

OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

29-12-2025

Total pilgrims: 59,631
Tonsures: 18,609
Hundi Kanukalu: 4.36 CR
Waiting Compartments: 13

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam
(with out SSD Tokens): 6-8 H

THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES

NATIONAL DAILY NEWSPAPER

Essence of the South

www.thesouthindiatimes.com

f/thesouthindiatimes.yahoo.in

/thesouthindiatimes.yahoo.in

/thesouthindiatimes.yahoo.in

HAPPY
NEW YEAR
2026

From the management of
THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES
ENGLISH DAILY



Rajnath highlights Lord Ram's values in modern India



WORLD | NEWS
Russian claims of Ukrainian attack on govt sites 'unfounded', EU's top diplomat says

India test-fires 2 Pralay missiles off Odisha confirms salvo capability

Bhubaneswar (TSIT): India on Wednesday validated the battlefield salvo mode of its indigenously developed quasi-ballistic missile Pralay, launching two rounds 30 seconds apart from a single mobile launcher at 10:30 am from Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha, the Defence Ministry said.

Both 150-500 km-range, solid-propellant weapons followed identical trajectories and hit their designated impact points within circular-error probability, tracking radars at Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, confirmed. The user-evaluation trial, witnessed by Army, Air Force and DRDO teams, paves the way for induction into the Strategic Forces Command.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and DRDO chief Dr Samir V. Kamat



congratulated Research Centre Imarat-Hyderabad and industry partners BDL & BEL for

"establishing reliable, ripple-fire capability essential for modern theatre operations".

713 Cr Released Towards Pending Employees' Bills

HYDERABAD (TSIT): The State government has released 713 crore towards clearing pending bills payable to government employees for the month of December, following orders issued by Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu, Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister.

Acting on the Deputy Chief Minister's directions, officials of the Finance Department released the bills on Wednesday, providing relief to employees awaiting settlement of long-pending dues. It may be recalled that the Praja Government had earlier assured employee unions that Rs.700 crore would be released every month towards pending bills. By the end of June, the government had released Rs.183 crore. Subsequently, from August onwards, a minimum of Rs.700 crore has been consistently released each month, in line with the assurance given.



INBRIF

Assam couple lynched, burnt alive over witchcraft allegations

Karbi Anglong: In a horrific incident of mob violence rooted in superstition, a married couple was brutally killed after being accused of practising witchcraft in Assam's Karbi Anglong district. The incident occurred on Tuesday at No. 1 Beloguri Munda village in the Howraghat area. The victims were identified as 43-year-old Gardi Birowa and his 33-year-old wife, Mira Birowa. According to reports, a group of villagers forcibly entered the couple's house and attacked them with sharp weapons. After assaulting the couple, the attackers set the house on fire, resulting in both victims being burnt alive inside the premises.

New Year Greetings from CM Revanth

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy extended warm New Year greetings to the people of Telangana on the occasion of the New Year. The Chief Minister expressed optimism that the State government would move forward with renewed vigour in the coming year towards achieving the ambitious

Telangana Rising Vision 2047. He reiterated that the government would accord top priority to fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of all sections of society, including farmers, women, workers, and the underprivileged. Highlighting the government's commitment to inclusive growth, he said development and welfare would go hand in hand to ensure social equity and economic progress across the State. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy wished that the New Year would help every family achieve their cherished goals and bring happiness, good health, and prosperity to all citizens of Telangana.

India's broadband subscriber base surpasses 1 billion mark in Nov: Govt

New Delhi (TSIT): The broadband subscriber base in India crossed the 1 billion (100 crore) mark in the month of November, the government said on Wednesday.

In the last 10 years, the Broadband subscriber base in India has increased by more than six times. There were 131.49 million (13.15 crore) broadband subscribers at the end of November 2015, which grew to 1 billion (100.37 crore) at the end of November 2025, according to the Ministry of Communications.

Meanwhile, the total number of Internet subscribers in India increased from 1002.85 million at the end of the April-June quarter (Q1 FY26) to 1017.81 million at the end of the July-September period (Q2 FY26), registering a quarterly growth of 1.49 per cent, recent data from Telecom



In the last 10 years, the Broadband subscriber base in India has increased by more than six times.

Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) showed.

As per the data, out of 1,070.81 million internet subscribers, the number of Wired Internet subscribers is 44.42 million, and the number of Wireless Internet subscribers is 973.39 mil-

lion.

Meanwhile, the broadband Internet subscriber base increased by 1.63 per cent from 979.71 million at the end of June to 995.63 million at the end of September this year. The narrowband Internet subscriber base decreased from 23.14 million in the June quarter to 22.18 million at the end of the September quarter.

At the same time, wireline subscribers decreased from 47.49 million at the end of the April-June quarter to 46.61 million at the end of the September quarter, with a quarterly rate of decline of 1.84 per cent. On a year-on-year (YoY) basis, wireline subscriptions increased by 26.21 per cent at the end of the July-September quarter. Monthly ARPU for wireless service increased by 10.67 per cent YoY in the quarter as well.

Telangana secures Rs.22,000 crore tourism investment pledges.

HYDERABAD (TSIT): Telangana secured investment commitments worth Rs.22,324 crore in the tourism sector during 2025, marking the year as a major turning point in positioning the state as a global tourism destination.

In its year-end review released on Wednesday, the Tourism Department described 2025 as a watershed year, driven by the "Telangana Tourism



Policy 2025-2030." The investments are expected to generate nearly 90,000 employment opportunities across the state.

A major share of the inflows came through the Tourism Conclave 2025, which attracted 30 projects with investments of Rs.15,279 crore, while the Telangana Rising Global Summit contributed another Rs.7,045 crore. International investors committed to large-scale projects in convention, cultural, and wellness tourism segments. The year also witnessed

significant global exposure with Hyderabad hosting the Miss World 2025 pageant, showcasing Telangana's infrastructure and safe, visitor-friendly environment. The state further created history during the Bathukamma festival by achieving two Guinness World Records for the tallest floral arrangement and the largest folk dance performance.

SBI

The banker to every Indian

Happy New Yono

This New Year, the banker to every Indian brings power to every indian

681 1008

Yono SBI

Yono SBI

ARAVALLI ROW: SC asks expert committee to consult stakeholders; sets out parameters for examining crucial issues

New Delhi (TSIT) The Supreme Court has asked a new expert committee set up by it to consult stakeholders to resolve critical ambiguities and to provide definitive guidance on issues relating to definition of Aravalli Hills. A three-judge special vacation bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant – which on Monday ordered to keep in abeyance its November 20 order that was based on a previous committee's recommendations – also set out parameters for the new panel to approach these issues.

It said that prior to the implementation of the committee's report, or the execution of the directions contained in its November 20 judgment, "a fair, impartial, independent expert opinion must be obtained and considered, after associating all requisite stakeholders". It asked



the panel to examine if the definition of 'Aravalli Hills and Ranges', restricted exclusively to the 500-meter area between two or more Aravalli Hills, creates a structural paradox wherein the geographical scope of protected territory is significantly narrowed. Consequently, it should be determined if this restrictive demarcation has inversely broadened the scope of 'non-Aravalli' areas, thereby facilitating the continuation of unregulated mining and other disruptive activities in terrains ecologically contiguous but technically excluded by this definition, it said.

India's historical shopping festival since 1938

85th ALL INDIA INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION

NUMAISH-2026 1st January to 15th February, 2026

Week days 4-00 P.M to 10-30 P.M - Weekends & Holidays 4-00 P.M to 11-00 P.M

GRAND INAUGURATION

Today 5.00 pm at Exhibition Grounds

Sri Anumula Revanth Reddy Garu

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt. of Telangana

OFFICE BEARERS

Sri R. Suresh Reddy

Hon. Vice-President

Sri B.N. Rajeshwar

Hon. Secretary

Sri R. Chandrashekar

Hon. Joint Secretary

Dr. N. Sanjeev Kumar

Hon. Treasurer

Sri Komatireddy Venkat Reddy Garu

Hon'ble Minister for Roads & Buildings, Cinematography, Govt. of Telangana

Sri Ponnamb Prabhakar Garu

Hon'ble Minister for Transport & BC Welfare, Govt. of Telangana

Sri Duddilla Sridhar Babu Garu

Hon'ble Minister for IT & Industries, Govt. of Telangana

President - Exhibition Society

Chief Guest

Sri Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka Garu

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Govt. of Telangana

Cultural programmes

Multi cuisine food courts

Joy Rides & Mini train

M.C. MEMBERS

Sri Ashfaq Hyder

Sri P. Narotham Reddy

Sri N. Vinay Kumar

Dr. B. Prabha Shankar

Sri B. Hanumanth Rao

Sri M.Chandrashekar

Sri L. Manjiri Reddy

Sri Yasser Ararat

Dr. M. Shailaja Raj

Sri Anurag Mishra

Sri V. Pradyumna

Advisor

Sri D. Suresh Kumar

Convener

PUBLICITY SUB COMMITTEE

The income generated by the Exhibition goes for the education to 30,000 students of Telangana in 19 educational institutions

1 Kamala Nehru Polytechnic for Women-Hyderabad

2 Sarojini Naidu Vanitha Maha Vidyalaya-Hyderabad

3 Shankerji Memorial Girls High School-Hyderabad

4 Lal Bahadur PG College-Warangal

5 Lal Bahadur PG College-Warangal

6 Sardar Patel College- Sec'bad

7 Sri Venkateswara Degree College-Suryapet

8 Kasturba Gandhi Junior College for Women-Sec'bad

9 Kasturba Gandhi Degree & PG College for Women-Sec'bad

10 Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy College-Bhongir

11 Rajiv Gandhi I.T.C.- Nirmal

12 Sri Ramalingeswara Degree College- Kulkacharla

13 Sarojini Naidu Vanitha Pharmacy Maha Vidyalaya- Sec'bad

14 Sri Venkateswara Engineering College-Suryapet

15 J.V. Nursing Rao Vidyanyiketan School-Nirmal

16 Lal Bahadur College of Education -Warangal

17 OGA & ES College of Education-Pargi

18 SBMS College of Education-Kalwakurthy

19 Sri Ranganayaka Swamy College of Pharmacy-Siddipet

L.N. Gupta Memorial Medical & Diagnostic Centre - Exhibition Grounds, Hyd

for Consultation and Medicines Rs. 30/- only

Exclusive Ladies Day 06-01-2026

Children Special Day 31-01-2026

ENTRY FEE ₹ 50

Buy with QR Code

EXHIBITION SOCIETY

WHERE SERVICE IS A WAY OF LIFE

Nampally, Hyderabad, Ph: 040-2460 3015 / 3553. exhibitionsociety1947@gmail.com www.exhibitionsociety.com

FOR ADVERTISEMENT

PLEASE CONTACT:

9948480279, 7330778889



KARIMNAGAR BRANCH

3-5-335, Gandhi Road, Phone: 0878-2260066

9948125184, E mail: karimnagar@indianbank.co.in

CORRIGENDUM

Please refer to our English Notice published in "The South India Times" (English Newspaper and in "DISHA" Telugu Newspaper on :30.12.2025 in the A/c of J)Mrs. PULYALA SANDHYA RANI , W/o Peddi Reddy 2) Mr. PULYALA PEDDI REDDY S/o Bhuma Reddy and Ms P Himaja Reddy D/o P Peddi Reddy.It is informed that Possession notice issued by the bank stands withdrawn due to technical reasons.

Place:Karimnagar Sd/- Authorised officer



PROTIUM FINANCE LIMITED

(Erstwhile Growth Source Financial Technologies Limited)

Registered & Corporate Office Address: 7th Floor, Block B2, Phase - I Nirlon Knowledge Park, Pahadi Village, Off. Western Express Highway, Cama Industrial Estate, Goregaon(E), Mumbai- 400063, Maharashtra.

POSSESSION NOTICE:- (U/S 13(4) & As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

WHEREAS, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Protium Finance Limited (ERSTWHILE Growth Source Financial Technologies Ltd.) (hereinafter referred to as "Protium Finance Limited" under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) (SARFAESI Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 24th Dec 2025 calling upon the Borrowers 1. SRI DIVYA TAILORS Through its Proprietor PALLA SWATHI W/O KUMAR YADAV PALLA And Co-Borrowers 1. PALLA SWATHI W/O KUMAR YADAV PALLA, 2. PALLA KUMAR, S/O PALLA MALLAIAH in respect of loan account bearing No. GST143EEL2457803 to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice being INR 24,68,844.34 (Twenty Four Lakh Sixty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Four Rupees and Thirty Four Paise Only) as on 24th day of July 2025 with further interest, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and Public in General that the Hon'ble Chief Judicial Magistrate KUKATPALLY Court in exercise of powers conferred on them under Sec. 14 of the said Act, had issued an order dated 14.11.2025 in Case Number CRLMP NO.489 OF 2025 appointed Adv Commissioner K.DHANALAKSHMI to take possession of the Secured Assets at the location mentioned. The said order was executed on 29.12.2025, and Adv Commissioner K. DHANALAKSHMI took physical possession of the Secured Asset/Mortgaged Property, described herein below on 29.12.2025 and handed over physical possession of the Secured Asset/Mortgaged Property to the Authorised Officer of Protium Finance Limited. Further, Protium Finance Limited are in process of disposal of the said property through Public Auction for recovery of outstanding dues. Public in general are informed that no stay/ injunction order has been passed by any court/Tribunal and have clear title and free from encumbrance. People who are interested in the said property can participate in auction as and when initiated by Protium Finance Limited by giving advertisement in newspaper. The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Protium Finance Limited, for an amount of INR 24,68,844.34 (Twenty Four Lakh Sixty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Four Rupees and Thirty Four Paise Only) as on 24th day of July 2025 and further interest thereon, plus costs, charges, expenses incurred. The Borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: As Per Regd. Sale Deed No.1099/2014, dt.26-06-2014 At S/o, Bala Nagar. All That The House Bearing No.8-7-171 (Old No.7-171), On Plot No. 12 in S/o, Bala Nagar, Situated at Yards, Situated at Yards, Situated at Yards, Old Bowenpally Village, Under GHMC Kukatapally Circle, Bala Nagar Mandal, (Previously R.R. District), Now Medchal- Malkajgiri District, Telangana State. And Bounded By: North : House On Plot No. 11, South : House On Plot No. 14, East : House On Plot No. 25, West : Wide Road. Date of Possession: 01st January, 2026 Sd/-, For Protium Finance Limited
Place of Possession: Secunderabad, Telangana Authorised Officer

Dr M. Ramesh Reddy takes over as Cyberabad police chief



Hyderabad, 31 Dec: M. Ramesh Reddy assumed charge as Cyberabad commissioner on Tuesday, promising fair, transparent policing and ordering New-Year eve drunk-driving crack-downs across the tech corridor.

