her phone away. After spending more than a decade in committed relationships she's been single for a long time. "I haven't had a proper date since before the war," she says. Four years of war have forced Ukrainians to rethink

nearly every aspect of daily life. Increasingly that includes decisions about relationships and parenthood - and these choices are, in turn, shaping the future of a country in which both marriage and birth rates are falling. Millions of Ukrainian women who left at the start of the 2022 full-scale invasion have now built lives and relationships abroad. Hundreds of thousands of men are absent too, either deployed in the army or living outside the country. For those women who stayed, the prospect of meeting somebody to start a family feels increasingly remote. Khrystyna, 28, says it's noticeable that there are fewer men around.

## Iran medics describe overwhelmed hospitals as protests continue



As protests in Iran continue and Iranian authorities issued coordinated warnings to protesters, a doctor and medic at two hospitals told the BBC their facilities were overwhelmed with injuries. One doctor said a Tehran eye hospital had gone into crisis mode, while the BBC also obtained a message from a medic in another hospital saying it did not have enough surgeons to cope with the influx of patients. On Friday, US President Donald Trump said Iran was in "big trouble" and warned "you better not start shooting because we'll start shooting too". Iran in a letter to the UN Security Council blamed

the US for turning the protests into what it called "violent subversive acts and widespread vandalism". Anti-government protests, which continued on Friday, have taken place in dozens of locations, with two human rights groups reporting at least 50 protesters have been killed. The BBC and

most other international news organisations are barred from reporting inside Iran, and the country has been under a near-total internet blackout since Thursday evening, making obtaining and verifying information difficult. A doctor from Iran, who contacted the BBC via Starlink satellite inter-

net on Friday night, said Farabi Hospital, Tehran's main eye specialist centre, had gone into crisis mode, with emergency services overwhelmed. Non-urgent admissions and surgeries were said to have been suspended, and staff called in to deal with emergency cases. The BBC also obtained a video and audio message from a medic in a hospital in the south-west city of Shiraz on Thursday. The medic said large numbers of injured people were being brought in, and the hospital did not have enough surgeons to cope with the influx. He claimed many of the wounded had gunshot injuries to the head and eyes.

## Video emerges of Minneapolis shooting filmed by ICE agent who opened fire



A video filmed by the US immigration agent who fatally shot a woman in Minneapolis on Wednesday has emerged, showing the moments before gunfire rang out. The 47-second footage, obtained by conservative news outlet Alpha News, which is based in Minnesota, shows Renee Nicole Good sitting behind the wheel of her car and speaking to the officer. US Vice-President JD Vance shared the clip on social media, commenting that the agent had acted in self-defence. Local officials have insisted the woman posed no danger. Good's wife has paid tribute to the 37-year-old, saying the pair were trying

to support their neighbours when she was shot. Her death has sparked protests across the US. President Donald Trump's administration says Good tried to run over the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officer in an act of "domestic terrorism" after blocking the road and impeding the agency's work. Democratic Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey has described that account as "garbage" based on the video footage. The BBC has asked the homeland security department and the White House for comment on the

new video that emerged on Friday. The footage starts with the officer getting out of his car and filming Good's vehicle and registration plate while he walks around the Honda SUV. A dog is in the backseat. Good says: "That's fine dude. I'm not mad at you." Her wife, Becca Good, is standing on the street filming the interaction with her mobile phone. She tells the ICE agent: "That's OK, we don't change our plates every morning just so you know. It will be the same plate when you come talk to us later." She adds: "You want to come at us? You want to come at us? I say go and get yourself some lunch, big boy."