Telangana's Aditha Appointed All India Mahila Congress National Secretary

New Delhi: In a significant organisational development within the Congress party, Telangana-based leader Aditha has been appointed as National Secretary of the All India Congress Committee All India Mahila Congress.

The appointment was made on the directions of K. C. Venugopal, AICC National General Secretary, and Alka Lamba, President of the All India Mahila Congress.

Prior to this elevation, Aditha served effectively as a National Observer for Bihar, Puducherry, and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Recognising her organisational skills, commitment, and strong grassroots connect, the party leadership has now entrusted her with additional responsibilities for Andhra Pradesh, Puducherry, and the Andaman & Nicobar



and established CWC guidelines. "These projects go far beyond the originally approved diversion of 80 TMC to the Krishna basin and encroach upon

unallocated floodwaters," the Minister said, adding that Telangana has repeatedly conveyed its objections to the Centre.Uttam Kumar Reddy outlined that soon after learning of Andhra Pradesh's plans, the Telangana government initiated strong correspondence with the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti on January 22, 2025, followed by further letters on June 13 and 16, 2025, to both the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), seeking rejection of the proposals due to multiple violations.As a direct result of these interven-

tions, the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) of MoEF&CC returned Andhra Pradesh's proposal on June 30, 2025, citing unresolved inter-State issues, possible GWDT violations, and the absence of mandatory CWC clearances. Telangana also raised objections before central bodies including the Ministry of Jal Shakti, CWC, Godavari River Management Board (GRMB), Krishna River Management Board (KRMB), and the Polavaram Project Authority (PPA), all of which subsequently recorded observations opposing Andhra Pradesh's Preliminary Feasibility Report.

Bandi Ramesh asks cadres to pick GHMC candidates who serve poor, live Congress ideals.

Hyderabad, 31 Dec: TPCC vice-president Bandi Ramesh, on a padayatra in Prakash Nagar, told workers to back only those who "breathe Congress ideology and work for slum-dwellers" in the coming GHMC polls, while calling officials to fix local water and drainage woes on the spot.



Islands.Reacting to her appointment, Aditha expressed gratitude to the Congress leadership, stating that she was thankful to Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi for the trust reposed in her under their leadership.

She also thanked A. Revanth Reddy, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee President Mahesh Kumar Goud, all state ministers, and the Telangana Congress leadership for their continuous encouragement and support.

Satyanarayana Swamy Katha and Ayyappa Maha Padi Puja Held at Jagga Reddy's Residence




Hyderabad:Satyanarayana Swamy Katha and Ayyappa Maha Padi Puja were held in a grand and devotional atmosphere at the residence of senior Congress leader TPCC Working President Jagga Reddy at Ram Nagar, near Ram MandirThe religious programmes are organised every year on December 31 as a tradition by Jagga Reddy to bid farewell to the outgoing year and welcome the New Year with prayers. As in previous years, this year's ceremonies were

conducted in a visually captivating and spiritually enriching manner.

The rituals began at 10 am with the Satyanarayana Swamy Katha, followed by Ayyappa Puja in the afternoon. The Maha Padi Puja commenced in the evening and continued till midnight. Special rituals, including Yogini Pushparchana and Rudrabhishekam, were also performed during the afternoon.Devotional songs rendered by renowned bhajan troupes added to the spiritual fervour and enthralled the devotees. A large number of Ayyappa Swamy devotees, devotees from the town, leaders, and party workers participated in the prayers.

Free rice distributed to Cyclone Mentha flood victims: Mayor Sudharani

Warangal, December 31, TSIT: City Mayor Gundu Sudharani on Wednesday said that free rice is being distributed to people affected by floods caused by Cyclone Mentha, as per the directions of the Chief Minister. Participating in a programme held at Ramannapeta in the 29th Division of the Municipal Corporation, the Mayor personally handed over thin rice to flood-affected families. She said that 1,030 victims were identified across the city and are being provided rice free of cost to support them during the difficult period.The Mayor informed that financial assistance of 15,000 would be directly credited to the bank accounts of eligible flood victims as part of the relief measures announced by the State government.Later, Mayor Sudharani conducted a field-level inspection of the division to review engineering and sanitation works. She instructed officials to expedite drain construction works to prevent waterlogging and ensure effective flood management.



Utkarsh Small Finance Bank

Aapki Ummeed Ka Khaata

(A Scheduled Commercial Bank)

Zonal Office: Venkat Plaza 2, Greenlands Road, Punjagutta Officers Colony, Punjagutta, Hyderabad - 500082.

Registered Office: Utkarsh Tower, NH - 31 (Airport Road), Secmulpur, Kazi Sarai, Harhua, Varanasi, UP-221 105.


PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the following borrowers have defaulted in the repayment of principle and interest of the Loan facility obtained by them from the Utkarsh Small Finance Bank and the loan has been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). The Notices were issued to them under Section 13(2) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement (Security) Interest Act, 2002 on their last known addresses as provided to the bank by them, that in addition thereto for the purposes of information of the said borrowers enumerated below, the said borrowers are being informed by this of this public notice

| Sr. No. | Name of the Branch | Name of the Account | Name of the Borrower/Guarantor (Owner of the Property) | N.P.A Date | Amount outstanding as on the date of Demand Notice |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|---|------------|--|
| 1 | Hyderabad | 1542140000 006743 | Mr.Yarlagadda Ramesh Babu S/O,Krishnaiah Yarlagadda (Borrower & Mortgagor) & Mrs. Yarlagadda Kumari W/O.Yarlagadda Ramesh Babu (Co-Borrower) | 02/12/2025 | ₹ 8,38,642.9 |
| Description of Property/ies: All that part and parcel of the property bearing Open Plot No. 38, Revenue Recorded Survey No. 10/1, Old Surpanch Bazar, Bonakal Village, Bonakal Gram Panchayath ∓ Mandal, Madhira SRO, Khammam District (Telangana). Admeasuring Area 240.00 Sq. Yards. East: Plot No. 35, West: 30 Feet Road, North: Plot No. 39, South: Plot No. 37. | | | | | |
| 2 | Hyderabad | 1542140000 007237 | Mr.Pulugujja Santhosh S/o. Pulugujja Venkanna (Borrower & Mortgagor) Mrs. Pulugujja Rajamma W/o. Pulugujja Venkanna (Co-Borrower) | 28/11/2025 | ₹ 8,08,081.75 |
| Description of Property/ies: All that part and parcel of property H. No. 5-64 situated at Kukkadam Village & Grampanchayat, Maddirala Mandal, Suryapet District, Telangana – 508280. Admeasuring Area 100 Sq. Yards. Property bounded by - East : 12 feet CC Road West : Canal, North : Vacant Place of Ramansuru South : House of pulugujji Ramachandru. | | | | | |

The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (wherever applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding dues within period of 60 days from the date of issuance of notice Under Section 13(2), failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of issuance of notice Under Section 13(2) as per the provisions of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and enforcement (Security) interest Act, 2002.

Sd/-
(Authorized Officer)
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Ltd.



ICICI Home Finance

Registered office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400051

Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai- 400059

Branch Office: 1st floor, Srinivasa Complex, H. No. 15-7-632/3/A, Plot No. 3, Khanapuram Haveli, Rotary Nagar, Khammam - 507002

Whereas

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.


As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

| Sr. No. | Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Loan Account Number | Description of property/ Date of Possession | Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.) | Name of Branch |
|---------|--|--|--|----------------|
| 1. | Banutu Venkanna (Borrower), LHKHA00001406071. | V Venkatayya Palem Raghunadhapaalem Mandal Khammam 225 Khammam Telangana- 507003. Bounded By, North: Dariri Shrinivas Rao House, South: House Of Boda Venkt, East: House Of Banoth Sikhla, West: 60 Ft Wide Road./ Date of Possession- 27-Dec-25 | 08-07-2022 Rs. 30,80,801/- | Khammam |

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Act, 2002.

Date : January 01, 2026 Sd/-
Place: Khammam Authorized Officer, ICICI Home Finance Company Limited



SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED

Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No. 14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032.

Administrative office: 6th Floor (level 2), Building No. Q2, Aurum Q parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Gansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710.

DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors/mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from Shriram Finance Limited, (Formerly know as Shriram City Union Finance Limited, amalgamated with Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited, subsequently Shriram Transport Company Limited name Changed as Shriram Finance Limited) We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/guarantors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non-Performing Asset in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorized Officer of SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD. under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein below under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 calling upon the following borrowers /guarantors /mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the notices and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. until the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of notices.

The notices issued to them on their last known addresses have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

| Name of the Borrowers(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantors | NPA DATE: 31.10.2019 | Date Of Demand Notice: 10.10.2025 |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (1) Peerampally Anjaiah, S/o: Peerampally Papaijah, Age: 57 Years, R/o: H.No: 14-79, Brahman Street, Kosgi (V & M), Narayanapet (D), Pin Code: 509339, Ph No: 9948653485 (Borrower by name Peerampally Anjaiah was dead intestate, So far his following surviving legal heirs i.e., Wife is impleaded as a party to the Notice), (2) Thupally Anjaneyulu, S/o: Thupally Pedda Hanumanthra, Age: 40 Years, Occ: Business, R/o: H.No: 4-3-13, Thurp Kaman, Ramnagar, Mahabubnagar (M & D), Pincode: 509001, Ph No: 9948150686. (3) Peerampally Vijayalakshmi, W/o: Peerampally Anjaiah, Age: 65 Years, Occ: House Wife, R/o: H.No: 14-79, Brahman Street, Kosgi (V & M), Narayanapet (D), Pincode: 509339, Ph No: 7702899899 (Guarantor and Legal heir of the deceased Borrower by Name Peerampally Anjaiah). | Outstanding Amount: Rs. 38,00,995/- | Loan Amount: Rs. 15,00,000/- |

...Borrowers/Co-borrower /Guarantors/Legal heirs

MHBNRT1801080002 - DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: SCHEDULE "A": SCHEDULE: Property on the name of Peerampally Anjaiah, All that Commercial Shop Bearing No. 1-104, Plot No. 26, Admeasuring 199.99 Square Yards Equivalent to 167.03 Square Meters Built Up Area 1798 Square Feet Plinth Area Sq.No. 1665 Situated at Near Bus-Stand, Kosgi Village & Mandal, Mahabubnagar District And Bounded As Follows: Towards East: Open Place of Mohan Reddy, Towards West: Road, Towards North: Road, Towards South: Shop of Mohan Reddy.

In the circumstances as aforesaid, the notice is hereby given to the above borrowers, co-borrowers and/or their guarantors (where ever applicable) to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and the mortgagors under Section 13(4) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the applicable rules there under.

Please note that under Section 13 (13) of the said act, no Borrower shall, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.

Dated: 29-12-2025 Sd/-
Place: NARAYANPET Authorized Officer, SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD.

Nara Lokesh Spearheads Major Reforms in Andhra Pradesh Education and IT Sectors

Amravathi (TSIT) Andhra Pradesh is witnessing a significant overhaul in its Education, IT, and Skill Development sectors under the stewardship of Minister Nara Lokesh. The state government has adopted an aggressive strategy to strengthen institutional frameworks while simultaneously attracting global investments to position the state on the global map.

In the education sector, the government fulfilled a long-pending demand by completing the 'Mega DSC' process to fill 16,347 teacher posts within a record 150 days. To ensure transparency, a new Teacher Transfer Act was introduced, eliminating external influence. Further reforms include

the 'No Bag Day' initiative and the consolidation of 45 administrative apps into a single interface to reduce the burden on teachers. The state's 'Learning Excellence in Andhra Pradesh' (LEAP) program has notably received appreciation from Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

Simultaneously, the administration is pushing for Andhra Pradesh to become an IT and electronics hub. Plans are underway to establish a 'Quantum Valley' in Amaravati, with a dedicated task force already formed. Major conglomerates like TCS, Cognizant, and Daikin are setting up campuses, while the government has approved a massive Rs.87,520 crore



investment for the Raiden Infotech (Google) Data Center. During the recent CII partnership summit, 52 MoUs worth Rs.1.22 lakh crore were signed, projecting employment for

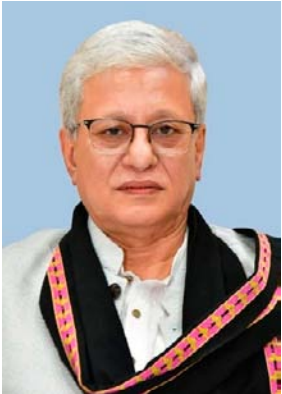
Andhra Pradesh is witnessing a significant overhaul in its Education, IT, and Skill Development sectors under the stewardship of Minister Nara Lokesh. The state government has adopted an aggressive strategy to strengthen institutional frameworks while simultaneously attracting global investments to position the state on the global map.

over 2.32 lakh individuals. Bridging the gap between education and employment, the Skill Development department has trained 4.10 lakh youth this year, with international placement drives

via OMCAP sending candidates to Germany and Japan. Additionally, the government is set to launch 'Naipunyam,' an AI-based digital platform to streamline employment services.

Governor greets on New Year

Hyderabad, Dec 31 (TSIT): "May the year 2026 bring everyone good health, prosperity, fulfillment of aspirations, and lasting happiness. I call upon everyone to commit to the vision of Viksit Bharat by working towards a developed India through innovation, inclusive growth, and sustainable development, ensuring progress reaches every citizen," said Governor Jishnu Dev Varma. Extending his warmest congratulations and best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year 2026 to all Indians, and particularly to the people of Telangana, the Governor



urged all to continue our successful efforts against social ills and poor health, striving to build an equitable, just, friendly, inclusive, peaceful, sustainable, and healthy society.

Gitam students donate 140 units on New Year's Eve to stock NTR blood bank.



Hyderabad : The NSS unit of GITAM (Deemed-to-be University) wrapped up the year

with a voluntary blood donation camp that collected 140 units in six hours on Tuesday.

Resident director DVVSR Varma flagged off the drive, joined by faculty and student coordinators, before donors filed into the mobile bus parked inside the campus. Doctors from NTR Memorial Trust Blood Centre screened each volunteer and handed out certificates and refreshments.

"One unit can save three lives; our target was 100, but students smashed it," said NSS programme officer Dr K. Padma. The blood bank will use the stock for thalassaemia and emergency surgeries across Hyderabad hospitals.

Man charred to death as two vehicles collide in Andhra Pradesh's Prakasam

Amaravati, Dec 31 : A man was charred to death in a collision between two vehicles in Andhra Pradesh's Prakasam district on Wednesday.

Police said a Bolero vehicle caught fire after colliding with an unidentified vehicle on the Nandyal-Amaravati highway. The driver was trapped in the fire and was charred to death. Another person travelling in the same vehicle was injured.

The accident occurred near Rangareddypalle village in Racharla mandal around 5.45 a.m.

According to police, the Bolero vehicle laden with cashew was heading to Anantapur from Tuni.

It collided with an unidentified vehicle coming from the opposite direction. The Bolero vehicle caught fire as a result of the collision.

Alerted by the passers-by, fire services personnel rushed to the spot with a fire engine and doused the fire.

The deceased was identified as Swamy (50). Another person, Kandipalli Jayarami Reddy, was injured. He was shifted to the government hospital at Giddalur. Police said they have registered a case and are investigating. An official said they were trying to trace the vehicle which collided with the Bolero.

Strict Action Against WALTA Act Violations: Forest Range Officer.

Mancherial, Dec 31, TSIT : Forest Range Officer of Talla Peta Range, Sushma, has warned that strict legal action will be taken against individuals violating the provisions of the Water, Land and Trees Act (WALTA).

She clarified that farmers and residents must obtain prior permission from the Forest Department before cutting or transporting trees such as teak, neem, tamma and jitregi grown on their agricultural lands or within private premises.

The officer stated that several cases have come to the department's notice where people assumed full ownership



rights and felled trees without obtaining mandatory approval. As per WALTA regulations, details of the trees proposed to be cut must be registered online, and a security deposit of Rs.500 per tree must be paid.

Transportation of felled timber is permit-

ted only after official clearance is issued by the Forest Department. The deposited amount will be refunded once the farmer plants two saplings in place of each tree removed and maintains them for a period of three years. Sushma warned that unauthorized felling of trees or illegal transportation of timber would invite stringent legal action under the Act.

She emphasized that strict enforcement of the WALTA Act is essential for the protection of forests, wildlife and ecological balance, particularly in areas surrounding the Kawal Wildlife Sanctuary.

Pallavi school Attapur crowns 15th sports day with five house trophies and alumni medals.



Hyderabad : Pallavi International School, Attapur, closed its 15th Annual Sports Day, "Khel Mahotsav", with a drum-roll of victories on Tuesday evening as 2,000 parents and students packed the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium.

Chief guest Dr. Eugene George, head basketball coach at YMCA Secunderabad, handed over the overall sports championship to Satpura House after a day of track finals, kho-kho and throw-ball play-offs. Guest of honour Santosh Chary, international swimming medallist and SAT coach, presented the literary and artistic trophies, urging pupils to "swap 30 minutes of

screen time for pool or court time".

The ceremony also felicitated three 2025 CBSE toppers—now in junior college—for scoring 98-99 percent, while karate, yoga and skating squads staged a synchronised drill that drew the loudest cheer. Principal Annapurna Koduru thanked 80 teachers who coached 1,400 athletes since July, adding, "Sports teaches the same patience algorithms demand; together they build unbeatable minds."

The two-hour gala ended with a neon-lit dance and a countdown to 2026 that left the stadium floor strewn with confetti and house flags.

Medicover doctors perform scar-less POEM, restore swallowing for man who lost 25 kg.

Hyderabad: A 46-year-old Sudanese national, Osman Babikr Elhaj, ate his first normal meal in two-and-a-half years on Tuesday after gastroenterologists at Medicover Hospitals,HITEC City, slit the tight valve of his food-pipe from inside his mouth.

Elhaj had dropped 25 kg because every mouthful either shot back through his nose or lodged in his 7-cm-wide, food-filled gullet. Medicover's senior GI consultant Dr Moka Praneeth diagnosed end-stage achalasia cardia and, instead of open surgery, carried out a 90-minute Peroral Endoscopic Myotomy (POEM) via a 3 mm endoscope inserted through the patient's teeth.



"We tunnelled under the esophageal lining and cut the circular muscle layer, leaving the outer wall intact," Dr Praneeth said. Elhaj swallowed soft solids the same evening and will be discharged on New Year's Day—cut-free, scar-free.Medicover has done 60 POEMs since 2022; this case, doctors say, underlines how advanced endoscopy can replace major surgery for rare motility disorders.

ANDHRA PRADESH 2025: A Year of Economic Renaissance and Welfare Milestones Under NDA Governance

As the sun sets on 2025, Andhra Pradesh stands at a pivotal juncture in its history, marking the completion of a transformative year under the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) coalition government. Following a historic mandate in 2024, the administration led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has spent the past twelve months executing a dual strategy: stabilizing a fragile economy while simultaneously launching aggressive development initiatives. The year 2025 will likely be recorded in the state's administrative history as a period of correction and acceleration. The calendar year 2025 demonstrated tangible results, with the state recording an impressive economic growth rate of 11.28%. By balancing immediate welfare needs with long-term capital expenditure, the government has sought to reposition Andhra Pradesh as a progressive powerhouse in Southern India.

The Welfare Shield: 'Super Six' Implementation

At the heart of the government's 2025 agenda was the fulfillment of election promises, specifically the 'Super Six' guarantees. Unlike typical populist measures, these schemes were rolled out with a focus on targeted delivery, ensuring that the benefits reached the intended demographics without leakage.

Record-Breaking Social Security

The administration achieved a significant milestone in social welfare by revamping the pension system. In 2025, the government successfully completed the distribution of Rs.50,000 crore in pensions. This financial umbrella covered a vast spectrum of society, extending support to the elderly, widows, the differently-abled, and other vulnerable groups across 31 distinct categories. This massive infusion of cash into the rural economy not only provided a safety net but also stimulated grassroots consumption.

Empowering Education: Taliki Vandanam

Recognizing that human capital is the state's greatest asset, the government launched the 'Taliki Vandanam' scheme to incentivize education, aimed at reducing dropout rates and supporting families financially, the state deposited Rs.10,090 crore directly into the bank accounts of mothers. The scheme covered 67.27 lakh mothers, ensuring that financial con-

straints did not hinder a child's access to schooling. Uniquely, the scheme was designed to be inclusive, applicable to all eligible children in a family regardless of their number, ensuring no child was left behind.

Mahila Shakti: Mobility for Women

On August 15, 2025, the state took a major step toward women's empowerment with the launch of the 'Mahila Shakti' scheme, offering free travel for women in APSRTC buses. Since its inception, women have utilized this facility for over 3.25 crore trips. While this initiative placed a financial burden of Rs.1,144 crore on the state exchequer, the social impact—increased mobility for education, work, and commerce—has been profound. The benefit was also extended to the differently-abled, further widening the social safety net.

Agrarian Support and Energy Security

Farmers, the backbone of the state's economy, received substantial support through the 'Annadata Sukhibhava' program. The government transferred Rs.6,310 crore to the accounts of 46 lakh farmers. This state-level aid was provided as a top-up to central government assistance, offering a critical buffer against input costs. Simultaneously, the 'Deepam-2' scheme addressed domestic energy needs. To mitigate the impact of fuel inflation on poor households, the government initiated the distribution of three free LPG cylinders per year. With an expenditure of Rs.2,684 crore, approximately 2 crore cylinders were distributed, significantly easing the monthly budget of millions of low-income families.

Targeted Sectoral Assistance

Beyond the flagship schemes, 2025 saw a flurry of targeted welfare measures. The 'Matsyakara Bharosa' provided Rs.250 crore to 1.25 lakh fishermen during the lean season, while auto-rickshaw drivers received Rs.436 crore in financial assistance. The government also revised honorariums for religious service providers, increasing payments for pastors, imams, Nayee Brahmins and priests. Junior lawyers were granted a stipend of Rs.10,000 to sustain them during their early practice. Furthermore, the revival of 204 Anna Canteens provided affordable nutrition to the urban poor, serving over 4 crore meals throughout

the year.

Employment and Human Capital: The Youth Agenda

Addressing the critical issue of unemployment, the government moved swiftly in 2025 to operationalize the Chief Minister's first signature on the job calendar.

The Mega DSC and Police Recruitment

Overcoming legal and procedural hurdles, the state conducted a 'Mega DSC' recruitment drive, ensuring transparency and meritocracy. This massive exercise culminated in the appointment of 15,491 teachers, addressing chronic staff shortages in government schools. Simultaneously, the long-stalled police recruitment process was finalized, with 5,757 constables receiving appointment letters. In a move to boost morale, the stipend for trainee constables was nearly tripled, rising from Rs.4,500 to Rs.12,500 per month. Additionally, the government extended gratuity benefits to Anganwadi and ASHA workers, providing them with post-retirement financial security for the first time.

Skill Census and Innovation

Looking beyond government jobs, the administration focused on employability. A comprehensive 'Skill Census' was conducted to assess the skill levels of 3.5 crore citizens, creating a database to match talent with industry needs. The establishment of the 'Ratan Tata Innovation Hub' in Amaravati, along with regional centers in five other cities, marked a strategic shift toward fostering a start-up ecosystem.

Industrial Resurgence: Chasing the Trillion-Dollar Dream

2025 has been described by economic analysts as a "Golden Year" for Andhra Pradesh's industrial sector. Under the guidance of IT and Electronics Minister Nara Lokesh, the state aggressively courted global capital, setting an ambitious target of attracting \$1 trillion in investments by 2029.

Global Giants Arrive

The year witnessed landmark commitments from global conglomerates. Google announced a massive \$15 billion data center project, while steel giant ArcelorMittal committed \$17 billion for a new steel plant. These mega-projects signaled to the global investment community that Andhra Pradesh was open for business. The efforts of Minister Lokesh in securing

these deals were noted internationally, with Reuters highlighting the state's aggressive pitch for foreign direct investment.

CII Summit and Policy Reforms

The CII Partnership Summit held in Visakhapatnam served as a major catalyst, resulting in 610 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs). These agreements projected an investment flow of Rs.13.25 lakh crore, with the potential to create 16.13 lakh jobs. The State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) backed these commitments by approving investments worth Rs.8.55 lakh crore across 13 meetings.

To facilitate this growth, the government introduced 23 new industrial policies. A key reform was the introduction of 'Escrow Accounts' for industrial incentives—a first in India—guaranteeing that promised subsidies would be paid on time, thereby building investor trust.

Decentralized Development

Moving away from a capital-centric industrial model, the government rolled out the 'One Constituency-One Industrial Park' policy. Land parcels of 100 acres were identified in 140 constituencies to spur local manufacturing. A Rs.500 crore credit guarantee fund was established to support local entrepreneurs in these MSME parks. Furthermore, the arid region of Rayalaseema was positioned as a future tech hub, with a 'Drone City' launched over 300 acres in Orvakal, Kurnool, expected to generate 40,000 jobs. Recognition for these reforms came at the highest level, with Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu receiving the 'Business Reformer of the Year 2025' award from The Economic Times, acknowledging the state's strides in improving the 'Speed of Doing Business.'

Infrastructure: Rebuilding the Capital and Beyond

One of the most visible changes in 2025 was the resurrection of Amaravati. After five years of neglect, the capital region saw a massive resumption of construction activity.

Amaravati and Regional Balance

The capital city project, which had been stalled, roared back to life with the construction of the Legislative Assembly, Secretariat, High Court, and residential quarters for officials. The government also laid the groundwork for a future-ready economy in

the capital by initiating a 'Quantum Valley' for quantum computing and semiconductor research. Balancing the narrative, the administration pursued a three-region development strategy: Visakhapatnam as the IT and executive hub, Amaravati as the legislative and knowledge hub, and Tirupati as an electronics and tourism cluster. The iconic Visakhapatnam Railway Zone also saw its headquarters construction commence, fulfilling a long-standing bifurcation promise.

Rural Infrastructure and Connectivity

Under the leadership of Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, the Panchayat Raj department initiated a rural overhaul. The 'Palle Panduga' (Village Festival) program facilitated the laying of 4,000 km of cement roads. In a display of grassroots democracy, 13,326 Gram Sabhas were held on a single day to approve development works.

Tribal areas received special attention through the 'Adavi Talli Bata' program, focusing on road connectivity to remote hamlets and establishing 4G networks in border villages. The 'Amarajeivi Jaladhara' project was conceptualized to provide tap water connections to every household with an outlay of Rs.3,050 crore. On the macro level, the 'Swarnandhra-Swachandra' initiative focused on repairing the state's dilapidated road network. With an allocation of Rs.1,000 crore for repairs and Rs.3,000 crore for new roads, the transport infrastructure saw significant improvement.

Governance 2.0: Technology Meets Administration

In 2025, Andhra Pradesh reasserted its reputation as a pioneer in e-governance. The launch of 'Mana Mitra' (WhatsApp Governance) in January revolutionized service delivery.

Digital and Social Innovation

Through 'Mana Mitra', citizens could access over 700 government services directly from their smartphones, ranging from bill payments to downloading student hall tickets. This initiative was lauded at the 28th National e-Governance Conference, with central officials announcing plans to replicate the AP model nationwide. Complementing this was the 'P4' (Public-Private-People Partnership) model. Launched on Ugadi, this social experiment encouraged wealthy citizens to adopt poor families. The objective was not just charity, but empowerment through skilling and employment.

Rajnath highlights Lord Ram’s values in modern India

Ayodhya, Dec 31: Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday drew parallels between the principles of Lord Ram and India’s approach to national security, asserting that values and restraint must guide action even in times of conflict. Speaking on the second anniversary of the consecration of Lord Ram at the Shri Ram Jannabhoomi Temple during Pratishtha Dwadashi celebrations, Singh said Operation ‘Sindoor’ exemplified modern India upholding these ideals.