## GREENLANDERS FEAR FOR FUTURE AS ISLAND EMBROILED IN GEOPOLITICAL STORM



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio will meet Danish and Greenlandic officials next week to discuss the fate of Greenland - a semi-autonomous territory of Denmark that President Donald Trump says he needs for national security. The vast island finds itself in the eye of a geopolitical storm with Trump's name on it and people here are clearly unnerved. Yet when you fly in, it looks so peaceful. Ice and snow-capped mountains stretch as far as the eye can see, interrupted here and there by glittering fjords - all between the Arctic and the Atlantic Oceans. It is said to sit on top of the world; much of it

above the Arctic Circle. Greenland is nine times the size of the UK but it only has 57,000 inhabitants, most of them indigenous Inuit. You find the biggest cluster of Greenlanders on the south-western coast in the capital, Nuuk. We arrived there as a frozen twilight was creeping across snow-covered pedestrian streets. Parents dragged their children home from school on sledges, and students moored their way in and out of brightly-lit malls. Few wanted to talk to us about the Trump-related angst here. Those who did sounded very gloomy. One pensioner banged his walking stick on the ground in

want to be left alone." Never mind opposing a takeover by the US, which 85% of Greenlanders say they do, most also say they favour independence from Denmark - although many tell me they appreciate the Danish subsidies that help prop up their welfare state. While rich in untapped natural resources, poverty is a real issue here in Inuit communities. Overall, Greenlanders want a bigger, louder say, not only in their domestic policies, but in foreign affairs too. I went to the island's modest-looking parliament, the body of it built in a Scandinavian style with wooden slats and painted the same bur- nished red as the

Greenlandic flags fluttering by the entrance. No security checks. All pretty relaxed. Except for the roaring polar bear emblem - a symbol of Greenland, etched onto every sliding glass doors we pass. I was there to meet Pipaluk Lyng-Rasmussen, co-chair of the foreign affairs committee in parliament. She is an MP with the pro-independence Inuit Ataqatigiit party that is part of the coalition government here. "I think it's very important for us to speak out about what we want as a people," she told me. "We have always worked towards independence when we got home rule in 1979 and more independence in 2009.

## US film stars Meagan Good and Jonathan Majors become Guinea citizens after DNA tests



Husband and wife movie stars Meagan Good and Jonathan Majors have travelled to Guinea, where they have been granted citizenship after tracing their ancestry to the West African nation through DNA testing. Majors, a star of Creed and Ant-Man, said becoming citizens would allow the couple to "bridge[ the gap]" and bring together their stories as entertainers and members of the African diaspora. "We just want to say thank you so much," added Good, best known for the film Think Like a Man, who said it was her first visit to Guinea. Their citizenship ceremony was similar to

other initiatives in the region to encourage people of African descent to reclaim their heritage and invest in the continent. The event - a private cultural ceremony organised by the ministry of culture - took place at a tourist and cultural centre, Gbassi Kolo, on Friday. Djiba Diakité, minister and chief of staff of the presidency, presented the passports to the two actors on behalf of President Mamadi Doumbouya, saying: "We both believe that you are among the worthy sons and daughters of Guinea to represent our country and the red and green flag throughout the world."

## Swiss search souls and question government after ski resort fire



In the wake of the devastating fire at a bar in Crans-Montana, many Swiss citizens are asking themselves if their political system is fit for purpose. Switzerland, often praised for its efficiency, has a very devolved system of government, in which villages and towns are run by local officials elected from and by the community. It is a system the Swiss cherish, because they believe it ensures accountability. But there are inherent weaknesses: hypothetically, the official approving a bar licence or passing a fire-safety check is the friend, neighbour, or maybe even cousin of the bar owner. When the news of the fire emerged on New Year's Eve, first there was shock. Such devastating fires are not, people thought, supposed to happen in Switzerland. Then there was grief - 40 young people lost their lives, 116 were injured, many of them very seriously. Questions followed - what caused such a catastrophe? And finally, this

week - fury when Crans-Montana's Mayor, Nicolas Feraud, revealed that Le Constellation bar had not been inspected since 2019. Crans-Montana is in the Swiss canton of Valais, where fire-safety inspections are the responsibility of Mayor Feraud and his colleagues, and they are supposed to happen every 12 months. Not only had the checks not taken place, the mayor said, he had only become aware of this after the fire. And, he revealed, of 128 bars and restaurants in Crans-Montana, only 40 had been inspected in 2025. Asked why, Feraud had no answer, though he did suggest Crans-Montana had too few inspectors for the number of properties that needed checking. This was echoed by Romy Biner, the mayor of neighbouring upmarket resort Zermatt, who told local media that many communities in the canton of Valais did not have the required resources to inspect so many premises.