“Lord Ram’s mission was not merely to defeat Ravana but to eradicate unrighteousness. Similarly, Operation ‘Sindoor’ aimed to dismantle the terror ecosystem, not escalate violence. Our response was measured, controlled, and purposeful,” Singh said, emphasizing that India acted with discipline while remaining sensitive to



innocent lives. The Defence Minister described Lord Ram as a symbol of humility, virtue, and compassion, yet a formidable force against injustice. “Ram is embedded in our consciousness; his dignity is our identity. Modern India mirrors this — firm against terrorism

but rooted in righteousness and restraint,” he added. Singh also highlighted the broader moral significance of Ram, calling him a guide for decision-making, governance, and upholding dignity. “Where power risks turning reckless, Ram defines restraint; where

rights are debated, Ram reminds us of duty. He represents truth, resolve, and the moral compass of humanity,” he said. On the development of Ayodhya, Singh said the city has transformed into a global center of religious tourism following the construction of the Ram Temple, with improved infrastructure including roads, housing, green spaces, airports, and railways contributing to a safe and modern urban environment.

He praised the government’s efforts in balancing faith, heritage, and world-class infrastructure, calling the Ram Temple movement a centuries-long struggle rooted in societal consciousness, patience, and faith. “Every street of Ayodhya resonates with Ram, inspiring devotion not just locally but across India and the world,” Singh said, adding that the temple’s consecration marked

a renaissance of national consciousness and a celebration of “strength in dignity and dignity in power.”

Earlier, Singh and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath visited Hanuman Garhi, offering prayers to Lord Hanuman, before proceeding to the Shri Ram Jannabhoomi complex. They performed rituals at the Ram Lalla temple and Ram Darbar, including aarti, circumambulation, and hoisting the religious flag atop Maa Annapurna temple, praying for peace, prosperity, and national welfare. Singh was received at Maharishi Valmiki International Airport by CM Adityanath and accompanied him throughout the ceremonial visits. The celebrations were marked by Vedic chants and devotional fervor as leaders and devotees commemorated the enduring legacy of Lord Ram.

BJP slams Mamata Banerjee for alleged threats against home minister Amit Shah

Bhubaneswar, Dec 31: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday launched a scathing attack on West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, accusing her of using inflammatory rhetoric and issuing veiled threats against union home minister Amit Shah during his recent visit to the state.

At a press conference, BJP MP and national spokesperson Sambit Patra condemned Banerjee’s remarks, calling them “an assault on democratic norms” and a bid to protect what the party described as her “vote bank” of illegal infiltrators. Patra cited statements allegedly made by the Chief Minister in which she described Shah as “dangerous” and suggested that his freedom of movement in West Bengal depended entirely on her permission.

Patra said, “Mamata Banerjee threatened the Home Minister, saying he is hiding in a hotel and is lucky to be allowed to come out. Such words are unimaginable and unbecoming of a Chief Minister.” He accused Banerjee of avoiding the substantive issue of security and instead resorting to name-calling and intimidation.

The BJP also alleged that the West Bengal government has obstructed efforts to secure the India-Bangladesh border by refusing to provide land for fencing, claiming that the Trinamool Congress



is deliberately facilitating infiltration to alter the state’s demographic composition. Patra further criticized Banerjee for opposing the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, asserting that she has threatened mass protests and riots to prevent the exercise, which ensures that only Indian citizens are eligible to vote.

“Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is attempting to protect her political base by inciting violence. Under her rule, jihadis and rioters are safer than common citizens,” Patra asserted. He also referenced post-poll violence in the state, alleging that over 300 BJP workers have been killed under the Trinamool Congress regime and accused the government of effectively condoning such acts. Patra emphasized that the Home Minister’s visit aimed to “restore dignity to Bengal and protect its women,” citing atrocities in areas like Sandeshkhali.

P.V. Narasimha Rao’s economic legacy remembered at memorial lecture in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, December 31: The 21st death anniversary of former Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna P.V. Narasimha Rao was observed with solemn reflection at a memorial lecture organised by EMESCO Books in association with the P.V. Narasimha Rao Memorial Lecture Committee at a city hotel on Tuesday. Eminent economist and former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission Prof. Montek Singh Ahluwalia delivered the keynote address, recalling the historic economic reforms initiated



during Narasimha Rao’s tenure as Prime Minister between 1991 and 1996. Speakers described the

period as a defining phase that transformed India’s economic trajectory through liberalisation and global integration.

Addressing the gathering, P.V. Prabhakar Rao, son of the former Prime Minister, termed his father’s tenure a “golden era” that rescued India from a severe balance-of-payments crisis. He described Narasimha Rao as a “Karma Yogi” who remained detached from power while taking bold and politically difficult decisions in the national interest.

Prof. Ahluwalia highlighted the crucial part-

nership between Narasimha Rao and Dr. Manmohan Singh, noting that their political will and clarity of purpose dismantled the licence-permit raj and laid the foundation for India’s current economic ambitions. He observed that many of today’s growth aspirations trace back to reforms of the early 1990s. Several speakers underlined Narasimha Rao’s scholarship, global vision, and lasting contribution to nation-building, calling for greater efforts to preserve and popularise his legacy among younger generations.

65 injured as Loco trains collide inside THDC tunnel

Pipalkoti, Dec 31: At least 65 workers were injured late Tuesday night after two loco trains collided inside a tunnel at the Tehri Hydro Development Corporation (THDC) hydroelectric project site in the Pipalkoti area of Uttarakhand’s Chamoli district, officials said.

The accident occurred around 8.30 pm inside the 4.5-km-long tunnel when a loco train transporting workers and construction material rammed into another train that was stationary on the same track during a shift change. Around 108 workers

were travelling on the two trains at the time of the incident. Two coaches derailed following the collision, triggering panic inside the tunnel. Describing the incident, a source close to the rescue operations said the sound of the crash was deafening and caused confusion and fear among the workers trapped inside the tunnel.

District Magistrate Gaurav Kumar and Superintendent of Police Surjeet Singh Panwar rushed to the district hospital in Gopeshwar to oversee medical arrangements. Officials confirmed that all the injured workers are in stable condition.

Delivery services may be hit in NCR as gig workers call New Year’s Eve strike

New Delhi, Dec 31: Quick commerce and food delivery services across Delhi and neighbouring regions are likely to face disruptions on New Year’s Eve, as delivery workers’ unions have called for a strike over issues such as lack of pay transparency, blocking of worker IDs and concerns over the 10-minute delivery model.

The strike has been called by the Telangana-based Telangana Gig and Platform Workers Union and the Karnataka-based Indian Federation of App-based Transport Workers Union, with support from the Delhi-based Gig Workers Association. It follows a similar protest on December 25, which, despite limited participation, affected Swiggy and Zomato deliveries in parts of Gurgaon, Noida and Ghaziabad during peak hours.

TGPWU president Shaik Salauddin said around 50,000 workers participated in the Christmas Day strike and claimed that nearly 1.5 lakh delivery partners are expected to join the protest on Wednesday. According to government esti-



mates, India’s gig workforce crossed one crore in 2024-25. Delivery workers have raised concerns about the risks associated with ultra-fast deliveries and an opaque wage structure. Several workers said incentives are withdrawn even for minor delays, forcing them to take risks on the road. Others complained of longer delivery distances, increased minimum working hours and reduced earnings.

“Workers are paid based on

tasks, not hours, and this does not account for waiting time, traffic, bad weather or low demand. Platforms change pay structures without notice, so workers are unsure of their daily earnings,” said Nitesh Kumar Das of the Gig Workers Association.

Restaurant owners across NCR expressed concern over food wastage and business losses. Pranav Rungta, Vice-President of the National Restaurants Association of

India, said restaurants were in touch with delivery platforms and were awaiting clarity. He noted that the December 25 strike had significantly impacted businesses, especially in Gurgaon. At the same time, several delivery partners said they could not afford to join the strike due to fear of income loss or termination of their IDs. Many said that after expenses such as fuel, food and rent, daily earnings leave them with very little to support their families.

An internal communication to Zomato riders reportedly stated that no partner would be stopped from making deliveries and that alternative arrangements had been made. Even so, some customers and restaurants pre-emptively placed bulk orders or arranged self-delivery, anticipating disruptions. With New Year’s Eve being one of the busiest days for food delivery, industry stakeholders said any prolonged disruption could lead to significant losses, even as workers insisted the strike was necessary to highlight safety and livelihood concerns.

Ten Hindu Raksha Dal members held for sword distribution in Ghaziabad

Ghaziabad, Dec 31: Ten members of the Hindu Raksha Dal (HRD) have been arrested for allegedly distributing swords from the organisation’s office in Shalimar Garden, Ghaziabad, police said on Tuesday. Eight swords were also recovered during the operation.

Police said a case was registered against 40 persons, including 30 unidentified individuals, at the Shalimar Garden police station after a video showing the distribution of swords went viral on social media.

According to police,

information was received on December 29 that HRD national president Pinky Chaudhary, along with his associates, was distributing swords at the outfit’s office in Shalimar Garden X-2. “The video showed several people holding swords, raising slogans and engaging in aggressive demonstrations,” police said in a statement. The arrested accused were identified as Kapil Kumar, Shyam Prasad, Arun Jain, Rampal, Amit Singh, Amit Kumar, Amit Arora, Mohit Kumar, Devendra Baghel and Ujala Singh.

Punjab assembly slams Centre’s move to replace MGNREGA

Chandigarh, Dec 31: The Punjab Assembly on Tuesday unanimously passed a resolution opposing the Centre’s move to replace the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) with the Viksit Bharat—Guaranteee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin), alleging that the new law undermines a legally guaranteed right to work and shifts the financial burden onto states. The resolution was moved by Rural Development and Panchayats Minister Tarunpreet Singh Sond during a special session of the Assembly. It stated that the

proposed law weakens guaranteed wages and employment for poor labourers, women and lakhs of job card holders by turning a demand-driven scheme into a norm-based programme dependent on budgetary allocations and fixed plans.

Reacting sharply, Union agriculture and rural development minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said the special session itself was against the federal spirit of the Constitution. Speaking in Bhopal, he said it was inappropriate for a state legislature to move against a law passed by Parliament and accused opposition parties of

indulging in “blind politics.” Chouhan also alleged large-scale corruption in Punjab’s MGNREGA implementation, claiming social audits had exposed several irregularities without corrective action.

Explaining the resolution, Sond said the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was passed in September 2005 and implemented in Punjab in 2008-09, before being renamed MGNREGA in 2009. He said the Act ensured a mandatory 100 days of wage employment annually to rural households willing to undertake unskilled work.



Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Dr. L. Murugan launching the Government of India’s Calendar 2026 on the theme “Bharat@2026: Seva, Sushasan aur Samridhi” at the National Media Center in New Delhi

Northeast monsoon ends with marginal deficit in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry

Chennai, Dec 31: The northeast monsoon, a vital source of rainfall for Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, has concluded on a muted note this year, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) reporting an overall shortfall across the region.

Official figures show that Tamil Nadu and Puducherry together received 42.8 cm of rainfall during the October to December period, slightly below the normal average of 44.2 cm, reflecting a deficit of around 3 per cent. This outcome contrasts with early seasonal forecasts that had indicated the likelihood of above-normal rainfall.

While the IMD is yet to formally announce the withdrawal of the northeast monsoon, officials said it could extend into the second week of January. However, any rainfall after that window will not be included in the seasonal assessment.

| Protium (Formerly known as Growth Source Financial Technologies Ltd.) | |
|---|---|
| Registered & Corporate Office Address: 7th Floor, Block B2, Phase - I Niflon Knowledge Park, Palahdi Village, Off. Western Express Highway, Cama Industrial Estate, Goregaon(E), Mumbai- 400063, Maharashtra. | |
| SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES | |
| E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower / Co-Borrower / Mortgagor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Protium Finance Ltd. the same shall be referred herein after as Protium Finance Ltd. The Secured Assets will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis through E-Auction. It is hereby informed to General public that we are going to conduct public E-Auction through website http://bankauctions.in/ . | |
| 1. Account Number | 1. GS045EEL1227291 |
| 2. Name of Borrower, Co-Borrower / Mortgagors | 2. (A) Gazal Electronic And Enterprises Through It's Proprietor Zohab Hussain Mohammad S/o Mohammad Abid Hussain (B) Zohab Hussain Mohammad S/o Mohammad Abid Hussain (C) Abid Hussain S/o Ahmed Hussain (D) Mujeeb Unnisa Begum (E) Md Shohab Hussain (F) Ashraf Hussain Md S/o Md. Abid Hussain Ali Having Address At No 1 4 107, Tadkole X Road, Banswada, Kamareddy Telangana 503187. Also At : D No 3 1 102, Banda Gally, Banswada Nizamabad Telangana 503187. |
| 3. Date of Demand Notice U/s 13(2) | 11th June 2025 |
| 4. Amount as on Demand Notice U/s 13(2) | Rs. 20,57,312.97/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh Fifty-Seven Thousand Three Hundred Twelve and Ninety-Seven Paise Only) as on 06th June 2025, with further interest. Under the statutory period of 60 days from the date of this notice. |
| 5. Date of Symbolic Possession | 05-Nov-2024 |
| 6. Amount as on date. | Rs. 23,47,192/- (Twenty-Three Lakh Forty-Seven Thousand One Hundred Ninety-Two) as on date 30th Dec 2025 |
| 7. Descriptions Of The Immovable Property/Properties: | The Existing Roc Roofed House Bearing Mpl Revist No. (3-1-102), Admeasuring Total Site Area (126.66) Sq. Yds Or (105.90) Sq. Mts., Property Situated At Banswada Proper & Mandal Dist- Kamareddy Within The Municipality Limits Of Banswada & T.s. As Bounded By: North : House Of Nagardam, South : Road, East : House Of Golla Gangadhar, West : Open Place Of Abad Hussain |
| 8. Reserve Price | Rs.33,12,000/- (Thirty-Three Lakh Twenty Thousand and only) |
| 9. Earnest Money Deposit | Rs. 3,31,200/- (Three lakh thirty one thousand two hundred only) |
| 10. Bid Increment Amount (In Rs.) | (Bid Incremental Value: Rs. 5,000/-) |
| 11. E-Auction Date and Time | 04-Feb-26 at 11:00 am to 2:00 PM (with unlimited extension of 5 min each) |
| 12. EMD Submission Last Date | 03-Feb-26 up to 5:00 PM. |
| 13. Inspection Date | 22-Jan-26 Between 11:00 AM TO 5:00 PM |
| 1. All Interested participants / bidders are requested to visit the website https://bankauctions.in & https://protium.co.in/ For details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction prospective bidders may Contact Mr. Nitesh D Pawar Contact number: 8142000725 / 8142000666 please visit nitesh@bankauctions.in / info@bankauctions.in For further details on terms and conditions please visit https://bankauctions.in & https://protium.co.in/ to take part in e-auction. | |
| THIS IS ALSO A STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6)/ Rule 9 (1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES,2002 | |
| Date: 01.01.2026 Place: TELANGANA Sd/-, For Protium Finance Limited Authorised Officer | |

10-yr B'luru girl enters India Book of Records as youngest author

Bengaluru, 31 Dec 2025: Parinita B., a Class-5 student of NET Public School, Basavanagudi, has become the youngest person listed in the India Book of Records after publishing her illustrated story collection, “Tales by Pari”, through Subbu Publications.

The 10-year-old wrote the 40-page book during summer vacation, drawing characters from her everyday observations and grandmother’s folk tales. “I just wanted to share my stories with friends; I didn’t know it could break a record,” said Parinita, who received her certificate at a small school ceremony on Monday. Parents K. Balaji and Dr. Anusha R. Gupta, both engineers,

say they first noticed her passion when she began narrating bedtime sequels to the Panchatantra at age six. The school’s literary club later gave her a dedicated notebook and weekly feedback sessions that helped shape the manuscript. Principal M. Shailaja believes the feat will spur “every child to see writing as a real, reachable goal”. The India Book of Records confirmed Parinita’s entry under the “youngest published author (female)” category after verifying her age, ISBN and print run of

House distribution on Jan 2

Bengaluru: In the wake of the eviction of illegal houses in Yelahanka Kogilu Layout, the BBMP and Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation are continuing to review the documents regarding providing alternative permanent housing to the eligible victims. The government’s intention in this matter is to provide housing only to the eligible ones. Therefore, the Chief Minister has instructed to conduct a comprehensive document review without any haste, and officials of the Revenue, BBMP are busy with that work. In this context, the distribution of houses that was scheduled for January 1 has been postponed to January 2, Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan said in a Press statement.

Set up NIPER in the State: M.B. Patil writes to Minister Nadda

Bengaluru: Stating that Karnataka is at the forefront of science and pharmaceutical research, Minister for Large and Medium Industries M.B. Patil has urged the Union government to establish a unit of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) in the State. In a letter addressed to Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda, Mr. Patil assured that the State government would swifly provide the necessary land, infrastructure, support, and opportunities for collaboration. In his letter, Mr. Patil recalled that the Union government had earlier considered setting up the institute in Karnataka, though the proposal did not materialise at the time. He urged the Centre to revive the plan, keeping in view the State’s strong ecosystem of scientific research institutions and biotechnology (BT) companies.

Blinkhit-Blinkit row turns criminal: trademark transfer stayed, FIR lodged for forgery.

New Delhi / Chennai / Bengaluru: Serious allegations of fraud, forgery, and violations of corporate law have come to light in connection with the illegal transfer of the registered “BLINKHIT” trademark. The matter has escalated into a significant legal dispute involving the original promoters of BLINKHIT and individuals associated with the Blinkit brand. According to Mr. Paramesh Huliyyurudurga Krishnegowda, Co-Founder and Director of BLINKHIT, he and his partner Mr. Harish Srinivasa Shetty legally incorporated the company in 2016 and duly adopted and registered the trademarks “BLINKHIT” and “IBLINKHIT” in the company’s name. Since then, the company has been operating in full compliance with applicable laws. Subsequently, Grofers.com, owned by Mr. Albinder Singh Dhindsa, commenced business under the name “BLINKIT”, which, according to Mr. Paramesh, is deceptively similar to the registered BLINKHIT and IBLINKHIT trademarks and is likely to cause confusion. The dispute is currently under judicial consideration in OS No. 3994/2022, wherein the Hon’ble Court has passed appropriate orders after taking into account the rights of the legitimate trademark owners. Following these orders, representatives of Blinkit are stated to have entered into discussions regarding the purchase of the BLINKHIT and IBLINKHIT trademarks. However, while the civil trademark suit was still pending before the court, it is alleged that taking advantage of Mr. Paramesh’s absence, his partner Mr. Harish Srinivasa Shetty, in collusion with Blink Commerce Private Limited and other external individuals, forged his signature and illegally transferred the BLINKHIT and IBLINKHIT trademarks. These actions were allegedly carried out in violation of the Companies Act, Registrar of Companies (ROC) regulations, and other applicable laws. Following the exposure of these illegal transactions, key accused persons are reportedly absconding, according to sources. Based on these allegations, an FIR has been registered in Bengaluru under multiple sections relating to forgery, cheating, criminal conspiracy, and criminal breach of trust, *under Section 173 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (Crime No. 0537/2025). * The concerned police and investigating authorities are currently conducting a detailed investigation into the matter. Parallely, the Trademark Registry, Government of India (Chennai Office) has taken cognizance of the violations of legal process and has stayed the transfer of the BLINKHIT and IBLINKHIT trademarks. The matter is presently under regulatory and legal scrutiny. Mr. Paramesh stated that this case raises serious concerns regarding transparency in trademark transactions, corporate governance, and adherence to the rule of law.

BESCOM launches mobile app to monitor preventive maintenance of TCs

Bengaluru: To ensure quality and uninterrupted power supply to its consumers, BESCOM has developed a mobile application, Distribution Transformer Life Cycle Management System (DTLMS). The app will help monitor and systematically carry out preventive maintenance of more than 5 lakh distribution transformers across 8 districts under BESCOM’s jurisdiction.

Through the mobile application, officials can continuously monitor the operation, preventive maintenance, repairs, and efficiency of distribution transformers (DTs). Field officers can enter all transformer maintenance details directly



into the app by downloading the same from the Google Play Store for Android phones.

Under DTLMS, a Distribution Transformer Centre (DTC) maintenance module has been developed. This module is expected

to play a key role in improving the efficiency, reliability, and continuity of the power distribution system.

Using this module, BESCOM field officers will carry out quarterly maintenance of all transformers in their respec-

tive areas. This will help prevent power leakage, reduce losses, and ensure a quality power supply to consumers.

As per the directions of Energy Minister K. J. George, BESCOM developed this app to closely monitor transformer maintenance and to regularly service faulty transformers that disrupt uninterrupted power supply. The DTLMS app was recently launched by the Minister.

The initiative is seen as an important step towards using information technology to improve power services and ensure a reliable electricity supply to consumers.

KSS State President Kannalli Krishnappa urges to provide basic facilities

Bengaluru: KSS State President Kannalli Krishnappa has demanded that the government should immediately provide basic facilities such as drinking water, electricity, sewage system, roads, transportation and many other facilities in Kembhattahalli village of Bangalore South taluk. Speaking after holding a protest in this regard, he said that as a result of the struggle of Karnataka Janandolana Sanghatana, President K. Mariyappa and Siddalingappa, Ratnamma and several



other leaders of the organization, the then BBMP had issued an order to allocate land in the name of the organization, but now some miscreants and vested interests who tolerated this have come here and are threatening the beneficiaries by not allowing them to build houses, and the orga-

nization is opposing this.

As a result of the struggle of the last 20 years, today 8 acres 10 guntas of land have been found in Kembhattahalli village of Bangalore South taluk for providing shelter to the poor. The land, which was about 20 to 30 feet deep, has been leveled with a JCB

machine and allotted to more than 380 beneficiaries, he said, and now the beneficiaries have decided to build houses on the land they have allocated with their own money. However, some of the community members who are not in the struggle have come to this land and are claiming their rights. Today, they are throwing stones while cooking and eating and setting fire to the crops when they are harvested. If you need any information, please talk to them and then resolve the matter.

Veteran BHEL engineer Dr R. Jayaram bags Pride of K'taka Award for co-op service.

Bengaluru, 31 Dec 2025: Dr R. Jayaram, who retired as engineer after 39 years with BHEL and has led the Renco House-Building Co-operative Society since 1994, was presented the Pride of Karnataka Award at the

decade volunteer career. “Members have kept re-electing me—first as president, now vice-president—because we built 1,200 homes without profit motive,” he told the gathering, becoming emotional.



Press Club here on Monday.

Accepting the trophy from Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Assembly Speaker U.T. Khader and four state ministers, the 69-year-old said the cooperative ideal of “service through cooperation” had guided his three-

Jayaram’s mantle already includes the Bharat Jyoti Excellence Award-2025, an honorary doctorate from Cedar Brook University, USA, and the Pride of Nation Award from Sri Lanka. He plans to use the latest honour to promote youth cooperatives across Karnataka.

Surprise raid at district prison; mobile phone, SIM card seized

Mangaluru, Dec 30: Officials and staff, led by the district prison superintendent, conducted a surprise inspection at the city’s district prison late on Monday night and seized prohibited items. During the inspection, two mobile phones, one SIM card and one wireless charger were found in the possession of inmates and were seized by the authorities. As the use of mobile phones is prohibited inside the prison, a case has been registered at the Mangaluru Barke police station. District prison superintendent Sharan Basappa said that Karnataka prisons and correctional services director general of police Alok Kumar has been informed about the incident.

Ashoka demands citizenship check, NIA probe for Kogilu ‘illegal residents’

Bengaluru, 31 Dec 2025: Opposition leader R. Ashoka on Wednesday asked the Karnataka government to verify the citizenship of people who have built huts on 15 acres of government land at Kogilu Cross and, if documents are found dubious, hand the cases to the National Investigation Agency. “Satellite images taken a year ago show only open land; today there are 250-odd concrete sheds with illegal power lines but no meters,” Ashoka told reporters after walking through the freshly cleared Fakir Layout. “When I asked residents for ID cards, most produced ration cards issued elsewhere or nothing at all.”

The BJP leader alleged that a local Congress worker, Waseem, had “parcelled out” plots and that ministers Zameer Ahmed Khan and D.K. Shivakumar were “rushing to protect the



encroachers because elections are due”. He claimed some occupants admitted they arrived only six months ago, yet BESCOM had laid overhead cables without installing meters—something 400,000 legal city residents still wait for.

Ashoka said the mix of undocumented migrants from Andhra Pradesh,

north Karnataka and “possible Bangladesh” made the pocket a potential sleeper-cell hub. “Before we clear other encroachments, the state must prove it can distinguish between genuine slum-dwellers and national-security risks,” he argued, demanding a 30-day biometric drive and NIA vetting.

Siddaramaiah: Sivagiri shows spirituality must fight inequality, not politics

Kerala (TSIT): Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday told the 93rd Sivagiri pilgrimage that the shrine is “India’s original anti-communal project” and urged the country to turn its annual gathering into a nationwide movement for equality. Addressing thousands of devotees at the hill-top mutt, the Karnataka leader said the event’s theme—“The Role of the Sivagiri Pilgrimage in Modern Nation-Building”—was chosen because “dialogue, equality and ethics are under siege”. He praised Sree Narayana Guru for turning reli-

gion into a tool of social justice by proclaiming “One Caste, One Religion, One God” and for building schools and temples that taught self-respect instead of hierarchy. “Narayana Guru did not beg for reform; he dismantled injustice at the root,” Siddaramaiah said, citing the Guru’s mirror-in-shrine experiment to show divinity rests in every person. He noted that coastal Karnataka’s Billava, Ediga and Mogaveera communities adopted the Guru’s message to resist caste and communal forces, and linked the 12th-century reform-



er Basavanna’s “Kayaka” ideal to Guru’s stress on education and dignified labour. The Chief Minister listed Karnataka’s steps to embed the Guru’s legacy: a state holiday on Narayana Guru Jayanti since 2016, Kannada translations of his works and Rs.3 crore in grants to the Brahmarshi Narayana Guru Study Centre at Mangalore University. “Birth must never decide destiny,” he said, calling on pilgrims to convert the annual trek into everyday action for a casteless, fearless India.

TN Cabinet to meet on Jan 6 ahead of Assembly session; key decisions expected

The meeting is expected to play a crucial role in shaping the government's legislative agenda and policy direction for the upcoming session.

CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu Cabinet will meet on January 6 at the Secretariat in Chennai under the chairmanship of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, ahead of the commencement of the State Legislative Assembly session scheduled to begin on January 20.

The meeting is expected to play a crucial role in shaping the government's legislative agenda and policy direction for the upcoming session.

A major focus of the Cabinet meeting will be the preparation of the Governor's address, which traditionally outlines the government's priorities, achievements and policy roadmap for the year ahead. Ministers are expected to deliberate on key themes, welfare initiatives and developmental programmes to be highlighted in the address to the House.

The meeting is also



likely to take up long-pending demands raised by government employees, including teachers and nurses, who have been staging protests seeking resolution of service-related issues.

Of particular importance is the report submitted by the committee constituted to examine pension-related reforms for government employees. The committee has reportedly submitted its final recommendations

to the Chief Minister, and the Cabinet is expected to discuss the report and take decisions on the future course of action regarding pension benefits and related matters.

In addition to employee welfare issues, the Cabinet is expected to consider approvals for various industrial and infrastructure projects. These proposals align with the State government's broader push to attract investments,

strengthen industrial growth and generate employment opportunities. The January 6 Cabinet meeting assumes added significance as it comes just weeks before the Assembly session, during which the government is expected to face opposition scrutiny on governance, economic performance and welfare delivery.

Decisions taken at the meeting are likely to shape the tone and content of the forthcoming Assembly session and signal the government's policy priorities for the year ahead.

With expectations running high among government employees, industry stakeholders and the public, the outcomes of the Cabinet deliberations are being closely watched as an indicator of the government's policy direction in the months to come.

TN contract nurses end protest after govt assures permanent appointments

CHENNAI: Contract nurses, recruited through the Medical Services Recruitment Board (MRB) in Tamil Nadu, have called off their prolonged protest after the state government assured them of permanent appointments and other long-pending benefits. The agitation, which continued for several days across the state, culminated in a breakthrough following talks with senior government officials and Health Minister Ma Subramanian.

Thousands of nurses working in government hospitals and primary health centres had been staging continuous protests, demanding regularisation of their services.

unaddressed. According to the Tamil Nadu Nurses Development Association, the issue dates back nearly a decade. Between 2014 and 2015, the MRB recruited nurses on a temporary basis, assuring them that they would be regularised after two years of service.