## Sunil Gavaskar Fulfils Promise To Jemimah Rodrigues. Their Musical Duet Wins Internet

Legendary Indian cricket team skipper Sunil Gavaskar shared a stunning moment with women's cricket team star Jemimah Rodrigues as he gifted her a bat-shaped guitar. Gavaskar also fulfilled his promise of singing a song with her in a heartwarming moment for fans. The legendary cricketer had previously promised that he would jam with Jemimah if she wins the Women's ODI World Cup and he kept his promise. In a video going viral on social media, Gavaskar was seen greeting Jemimah and gifting her a customised guitar that was shaped like a cricket bat. Gavaskar even joked that he was not the "opening bat" on the day. The highlight of the meeting came when the duo sang Yeh Dosti - the famous song from the film 'Sholay' sung by Kishore Kumar and Manna Dey. "Sunil sir kept his promise and we ended up jamming with the coolest Bat-ari ever. This was a special



one," Jemimah posted on Instagram. Earlier, former India captain Anjum Chopra believes Jemimah Rodrigues will discover 'another side of herself' when she leads Delhi Capitals (DC) in the upcoming Women's Premier League (WPL) season, starting in Navi Mumbai on Friday. Jemimah was the vice-captain to Australia's multiple-time World Cup-

winning captain Meg Lanning when DC finished as runners-up in three successive WPL seasons - 2023, 2024, and 2025. But with Meg becoming the skipper of UP Warriorz (UPW), Jemimah steps into the leadership role for DC for the first time. "See, expectations will be there with the franchise also. But for me, it's about when you entrust a player with a role,

they start understanding themselves in a different light altogether. So, she's captained Mumbai and been there at the helm. But now leading a franchise team is a different ballgame altogether. Now she will also explore another side of herself, not only as a batter or a fielder, but also as a captain," Anjum told IANS in an exclusive conversation on the eve of

## Shubman Gill Asked About Indian Dressing Room Atmosphere Chatter Over Seniors' Relationship With Coaches

Shubman Gill makes a comeback in international cricket after a gap with the India vs New Zealand ODI series. This is India's last ODI series before the focus shifts to T20Is. Shubman Gill is not currently part of the T20I team but is the captain of the ODI and Test teams. Under his leadership in the ODIs, the focus has been on senior players like Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli. They are still going strong in the 50-over format, but there has been chatter about their relationship with the coaching staff, led by Gautam Gambhir. Gill was directly asked about this in the pre-match press conference. "A lot of things are being said and written about the relationship between senior players and the coaching staff. How are things on that



front?" a reporter asked Shubman Gill. "I think the team atmosphere is amazing. The players that you named have been in this atmosphere for decades, and they are the people who always try to push Indian cricket forward. And I think even in the last series, you saw how well they performed. So I think the atmosphere in the team is

great right now," Shubman Gill replied. Replying to a separate question, Gill added that having Rohit and Kohli in the side makes a captain's life much easier, because whenever there is a challenging situation, you can go to them for decision-making, which is valuable for any captain. "Among the two players you

have named, one is one of the greatest openers (Rohit) of all time in ODIs, and Virat bhai is one of the greatest ODI batsmen ever. So definitely, having these two people in your team makes your life a lot easier, and whenever you are in a challenging situation, you can go to them for input. Because they have often been in those situations, you can go to them to see how they think or what they would do. That piece of information is very valuable for any captain," Gill said. Gill also stressed the importance of finding the best combination and playing at full strength, irrespective of the opposition. "We don't look at any opposition, since they aren't at their full strength. We want to play at full strength and find the best combinations."