Since then, around 15,300 nurses have been appoint-



ed through this route. While nearly 7,000 of them have since been absorbed into permanent posts, around 8,300 continue to work on a contractual basis. The protesting nurses pointed out that the DMK, while in opposition, had promised in its 2021 Assembly election manifesto to regularise all temporary nurses.

Clause 356 of the manifesto specifically assured the filling up of vacant posts in government hospitals and the regularisation of contract-based doctors and nurses. However, as the government nears the end of its term, the nurses alleged that the promise remained unfulfilled.

Thousands of nurses working in government hospitals and primary health centres had been staging continuous protests, demanding regularisation of their services.

unaddressed. According to the Tamil Nadu Nurses Development Association, the issue dates back nearly a decade. Between 2014 and 2015, the MRB recruited nurses on a temporary basis, assuring them that they would be regularised after two years of service. Since then, around 15,300 nurses have been appoint-

Vande Bharat sleeper train clears 180 kmph high-speed trial

NEW DELHI: Indian Railways on Wednesday successfully completed the final high-speed trial of the indigenously developed Vande Bharat Sleeper Train -- marking a major step forward in India's push for modern and self-reliant rail technology. The trial was conducted under the supervision of the Commissioner of Railway Safety on the Kota-Nagda section, where the train achieved a top



speed of 180 kmph. According to the ministry, the train performed well across all safety and technical parameters, and the trial was declared successful. During the high-speed run, detailed checks were carried out on ride stability, vibration and oscillation behaviour, braking systems, emergency braking response, and other critical safety features.

PG assistantships rise by 50% in TN government engineering colleges



CHENNAI: The number of postgraduate assistantships offered to students in government engineering colleges under the Higher Education Department has increased by nearly 50% in the past 4 years.

The financial support is provided to non GATE students admitted to ME and MTech programmes

in State-owned engineering colleges through the single window counselling process conducted by Anna University and the Directorate of Technical Education.

A senior official in the department said, "The number of beneficiaries had increased from 666 in 2022 to 986 in 2025. The assistance is remitted every month directly into the students' Aadhaar-linked nationalised bank accounts through ECS. The number of beneficiaries is expected to exceed 1,000 in 2026."

OPS plays DMK over 'brutal assault' on migrant Odisha worker in TN's Tiruttani

CHENNAI: The All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) Workers' Rights Retrieval Kazhagam on Wednesday strongly condemned the "brutal attack" on a migrant worker from Odisha in Tamil Nadu's Tiruttani, blaming the DMK government for what it described as the growing menace of drugs and lawlessness in the state. In a statement, AIADMK founder and former Chief Minister O.



Panneerselvam said the shocking incident, in which a group of teenage boys allegedly assaulted a man with sickles, had shaken the conscience of the public.

He said the attack "exposed" the alarming extent to which drug abuse had penetrated society, particularly among the youth.

"The fact that four minors could commit such a heinous crime under the influence of narcotic substances shows how Tamil Nadu has increasingly become a haven for drugs," Panneerselvam said.

He accused the DMK government of failing to curb the spread of narcot-

ics and warned that the situation posed a serious threat to public safety and social order.

Calling the incident "deeply disturbing," he urged Chief Minister M.K. Stalin to treat the issue with utmost seriousness and initiate urgent corrective measures. The government must focus on protecting young people from falling prey to drugs and ensure strict action against those involved in narcotic trafficking," he said,

Tamil medium till class 5, Union Minister insists on NEP in Tamil Nadu

MADURAI: Amid continued opposition from the ruling DMK government, Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan on Wednesday asked the State to implement the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020. He stated that Tamil should be the medium of instruction up to class 5 per the policy.

The State government has been against the NEP, claiming the imposition of Hindi under the three-language formula. In August

2025, it rolled out the draft State Education Policy with a two-language formula in counter to NEP. I am hopeful that the local government will encourage the Tamil language in the early stages. If we take care of the children, they will be the future leaders of our society," Union Minister Pradhan told reporters in Madurai. The State government has been against the NEP, claiming the imposition of Hindi under the three-language formula.

Road map for socially relevant medical education in Tamil Nadu

A patient walks into a Primary Health Centre in Tamil Nadu at midnight with chest pain. Another is brought after a road traffic accident. Will the young MBBS doctor on duty be confident and competent to manage these emergencies safely? This question at the heart of the debate on medical education reforms in India today.

Tamil Nadu's public health system is well recognised, with low maternal and infant mortality, extensive primary care, and a functioning referral network. Medical education in Tamil Nadu has long aligned with this vision, producing doctors for government facilities. Yet, current national reforms raise concerns that this alignment is being eroded. Two policies have reshaped medical education over the last decade: The introduction of Competency Based Medical Education (CBME) in 2019 and the centralised National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for undergraduate and postgraduate admissions.

These have been introduced to improve quality and transparency, but their unintended consequences challenge Tamil Nadu's focus on social accountability. Indian medical education, guided by the Bhoré Committee's vision of a 'basic doctor' who can address community health needs, has aligned closely with Tamil Nadu's vision of equitable health care.

CBME has, however, shifted focus to producing market-oriented 'world-class' doctors. While intended to ensure minimum competence, the numerous and prescriptive competencies, documentation, and reporting requirements have fragmented teaching and assessment, rather



than strengthening clinical training. Faculty spend an increasing amount of time to complete paperwork instead of bedside teaching. The autonomy of teachers and institutions to prioritise local health needs has diminished, and the focus on clinical training and community exposure has reduced. As a result, the "hidden curriculum" of mentoring, role-modelling, instilling ethics, and promoting good clinical practice has weakened. Students report rising stress, declining engagement with clinical learning, and a growing perception that undergraduate education is no longer oriented towards a functional basic doctor. Faculty surveys echo these concerns, highlighting excessive checklists, assessment burdens, and declining clinical preparedness of graduating interns.

Reports from internship postings are particularly worrying. Many interns lack confidence in handling basic emergencies or performing common procedures such as intravenous cannulation, catheterisation, wound suturing, or initial resuscitation. These gaps will directly affect patient safety, especially in

peripheral health facilities where young doctors are the first point of care.

The introduction of NEET has further distorted educational priorities. It has fuelled a massive coaching industry, with many MBBS students enrolling for postgraduate NEET coaching from their first year itself, devoting substantial time to training in MCQs rather than focusing on clinical experience and developing clinical skills.

This undermines their clinical preparedness for independent practice and discourages graduates from working in the health system after their MBBS training. These developments have serious implications for public health in Tamil Nadu, which relies on MBBS graduates to ensure staffing in the system.

It is imperative to recapture the original spirit of the CBME and align it with the health needs of Tamil Nadu and across India. Towards this, we suggest the following steps:

First, competence must be made practical and meaningful. Rather than ticking off numerous competencies, every graduate should be able to perform a clearly defined set of observable

tasks aligned to the common health problems, such as fever, breathlessness, and chest pain; initiating basic resuscitation; performing common procedures; prescribing safely; and communicating with patients.

Second, clinical training must be strengthened. Adequate bedside exposure, participation in patient care, mentoring by senior clinicians and assessment in clinical settings should be ensured. Community-based training in primary and secondary care settings should be an essential requirement.

Third, the internship should be restored as a true supervised pre-licensure year. Uniform rotations, involvement in clinical care and graded responsibility, structured feedback, assessment of important skills, and validated logbooks can ensure that the internship fulfils its role. Fourthly, greater weightage should be given to structured assessments in the workplace during clinical training. NEET and NExT should give importance to clinical skills and work-based performance during internship.

Fifth, CBME should serve as a guiding framework, rather than a rigid set of rules. Teachers should be encouraged to develop innovative education to meet the needs of students, patients and local communities. Colleges with strong track records of innovation should be allowed flexibility to tailor their education in line with their social mission and local health needs.

Finally, the impact of CBME and NEET must be systematically studied. Colleges should be encouraged to identify the difficulties that students and teachers face and evolve mechanisms to address these.

When the best New Year's plans are no New Year's plans

Alexandria Drake, 24, a lifestyle and travel publicist who lives in New York, said this will be the first time in her adult life she will stay home for New Year's Eve

Abigail Tufts can't wait for New Year's Eve. In years past, Tufts, 36, who lives in New York City and runs her own public relations company, did "the glitter and makeup and ballgown," she said. But this year, a trying one both professionally and personally, she's skipping celebrations altogether to watch the Season 5 finale of "Stranger Things" at a movie theater alone.

No reflections on the past year or resolutions for her. "I cannot wait to turn off my phone," she said. There has always been a camp of people who relish in skipping the revelry associated with New Year's Eve — a night Michael Frago, a 35-year-old New Yorker and skipper, called "amateur hour" — opting instead to stay home or do something low-key or entirely unrelated. And this year — a year in which Paris and Tokyo are among the cities to cancel public celebrations because of security and other concerns — that camp will see new converts.

Alexandria Drake, 24, a lifestyle and travel publicist who lives in New York, said this will be the first time in her adult life she will stay home for New Year's Eve. Last year she went out in East Hampton, New York, with a group of girlfriends, an experience she found stressful. "Just thinking through

what am I going to wear, where am I going to go, who am I going to kiss," she said. This year, "I am going to do it solo," she said, with a bottle of wine and a vision board. She said she feels this change is part of a larger lifestyle shift happening within her generation. "We've turned away from going out until the bar closes," she said, "and instead just having two drinks at dinner with a friend and being home by 10 pm" "I think this shift



has impacted everything, so why not New Year's Eve?" she said.

Robin Levine Shobin, 47, a brewery owner and writer who splits her time between New York City and the Gold Coast of Australia, isn't making her usual list of resolutions. "Usually I do the typical reset of what my goals are."

This year, she has a different feeling: "Eh." She expanded: "I just feel a little beat down in terms of news," adding that "the year never goes as planned, not remotely." So her only

plan for 2026 is "to be laissez-faire," starting with its eve, for which she plans to stay home in New York with her partner, a good bottle of wine and a pizza. Philip Scheinfeld, 35, who works in real estate and splits his time between Miami and New York City, used to have big blowout celebrations. Not anymore. "I have a lot of friends who are sober now," he said, adding that they are more into health and wellness. "I work out every morn-

Rupee slumps 5pc in 2025, closes at 89.88 as foreign funds exit

Mumbai: The rupee slumped 5 per cent in 2025 as persistent capital outflows from foreign investors, alongside heightened dollar demand from importers, making it one of the worst-performing Asian currencies. On the last trading session of 2025, the rupee depreciated 13 paise to close at 89.88 against the US dollar as month-end demand and FPIs' dollar buying kept it lower. The domestic currency has exhibited a negative bias throughout the year, making it Asia's worst-performing currency in 2025, with foreign portfolio investors pulling out USD 16.5 billion from equities this year, further denting investor sentiments, forex traders said. At the inter-bank foreign exchange, the local unit opened at 89.89 against the dollar and touched an intra-day low of 89.95 and a high of 89.84 against the American currency. At the end of Wednesday's trading session, the rupee was quoted at 89.88 against the greenback, registering a fall of 13 paise over its previous close. On Tuesday, the rupee rose 23 paise to close at 89.75 against the greenback. On a year-on-year



basis, the rupee has plunged 4.95 per cent. It was quoted at 85.64 on December 31, 2024. Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities, said, "The rupee resumed its downward trajectory following Tuesday's pause, weighed down by a rebounding US dollar against major currencies. For the year 2025, the rupee emerged as the regional laggard, with spot prices whipped by tightening dollar liquidity, surging trade deficit, relatively high US Tariff and capital flows." "Since the Trump Administration took over, the rupee has been the worst performing currency

in the Asian Region, depreciating by more than 5 per cent during 2025, marking its highest depreciation in the last three years," said Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director, Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP. Meanwhile, the Reserve Bank, in its Financial Stability Report (FSR) on Wednesday, said the rupee had depreciated against the US dollar, reflecting falling terms of trade due to the impact of tariffs and a slowdown in capital flows. The report further noted that the Indian economy is likely to maintain strong growth, underpinned by robust

domestic demand, benign inflation, and prudent macroeconomic policies despite an uncertain and challenging global economic backdrop. "The domestic financial system remains robust and resilient, bolstered by strong balance sheets, easy financial conditions, and low financial market volatility. Nonetheless, there are near-term risks from external uncertainties — geopolitical and trade-related," it said. Bhansali further said that "consistent outflows by FPIs and stake sales by investors, demand from defence, oil and gold have all impacted the rupee as it fell to its lowest at 91.08

before reined in to control it and bring it up to current levels". Parmar added, "We anticipate a period of range-bound consolidation for USDINR, anchored between the 89.40 support and 90.26 resistance levels." Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.10 per cent higher at 98.33. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 0.13 per cent higher at USD 61.41 per barrel in futures trade. Forex traders said the USD/INR pair is trading under pressure due to multiple factors, including a shift toward risk aversion, driven by persistent capital withdrawals from foreign investors ahead of the holiday break, alongside heightened greenback demand from importers. On the domestic equity market front, benchmark-sensitive indices ended 2025 on a high, with the Sensex jumping 545.52 points to settle at 85,220.60, while the Nifty surged 190.75 points to 26,129.60. Foreign institutional investors offloaded equities worth Rs 3,597.38 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

Economy growing at robust pace, banking sector remains sound: RBI

Mumbai: The Indian economy is growing at a robust pace, driven by strong domestic demand, low inflation, and the healthy balance sheets of banks, said a Reserve Bank report released on Wednesday. The domestic financial system remains robust and resilient, bolstered by strong balance sheets, easy financial conditions, and low financial market volatility, said the December 2025 edition of the Financial Stability Report (FSR). "Nonetheless, there are near-term risks from external uncertainties — geopolitical and trade-related," said the report, which reflects the collective assessment of the Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) on the resilience of the Indian financial system and risks to financial stability. It further said the health of the scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) remains sound with strong capital and liquidity buffers, improved asset quality and robust profitability. "Macro stress test results affirm the resilience of SCBs to withstand losses under hypothetical adverse scenarios and maintain capital buffers well above the regulatory minimum.



Stress tests also confirm the resilience of mutual funds and clearing corporations," it added. According to the report, the gross non-performing assets ratio of banks will improve further to 1.9 per cent by March 2027 under a baseline scenario. As of September 2025, the key ratio stood at a multi-decade low of 2.1 per cent, the central bank said in its half-yearly Financial Stability Report. "The aggregate GNPA ratio of the 46 banks may improve from 2.1 per cent in September 2025 to 1.9 per cent in March 2027 under the baseline scenario," the report said. The GNPA ratio may rise to 3.2 per cent and 4.2 per cent under adverse scenarios, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said, pointing to results of its stress tests. From a capital buffers per-

spective, the report said, the capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR) remained strong as of September, with state-owned banks at 16 per cent and private sector banks at 18.1 per cent. Banks will be able to withstand adverse economic shocks, the report said, listing out how the capital buffers will be impacted in adverse events. On the economy, the report noted that the real gross domestic product (GDP) growth surprised on the upside in both Q1 2025-26 and Q2 2025-26 at 7.8 per cent and 8.2 per cent, respectively, supported by strong private consumption and public investment. "Growth outlook remains positive, aided by low inflation, easy financial conditions, above normal monsoon, direct and indirect tax reforms.

Centre approves 5-year moratorium on Vodafone Idea's AGR dues

New Delhi: The Union government on Wednesday, December 31, approved a major relief package for Vodafone Idea, freezing its outstanding dues and approving a five-year moratorium on payments, providing a critical lifeline to the debt-laden telecom operator. The Union Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, agreed to freeze AGR dues of Vodafone-Idea Ltd (VIL) at Rs 87,695 crore, which the struggling company has to start paying from 2031-32 fiscal and clear by 2040-41, sources aware of the decision said. AGR dues refer to payments owed by telecom companies to the government based on Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR). It is the revenue on which telecom operators must pay license fees and spectrum usage charges. It is defined to include all revenues, even non-telecom income (like interest, rent, asset sales). Besides these outstanding, the AGR dues for FY2017-18 and FY 2018-19, which were finalised based



Highlights

■ The Union Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, agreed to freeze AGR dues of Vodafone-Idea Ltd (VIL) at Rs 87,695 crore, which the struggling company has to start paying from 2031-32 fiscal and clear by 2040-41, sources aware of the decision said. AGR dues refer to payments owed by telecom companies to the government based on Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR). It is the revenue on which telecom operators must pay license fees and spectrum usage charges.

on the Supreme Court order of September 2020, will now have to be paid over 2025-26 to 2030-31 fiscal without any change, they said. Vodafone Idea has been battling a prolonged financial crisis, driven by intense price competi-

tion, high debt, and massive AGR liabilities that arose from a change in the definition of AGR. The company has struggled with persistent losses, a shrinking subscriber base, and limited ability to invest in network

expansion, even as rivals accelerated 4G and 5G roll-outs. Repeated rounds of government relief and equity conversion of dues have kept the company afloat, but its long-term viability continues to hinge on sustained policy support, fresh capital infusion, and a turnaround in operating performance. Some had expected that the Cabinet would waive a part, if not all, of the AGR dues. But instead, it decided to give a moratorium, which would allow the company to recover. The dues that have been frozen will be reassessed by a committee based on audit reports, sources said, adding the outcome shall be binding on both parties. Sources said the decisions taken by the Cabinet were to protect the interests of the government, which now has a 49 per cent stake in VIL. It will also enable orderly payment of dues to the government, ensure competition in the sector and protect the interests of 20 crore consumers of the company.

E2E Transportation Infrastructure IPO Draws Overwhelming Response, Subscribed 525.25×

December 2025: The public issue of E to E Transportation Infrastructure Limited — the rail engineering and system integration specialist — closed on December 30, 2025, after a highly subscribed bidding period that began on December 26, 2025. The IPO, aggregating ₹84.22 crore, attracted strong participation from all categories of investors, underscoring robust market sentiment toward the company's growth prospects in the railway infrastructure segment. Day 3 Subscription Highlights (as of December 30, 2025 | 4:29:58 PM)

QIB (Ex-Ancor): 236.30x
NII: 871.67x
Retail (Individual Investors): 541.85x
Total: 525.25x
NSE Link: <https://www.nseindia.com/market-data/all-upcoming-issues-ipo>
Chittorgarh Link: <https://www.chittorgarh.com/ipo/e-to-e-transportation-infrastructure-ipo/2720/>
The subscription figures reflect significant interest from non-institutional and retail investors, supported by steady participation from institutional buyers.

About the IPO:
Issue Size: ₹84.22 crore (Fresh issue)
Price Band: ₹164 – ₹174 per share
Lot Size: 800 shares
Bidding Period: December 26 –

■ The public issue of E to E Transportation Infrastructure Limited — the rail engineering and system integration specialist — closed on December 30, 2025, after a highly subscribed bidding period that began on December 26, 2025. The IPO, aggregating Rs. 84.22 crore, attracted strong participation from all categories of investors, underscoring robust market sentiment toward the company's growth prospects in the railway infrastructure segment.

December 30, 2025
Allotment Finalisation: December 31, 2025
Listing Date: January 2, 2026 (on NSE SME)
E to E Transportation Infrastructure Limited plans to use the proceeds primarily for working capital requirements and general corporate purposes.
Company Overview & Business Highlights
Incorporated in 2010, E2E Transportation Infrastructure Limited is an ISO 9001:2015 certified company engaged as a system integrator of Signalling and Telecommunication (S&T) systems for the railway sector. The Company provides end-to-end solutions, includ-

ing design, engineering, procurement, installation, testing, and commissioning, across mainline railways, metro rail projects, and private sidings. As disclosed in the Red Herring Prospectus, the Company has executed projects aligned with Kavach 4.0, India's indigenous automatic train protection system, reflecting its capabilities in safety-critical signalling infrastructure. The Company has also collaborated with Tata Elxsi on select technology-led initiatives, as detailed in the RHP. The promoter group includes Sourajit Mukherjee and Vinay Rao, associated with Ventureast, and Zephyr Mantra, a US-based fund. The Company's shareholding structure also includes Mukul Mahavir Agarwal, Ashwini Agarwal, and Himanshu Modi, among other investors, in accordance with disclosures made in the RHP. The Company has undertaken projects involving CBTC signalling for metro networks, railway electrification, signalling and telecom modernisation, and integrated infrastructure solutions for industrial and logistics clients. As of September 30, 2025, the Company's order book stood at ₹40,110.37 lakh. For the financial year ended March 31, 2025, the Company reported operating revenue of ₹250.80 crore and net profit after tax of ₹14.37 crore, as disclosed in the offer documents.

PNB Secunderabad Circle Opens 69th Branch at Pragathinagar



Punjab national Bank 2 nd largest Bank has opened its 69th Branch in Pragathinagar under Circle Office Secunderabad. Branch Inaugurated by
1. Smt.Vandana Pandey, Zonal Manager, Hyderabad
2. Sh.Sujeet Kumar Jha, Circle Head, Secunderabad
3. Sh.Aravind Kalra, Circle Head, Hyderabad
4. Sh.SureshManduva, Branch Manager, Pragathinagar
And other officials ,union leaders from Hyderabad, and Secunderabad Circlce attended

Big Bullion Theory: Gold, silver retain sparkle in shaky geopolitical sands

New Delhi: Outsmarting all asset classes globally in 2025, gold and silver with massive returns and repeated record-breaking rallies redefined the precious metal market dynamics amid intensifying global political challenges, unstable tariff policies and persistent supply-chain disruptions. Marking one of the strongest performances for bullion in decades, silver prices surged more than 169 per cent during the year, while gold rallied over 76 per cent, reaffirming the role of precious metals as an anchor investment class in an extremely volatile world. In the domestic market, gold touched a lifetime high of Rs 1,42,300 per 10 grams on December 26, while silver scaled a record of Rs 2,41,000 per kg on December 30. Globally, spot gold began the year at around USD 2,657.16 per ounce and rallied to a peak of USD 4,550.11 per ounce on December 26, registering gains of up to 71.24 per cent. Spot silver, meanwhile, started the year at about USD 29.57 per ounce and soared to a peak of USD 83.63 per ounce on December 29, clocking robust returns of 182.82 per cent. The rally was initially triggered by the Fed's policy easing, but it gathered pace as President Donald Trump's return to the White House, with tariff rhetoric,



fuels uncertainty, central banks doubled down on bullion reserves, and supply constraints across metal markets. "Gold and silver surged over the past year on the back of a powerful mix of macro factors, such as structural demand and physical supply tightness, Naveent Damani, Head of Research, Commodities, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd (MOFSL), told PTL. US Federal Reserve's Pivot Marks Inflection Point: The early momentum in bullion's remarkable rally in 2025 came from the US Federal Reserve's (Fed) policy easing, with the central bank delivering three cautious 25-

basis-point rate cuts amid signs of cooling inflation, putting pressure on the US dollar, lending support for the bullion prices. "2025 marked a clear inflection point for the Fed, with three cautious 25-basis-point cuts delivered amid divided voting and visible political pressure. "...with Chair Jerome Powell's term ending in May 2026 and a potentially more dovish successor in the wings. Bullion is likely to react ahead of policy, keeping the bias constructive despite brief corrective phases," Damani said. Silver outshines due to the supply crunch: Silver has emerged

as an all-out performer of 2025, driven by strong industrial demand, amid constrained mine supply, and rising production costs. Silver has been facing shortages for five years due to mine shutdowns and China-led supply constraints, with a sixth straight shortfall likely in 2026 amid rising costs and firm demand. "Silver is entering 2026 with a fundamentally tighter setup than gold. With recent mine shutdowns and fresh supply constraints from China and elsewhere, next year is likely to mark a sixth straight deficit. This is no longer just a demand story; it is a structural supply squeeze," Damani of MOFSL said. Trump's tariff rhetoric fuels uncertainty, lifts safe-haven assets: The demand for safe-haven assets increased after Trump returned to power, a resurgence of trade uncertainties and tariff-related tremors globally. "Supply chains remain fragile, with tariffs and trade re-shoring creating hidden inflation pockets even as growth slows," Damani said, adding that "In this tug of war between inflation and growth, gold benefits as a balance-sheet hedge, while silver sits at the crossroads of industrial demand and physical scarcity, making both metals strategic rather than speculative assets in 2026."

New year celebration seen across the world



Heavy police presence in Sydney for New Year's celebrations after Bondi attack



Thousands of heavily armed police officers are patrolling the streets of Sydney as people mark the new year - a rare and stark sight in Australia, following the Bondi Beach mass shooting. Some officers were authorised to carry high-grade weapons as part of heightened security measures. The attack on 14 December targeted Australia's Jewish community and killed 15 people at a Hanukkah festival. New South Wales (NSW) Police said more than 2,500 officers would be on duty across the city. Official New Year's Eve parties were paused at 23:00 local time (12:00 GMT) for a minute's silence to commemorate the victims of the attack, while the Sydney Harbour Bridge was lit up by a white light to symbolise peace. Pictures from Sydney Harbour - where huge crowds gather every year to watch the city's famous fireworks display - show officers patrolling the crowds with longarm weapons. In the lead up to the event, Premier Chris Minns had warned that some people may find the sight "confronting", with police "carrying firearms and weapons that you haven't seen before".

Mali and Burkina Faso impose travel ban on US citizens in tit-for-tat move



Mali and Burkina Faso say they will bar US citizens from entering their countries in response to a similar move by the Trump administration. The two West African states were recently placed under full entry restrictions under US President Donald Trump's expanded travel ban. In separate statements, they said they would apply the same measures on US nationals. Burkina Faso's foreign affairs minister Karamoko Jean-Marie Traoré said his government was acting on the "principle of reciprocity", while Mali's foreign ministry called for "mutual respect and sovereign equality". The latter said it regretted the US's move, adding that "such an important decision was made without any prior consultation". Mali and Burkina Faso's decision comes days after Niger's state news agency reported that Niger had imposed a similar travel ban on US citizens, though no official statement has been issued by its foreign ministry to confirm this. The three countries are ruled by mil-

itary juntas which seized power in coups. They have formed their own regional bloc, and have pivoted towards Russia after relations with other West African states and Western powers became strained. Earlier this month, the White House said that full-entry restrictions would be imposed on people from the three countries, as well as South Sudan, Syria and Palestinian Authority passport holders. The decision would come into effect on 1 January, and was intended to "protect the security" of the US, it said. The administration also moved Laos and Sierra Leone, which were previously subject to partial restrictions, to the full ban list, and put partial restrictions on 15 other countries, including Nigeria, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. The White House said the restrictions would remain in place until affected countries show "credible improvements" in identity management, information-sharing and cooperation with US immigration authorities.

Jailed HK tycoon's 'teeth rotting and fingernails falling off', daughter tells

The daughter of Jimmy Lai, the pro-democracy tycoon jailed in Hong Kong, has expressed concerns about her father's deteriorating health in prison, saying that his fingernails "sometimes fall off" and his teeth are rotting. Lai, 78, has been detained since December 2020 and faces life in prison. Earlier this month he was convicted of colluding with foreign forces under the city's controversial national security law (NSL). Hong Kong and Chinese authorities have denied that Lai has been mistreated in prison, saying he is in "good health". The BBC has seen a letter written by Lai's family urging UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer to call for Lai's release when he meets Chinese President



Xi Jinping next month. His daughter Claire Lai, who is in exile in London, told the BBC that she fears she "may never see him again". "Of course I worry that my father is going to be a martyr, and I don't want him to be a martyr. But I would not be here today, I would not be speaking out if I didn't think this was his best chance of reuniting with our family." She described her father as an "extremely robust and strong man" when he went to prison.

Russian claims of Ukrainian attack on government sites 'unfounded', EU's top diplomat says

The EU's top diplomat has called Moscow's claims that Ukraine targeted Russian government sites a "deliberate distraction" and an attempt to derail the peace process. Kaja Kallas' comments on social media appear to be a reference to the Kremlin's allegation that Ukraine attempted a drone strike on one of Vladimir Putin's residences. "No one should accept unfounded claims from the aggressor who has indiscriminately targeted Ukraine's infrastructure and civilians," Kallas wrote on social media. Earlier this week Moscow accused Ukraine of targeting Putin's private home on Lake Valdai in north-west Russia. Russia would review its position in the ongoing peace negotiations as a result, the Kremlin said.