## 'Unacceptable to the badge' - Dyche fumes at FA Cup exit



Sean Dyche has called for some of his Nottingham Forest players to "have a look in the mirror" after an "unacceptable" first-half performance in their FA Cup loss at Wrexham. Forest were the first Premier League side in third-round action and the first casualty at the hands of lower league opposition. Having made eight changes from Tuesday's Premier League win at West Ham, Dyche watched in fury as his side trailed their Championship opponents 2-0 at the break. They fought back to make it 3-3 and force extra-time at Stok Cae Ras, but were beaten 4-3 in the penalty shootout after Igor Jesus and Omari Hutchinson had their spot-kicks saved by home keeper Arthur Okonkwo. "The first half was completely unacceptable," Dyche told TNT Sports. "I let the players know and there are cer-

tain individuals that certainly know and they have to look in the mirror. "But the strangeness of football, some players that came on in the second half were a credit and we went on and looked like a Premier League side. "You can't do that in the first half, it's completely unacceptable. It's unacceptable to me, but I said you have to look in the mirror because that's unacceptable to the badge as well. "They all knock on the door and say, 'why aren't I playing?'. Well the evidence is quite honestly there for some, not for all." While Dyche praised those who came off the bench - including two-goal Callum Hudson-Odoi - for acting as a "catalyst" for their second-half comeback, he continued to berate his side's efforts in a poor first 45 minutes. "I could have taken all of them off [at half-time]," he added.

Suryavanshi slammed a 50-ball 96 at a strike rate of 192. His innings included nine fours and seven sixes. He reached the half-century mark in just 27 balls. The recent performance of the Rajasthan Royals star has left former India all-rounder Ravichandran Ashwin utterly impressed, and he took to X (formerly Twitter) to congratulate

Suryavanshi. "171(95), 50(26), 190(84), 68(24), 108\*(61), 46(25) & 127(74) today. These are just some of Vaibhav Suryavanshi's scores in the last 30 days across domestic & U-19 cricket. Enna thambi, indha adi podhuma, illa innum konjam venuma? Translation (What's all this, brother? Is this sample enough or are you

going to raise the bar further?)" wrote Ashwin after Suryavanshi's ton against South Africa. Ashwin further stated that with the upcoming U-19 World Cup and IPL 2026 in March, Suryavanshi's performance as an opener will be a great spectacle for all the fans. "You can't explain in words what this kid is doing at 14. With the U-19 WC around the corner, where he's expected to be the showstopper, followed immediately by the leap to the IPL for his first full season as an opener stepping into the big shoes of Sanju, the next four months of #VaibhavWatch are going to be exciting, telling us everything about his temperament, hunger & character," Ashwin added.

## Scottish Premiership: O'Neill makes Celtic return in one of four matches

An early booking for Livingston defender Brooklyn Kabongolo after he takes out Kilmarnock forward Bruce Anderson near halfway. That's going to make it a long 90 minutes for Kabongolo. There's an early stoppage at Parkhead as Julian Araujo's chip smacks right off Will Ferry's face. Nine points separates St Mirren from the top six and it's Falkirk holding that position ahead of them. Notably, Stephen Robinson's side have two games in hand over several teams but will want to close that gap with a big opportunity today. Falkirk have strengthened with young striker Ben Parkinson signed from



Newcastle. He makes the bench. Scott Bain has also committed to an additional two years as John McGlynn plans for the future as well as the here and now, which has been going very well this season. No signs of the nerves you'd expect a base-

Martindale is his usual calm, pre-match self. Let's see if their respective demeanours are different at the end of this enormous match... Livingston manager David Martindale tells BBC Scotland: "Scott Arfield and Alex Tamm, their registrations only came through late after training yesterday so we kind of kept the bench open for them but it was hard to actually do any preparation in terms of the match. Hopefully, we can get them on the park. "Big game. I'm not going to try and hide behind that. There's a lot of games left in the season but I think this game, there's a lot of importance in this game."

## "Couple Of Beers Now And Again": Brendon McCullum's Stunning Defence Of England Team After Ashes Drinking Row



England's Test team is under intense scrutiny following a 4-1 Ashes humiliation at the hands of Australia. Things went from bad to worse as multiple reports emerged of England players potentially going on a drinking spree during their four-day break to the Noosa resort between the second and third Tests. However, amidst pressure on his aggressive brand of cricket, England head coach Brendon McCullum defended the England team's Noosa vacation, even stating that many of the players aren't regular drinkers. "Half our guys don't have a drink, to be honest. They'll have a couple of beers every now and again. I think people do that in most walks of life," McCullum said, following England's defeat in the fifth Test. Controversy erupted following the third Test when it emerged that certain England players may have spent up to six days drinking during the nine-day gap between the second and third Tests of the series. A viral video of England opener Ben

Duckett seemingly drunk and unable to find his way back home made matters worse, with managing director Rob Key stating that an investigation on the drinking reports would take place within the team. England's only victory of the series coincidentally came in the fourth Test in Melbourne, in the immediate aftermath of the reported drinking scandal.

Meanwhile, former England cricketer Kevin Pietersen called for changes in the national coaching

setup and backed former head coach Andy Flower as a potential successor to Brendon McCullum. The 41-year-old England star made a post on X to support his ex-coach. Pietersen said that his wild thought was bringing Flower back into the fold, adding that the Zimbabwe legend has evolved, understands the modern-day player, and gets Test cricket. "This is a WILD thought. I reckon one of my wildest. Can England bring back Andy Flower now that he's changed and in line with the modern-day player?"

## SA20: DSG And Sunrisers Share Points After Match Is Abandoned Without A Toss



The Durban's Super Giants vs Sunrisers Eastern Cape fixture at Kingsmead on Friday was abandoned without a toss due to inclement weather. A healthy and expectant crowd arrived at Kingsmead, hopeful of an exciting game of cricket but unfortunately consistent rain throughout the afternoon and evening saw the umpires call the match off at 20:00 local time. The two points each team receives consolidates Sunrisers Eastern Cape's position at the top of the table (17 points after 6 matches) and takes Durban's Super Giants to within one point of play-offs berth (11 points after 7

matches) but Pretoria Capitals have a match in hand over the star-studded DSG. Aiden Markram's side will bemoan the stop-start nature of their 2024 season with three no results from their seven matches,

notwithstanding their three losses putting them on the back foot for the second half of the group stage. Sunrisers meanwhile, who hold a nine point advantage over DSG, now only need one more win from their remaining four group matches to seal their place in the Playoffs. The two teams will be hoping for better luck on Sunday when they're set to meet in the at St George's Park in the reverse fixture.

## Durant passes legend Chamberlain on all-time list



Kevin Durant moved past the great Wilt Chamberlain on the NBA all-time scoring list but his 30 points could not guide the Houston Rockets to a win against the Portland Trail Blazers. Durant, 37, has 31,435 points in his career and is now seventh on the all-time list. LeBron James of the Los Angeles Lakers leads the way with 42,601. The Trail Blazers triumphed 111-105 at Moda Center in Portland. Chamberlain, who died in 1999, is the only player to score 100 points in an NBA game and was a two-time champion with the Philadelphia 76ers and the Lakers. In 1962 he averaged a record 50.4 points a game, and was the leading NBA scorer when he retired in 1973. "You see the numbers. You just can't comprehend some-

## Vishnu Manchu Announces 100% Sports Scholarships at MBU & SVIS: A Big Step Toward Building India's Future Olympians

In a major push to nurture sporting talent in India, Dynamic Star Vishnu Manchu who is serving as MAA President today announced a groundbreaking initiative- 100% sports scholarships at Mohan Babu University (MBU) and Sree Vidyaniketan International School (SVIS). The program, starting from the 2026-27 academic year, aims to provide complete support for young athletes with exceptional potential. This ambitious scholarship program begins with two major sports disciplines- Cricket, Basketball, and Badminton. Under this initiative, selected students will receive full support, covering academics, professional coaching, nutrition, training facilities, and accommodation. The institutions will collaborate with top-tier coaches from India and abroad, ensuring world-class guidance for the athletes. Vishnu Manchu revealed that this mission stems from a deeply personal dream — contributing to India's sporting future in a significant way. With India preparing



and aspiring to host the 2036 Olympics, Vishnu Manchu envisions that MBU should produce Olympians by then. This long-term roadmap reflects his commitment to developing grassroots sports and offering deserving youngsters a platform to shine globally.

\*Speaking about the initia-

tive\*, he emphasized that many talented children lose opportunities due to financial barriers, lack of mentorship, or inadequate infrastructure.

This scholarship program is designed to eliminate all such hurdles and create a structured ecosystem where young athletes can thrive.

\*Speaking about the initia-



## I have played a good character with scope for performance in 'Nari Nari Naduma Murari'. It is a fun family entertainer that everyone will enjoy: Heroine Samyukta

Charming Star Sharva and Ram Abbaraju are starring in the wholesome family entertainer 'Nari Nari Nadu Murari' directed by Ram Abbaraju. Produced by Anil Sunkara and Ramabrahmam Sunkara in association with Adventures International Pvt. Ltd. under the banner of AK Entertainments, the film stars Samyukta and Sakshi Vaidya as the female leads. The promotional content has already created a good buzz. The film will hit the theatres on January 14. On this occasion, the film's features were shared at a joint press conference.

How does it feel to arrive

### at Sankranti?

It is a great pleasure to be here for Sankranti. Sankranti is a big festival. Every film that comes during Sankranti is well received. This is a very clean comedy entertainer. A perfect movie for the festival.

I really liked it when the director told me this story. Very beautiful story. I really like doing comedy films. Shooting is also very fun.

### What will your character be like in this?

My character has a lot of importance in this. When there are two heroines, the audience naturally thinks it is a love triangle story.

But this is not the case. The director has written this story with a very unique point. You should see that on the screen.

The director gave me a very good character. It has a very good situation comedy. I dubbed for this movie myself. I enjoyed it a lot.

I was so excited when I signed this film, and I was still so excited after it was completed. I watched the movie in dubbing. It was amazing.

### How did it feel to act with Sharva?

Sharwanand garu is a hero with excellent timing. He is very supportive and

helpful. Working with him is a very good experience.

The roles of Naresh and Satya will also entertain everyone.

### About director Ram Abbaraju?

The director is very cool. He doesn't feel any pressure when the film is coming out in such a competitive environment. He is always very confident. I have never seen him angry. He is a very clear director.

### How did it feel working on Anil's production?

Anil garu is very passionate about cinema. He is the main pillar of cinema. He supports everyone. I wish

him a huge success.

### Witness about medical?

We have good combination scenes. I have a lot of respect for him. The way he prepares for every scene is very good. He works very hard.

### What kind of roles would you like to play?

I have done a variety of roles so far. Each of my films has a variety. I want to do all kinds of roles. I also want to do biopics. I also want to do comedy characters.

### What movie gave you a good experience in 2025?

I worked with Puri Jagannath. It was a fantastic film. To say the least, I

enjoyed the acting and shooting process a lot.

### If you were the one, would the brand of movie hit come?

We make films for the audience. If there is content, the audience will definitely watch it.

### How is the Sankranti festival celebrated?

It is my habit to celebrate every festival wherever I go. I wish everyone would send good flour dishes to my house (laughs).

When will black gold arrive?

The shooting may be completed in February. The film is coming along very well.

## Mahesh Babu Unveils Nephew Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni's Intense First Look from Srinivasa Mangapuram

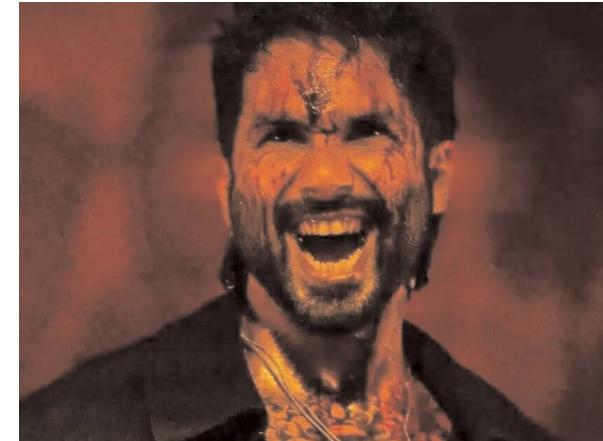
Superstar Mahesh Babu Unveiled Powerful First Look Of Ashwini Dutt Presents, Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni, Rasha Thadani, Ajay Bhupathi, P Kiran, Chandamama Kathalu's Srinivasa Mangapuram A fresh star from the Ghattamaneni family is ready to make his mark. Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni, belonging to the illustrious family of Superstar Krishna, steps into cinema with a debut that already carries immense promise. His first film Srinivasa Mangapuram is directed by Ajay Bhupathi, known for crafting intense, rooted, and unforgettable worlds in RX 100 and Mangalavaram. The film is backed by Ashwini Dutt of Vyjayanthi Movies and produced by P. Kiran of Chandamama Kathalu, ensuring a powerful and high-quality launchpad. The team previously unveiled the film's title and compelling pre-look poster that grabbed attention. Today, Superstar Mahesh Babu unveiled the powerful first look of his nephew Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni's debut film. The young actor is seen riding a motorcycle at high speed through a dusty, rugged ter-



rain. The motion blur surrounding him amplifies the sense of danger. He leans forward aggressively, gripping the bike with one hand while aiming a handgun with fierce determination in the other. His sharp focus and tense posture clearly indicate that he is caught in a high-stakes pursuit. The team brands this launchpad as the "Debut of the Year 2026". Overall, the first look promises a gripping, high-octane action drama—setting the stage for a debut packed with power, intensi-

ty, and attitude. In fact, Jaya Krishna underwent extensive preparation for his role before the shoot commenced. Bollywood actress Rasha Thadani makes her Tollywood debut in the movie billed to be a romantic action saga. Ashwini Dutt, a name closely linked with some of Telugu cinema's most defining launches, is once again at the forefront of introducing a new star—Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni. The film has some promising talents handling different crafts.

## Shahid Kapoor goes dark, violent in first look of Vishal Bhardwaj's 'O' Romeo'



**Mumbai:** The makers of Vishal Bhardwaj's "O' Romeo" on Friday unveiled the first look of Bollywood star Shahid Kapoor from the upcoming movie, set to be released in theatres on February 13. Also featuring Tripti Dimri, the film marks the fourth collaboration for Kapoor and Bhardwaj. The duo has previously worked on "Kaminey", "Haider", and "Rangoon". The upcoming action thriller is produced by Sajid Nadiadwala under his production banner Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment. The production house shared the first look of Shahid's titular character on its official social media handles. The poster presents a darkly and violent image with Shahid shown bloodied, roaring in rage,

## Kamal Haasan demands 'principled relook' at film certification process

**Chennai:** Actor-Politician Kamal Haasan on Saturday called for an overhaul of the country's film certification process, citing the need for greater transparency and accountability. His comments come at a critical juncture for the Tamil film industry, following the stalled release of Vijay's upcoming flick 'Jana Nayagan'. In a statement, he said, "What is required now is a principled relook at the certification processes with defined timelines for certification, transparent evaluation, and written, reasoned justification for every suggested cut or edit." He emphasised that now is the time for the film fraternity to unite and engage in a meaningful, constructive dialogue with our government institutions to protect artistic freedom.