Since Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov first shared the claims, Russian state media and politicians have discussed the alleged attack in increasingly incendiary tones. "The attack is a strike on the heart of Russia," said Andrei Kartapolov, head of the Russian parliament's defence committee. "After what [Ukraine] has done, there can be no forgiveness." Although the Kremlin ini-

tially said it saw no point in sharing proof of the alleged attack, on Wednesday the Russian army released what it said was evidence of the attempted strike. It included a map allegedly showing that the drones were launched from the Sumy and Chernihiv regions of Ukraine and a video of a downed drone lying in snowy woodland. The BBC hasn't been able to verify the

footage, and it is not possible to locate where it was taken. The profile of the wrecked UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) bears similarities to Ukrainian-produced Chakluns - but because the components of the drone pictured are inexpensive and widely available online, they cannot be conclusively traced to the Ukrainian military. Russia's defence ministry also released a video of what it said was a local resident who described hearing noises like a rocket at the time of the alleged attack. However, one Russian investigative media outlet said it had spoken to more than a dozen residents of the area around Putin's residence and none had heard anything that could indicate 91 drones had approached or been shot down by air defences.

MACHU PICCHU TRAIN CRASH LEAVES ONE DEAD AND DOZENS INJURED

A train driver has died and at least 40 people have been injured in a head-on rail collision near Peru's most popular tourist attraction, Machu Picchu. Two trains collided on the single track leading to the ancient Inca town on Tuesday, according to a statement from the local government. It said that 20 ambulances had attended the scene and that injured people had been transferred to medical facilities in the nearby city of Cusco. The US embassy in Peru said that US citizens were injured in the crash, while the UK Foreign Office said it was "supporting a number of British nationals involved". Local media outlet Peru21



reports that hundreds of tourists remain at the scene awaiting evacuation, which has been hampered by difficult terrain around the crash site. At least 20 of the injured are in a serious condition, a health official told the Reuters news agency. The collision occurred on

the track linking Ollantaytambo Station and Aguas Calientes, the closest town to Machu Picchu. The journey between the two stations usually takes around 90 minutes. The two trains involved in the accident were operated by PeruRail and Inca Rail respectively.

"We deeply regret what has happened," PeruRail said in a statement, adding that its staff had "immediately" provided first aid to the train driver, the train conductor and the passengers involved in the incident. The cause of the accident has not yet been made clear. The crash comes amid an ongoing dispute between providers of transport to the Unesco world heritage site, with local communities unhappy with what they say is an insufficiently open bidding process. The trains and buses that take tourists to the ancient town have steep ticket prices and can be highly lucrative due to its limited accessibility.

Eurostar services return to normal after major Channel Tunnel disruption



Eurostar and Le Shuttle services between the UK and France have resumed through the Channel Tunnel after major travel disruption on Tuesday. Thousands of passengers faced hours of delays after Eurostar cancelled most of its London to Europe services due to overhead power supply problem and a failed Le Shuttle train which blocked all routes. Repair work took place overnight and rail services through the tunnel in both directions resumed on Wednesday morning. But Eurostar urged passengers to check before travelling as it warned for possible knock-on delays and last-minute cancellations. Most of Eurostar's Wednesday morning services in and out of London St Pancras have departed. Only three - one towards Paris Gare du Nord; another destined for Brussels Midi and the other bound for Amsterdam Centraal - have been cancelled, according to Eurostar's

website. The high-speed rail firm apologised for any inconvenience caused to passengers. Eurostar said: "We plan to run all of our services today, however due to knock on impacts there may still be some delays and possible last-minute cancellations. "Customers are advised to check for live updates on the status of their train on the Eurostar website." Eurostar said one extra London to Paris service will run on Wednesday and that passengers are entitled to "enhanced compensation" which includes 100% refund of their ticket and 150% of their ticket price as an e-voucher. Le Shuttle services from Folkestone are running normally following earlier delays on Wednesday morning. However, there are still delays of an hour at Calais - although down from the earlier reported six hours. The Channel Tunnel accommodates Eurostar services as well as Le Shuttle vehicle-carrying trains between the UK and France.

HUGE CROWDS MOURN BANGLADESH'S FIRST FEMALE PM AT STATE FUNERAL

Hundreds of thousands of people travelled from across Bangladesh to the capital Dhaka on Wednesday to pay their final respects to former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. Zia, who was the country's first female prime minister, died on Tuesday from a prolonged illness. She was 80. The mourners held out their hands in prayer and carried flags printed with her photographs as a motorcade carrying Zia's body - including the hearse wrapped with the national flag - drove on streets near the parliament house. Flags were flown at half-mast and thousands of security officers were deployed. "I have come this far just to say goodbye. I know I won't be able to see

her face, but at least I could see the [vehicle] carrying her for the last rites," Setara Sultana, an activist from Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), told the BBC. Sharmina Siraj, a mother of two, called Zia "an inspiration", noting that stipends introduced by the former leader to improve women's education made a "huge impact" on her daughters. "It is difficult to imagine women in leadership positions anytime soon," she told AFP news agency. India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, the Speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Bhutan's Foreign Minister Lyonpo DN Dhungyel were among those



who attended the funeral. Earlier in the day, Zia's body was taken to the house of her son Tarique Rahman, who was seen reciting the Quran beside his mother's office. The state funeral marks the end of Zia's extraordinary journey, from a homemaker to the first female prime minister of Bangladesh. Zia

was buried next to her husband Ziaur Rahman, who was assassinated in 1981 while serving as president - an incident that thrust Zia into the political limelight. She went on to lead the BNP in the country's first elections in 20 years. She was dubbed an "uncompromising leader"

after refusing to participate in a controversial election under military ruler General Hussain Muhammad Ershad in the 1980s. For several years, along with her bitter political rival Sheikh Hasina, she fought for democracy and against military dictatorship, enduring arrests. There was talk among Bangladesh's rulers at the time to keep the two "battling begums" - Zia and Hasina - out of politics in what was then known as the "minus two formula". But Zia eventually became prime minister, first in 1991 then again in 2001. During the time of the military-backed caretaker government in 2007, she was kept

under detention. In the last 16 years, under Hasina's Awami League government, Zia emerged as the most prominent symbol of resistance to Hasina's rule which many saw as increasingly autocratic. Zia's resilience drew admiration from her supporters, who say that despite various personal and political setbacks, years in opposition and convictions under Hasina's government, Zia never gave up, refused to compromise on her principles and stood her ground. The fact that hundreds of thousands of people, including those who didn't vote for her party, turned up for the funeral would be seen as a reflection of her popularity among the masses.

Not Rehman Dakait, Pakistan Star Called 'Chacha Dakait' After Celebrating Win With Dhurandhar's FA9LA Dance

Akshaye Khanna's dance steps on the track 'FA9LA' from the movie Dhurandhar have slowly reached iconic status. From Instagram Reels to YouTube Shorts, the song has become a viral pop-culture favourite. FA9LA is originally a Bahraini hip-hop song written and performed by Flipperachi and Daffy, with DJ Outlaw composing the music. The song already existed before the makers of Dhurandhar discovered it. Now, Pakistani cricketer Iftikhar Ahmed, whose nickname is Chacha, danced to the track after Khan Research Laboratories (KRL) clinched the President's Cup Grade-I.

In the movie Dhurandhar, the character of Rehman Dakait, played by Akshaye Khanna, dances to the track. After the dance, Iftikhar is now being called 'Chacha Dakait'. Rehman Dakait, born Abdul Rehman in 1976, grew up in Lyari, one of



Karachi's oldest and poorest neighbourhoods-an area long synonymous with crime, gang wars, and a deep-rooted crime-police nexus. According to a report, he was the son of Dad Mohammad and his second wife, Khadija. His family was already entrenched in the

underworld. Rehman Dakait's descent into crime began shockingly early. At just 13, he stabbed and injured a man who stopped him from bursting crackers in Lyari. Two years later, he escalated from violence to murder, killing two rival drug peddlers after a dispute.

The most disturbing chapter of his life unfolded in 1995. Months after escaping police custody, Rehman shot dead his own mother, Khadija, inside their home. He told the police that he killed her because "she became a police informant." However, it is widely

believed that he suspected her of having a relationship with a rival gang member-a detail that Dhurandhar does not shy away from depicting. In 1995, Rehman was arrested for possession of weapons and drugs. He spent around two and a half years in jail before pulling off a dramatic escape while being transported from Karachi jail to court. He fled to Balochistan, where he began rebuilding his criminal empire with renewed ferocity. By the early 2000s, Rehman Dakait had emerged as one of Lyari's most powerful ganglords.

By 2006, he had amassed immense wealth, properties, and political influence. He married three times and fathered 13 children. Reports also claimed that he owned property not just in Karachi and Balochistan, but even in Iran. Rehman Dakait's reign continued until 2009, when the Lyari Task Force tracked him using phone data.

Rishabh Pant Sent Blunt Message After T20 World Cup Snub: "Is He A Top 3 Batter?"

Rishabh Pant was not included in India's T20 World Cup 2026 squad and media reports claimed that he will not included in the ODI series squad as well. It has been a tough period for the wicket-keeper batter who had his struggles with injury and has seen KL Rahul emerge as the top-choice wicket-keeper in ODIs. On the other hand, Dhruv Jurel and Ishan Kishan have also made their intentions clear with brilliant performances in domestic cricket. Former India cricketer Deep Dasgupta believes that Pant needs to understand his role in T20 cricket and even wondered whether he sees himself as a top-order hitter, a middle-order option, or a finisher in the format. "In T20 cricket, is he a top-three batter? Or is he a middle-order batter or is he a finisher? What's he? He needs to answer these questions," Dasgupta told India Today. "As far as I am concerned, he



is a top-three batter in T20I cricket. In ODIs, he is a good No.4 or No.5," he added. Dasgupta added that Pant needs to concentrate on his batting and keep scoring runs in the ongoing Vijay Hazare Trophy in order to make his case for a return to the national team. "I think he just needs to bat, and bat. He got a excellent 70-odd for Delhi. He just needs to keep scoring runs, playing white-ball cricket wherever he gets the opportunity - domestic or otherwise - and learn his trade, learn what suits him," he added. Rishabh Pant is

likely to be left out of the squad for the upcoming ODI series against New Zealand, according to a report by India Today. The report claimed that sources close to the selection committee have confirmed that the team management may opt for a different direction while choosing the squad for the three-match series. Pant's exclusion could pave the way for Ishan Kishan's return to the ODI setup after the Jharkhand cricketer impressed with stellar performances in domestic cricket.

Sara Tendulkar, Daughter Of Sachin Tendulkar, Targetted Over Video With Friends In Goa. Gets Support

Sara Tendulkar, who is an entrepreneur and the daughter of cricket great Sachin Tendulkar, is facing intense trolling on social media. The reason: a video of her with friends on the streets of Goa. While it cannot be confirmed when the video was shot, some social media users claimed it was filmed close to New Year's Eve. In the video, Sara can be seen strolling on the road along with her friends. Some social media users, however, made unsavoury comments as she was holding a bottle, which they claimed was a beer bottle. Some social media users even namedropped Sachin Tendulkar in their comments. Sara, however, received support from a section of social media too. "What kind of



brain-dead mentality is this? How is Sara having a beer equivalent to Tendulkar promoting alcohol? And can't a daughter have a drink?" wrote one user. "There is nothing worth trolling here," wrote another user. In August, Sara revealed the reason behind not pursuing a career in cricket. Sara's brother, Arjun, is also a

cricketer and plays at the domestic level for Goa as an all-rounder. However, Sara said that while she has countless favourite memories of her father's iconic knocks, the 27-year-old never thought about following in his footsteps. "Never. It's been my brother's forte. I have played gully cricket, but never thought about it,"

Sara told India Today in an interview. On the professional front, Sara officially stepped into India's wellness landscape with the launch of Pilates Academy X Sara Tendulkar in Andheri, Mumbai. The studio, which opened its doors to the public on August 21, 2025, is the fourth branch of the popular Dubai-based Pilates Academy franchise. In an exclusive interview with NDTV, Sara Tendulkar shared: "Pilates has played a huge role in my fitness journey. My background in clinical nutrition and public health makes me view wellness as much more than just workouts or diets. It's about balance - the kind that lets you care for your health while still enjoying the little things you love.

New Zealand Star Glenn Phillips Turns To Left-Handed Batting Mid-Match, Result Stuns All

A video of New Zealand wicketkeeper-batter Glenn Phillips from a Super Smash 2025-26 match is going viral on social media. Right-handed batter Phillips, who represents Otago in the tournament, turned left-handed mid-match against Central Districts spinner Jayden Lennox during the action on December 30. The left-arm orthodox Lennox tried to go with a fuller ball away from Phillips. He bowled it around the tramline, but the batter still smashed it away for a six over extra cover, surprising the fans as well as the commentators. Phillips ended up



scoring an unbeaten 90 off 48 balls, with the help of seven fours and four sixes. His innings had a strike rate of 187.50. He eventually earned the Player of the Match award as Otago won the game by 41 runs. Reacting to the switch in his batting stance,

Phillips told TVNZ, "I have done it for a little while in the nets, but never quite brought it out. Obviously it is a little bit of an interesting thing, the switch-around in a game of professional cricket... the other day I was stroking it better in the nets when I was left-

handed than when I was right-handed. "So it sort of made sense to at least try and bring it out when there was nothing left to lose." In the Indian Premier League (IPL), Phillips is part of the Gujarat Titans squad. He played three matches for Rajasthan Royals in 2021, which happened to be his first season in the tournament. Two years later, Phillips represented Sunrisers Hyderabad in five matches. The player was then picked by GT for Rs 2 crore ahead of IPL 2025, and got retained by the franchise for the upcoming season.

Sarfaraz Khan Slams 157 Off 75 Balls In Vijay Hazare Trophy, Sends Big Message To BCCI Selectors



Vijay Hazare Trophy 2025: Sarfaraz Khan sent a stark reminder to the selectors ahead of the New Zealand ODI series, slamming 157 off just 75 deliveries during Mumbai's Vijay Hazare Trophy encounter against Goa on Wednesday. The 28-year-old was in blistering form, clearing the ropes 14 times and hitting 9 fours during his stay at the crease. After Goa opted to bowl first, Vasuki Koushik gave them an early breakthrough by dismissing Angkrish Raghuvanshi. However, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Musheer Khan steadied the ship before Sarfaraz dismantled the opposition with his explosive hitting. Having enjoyed a sensational run in domestic cricket, this knock came at the perfect time to stake his claim for the ODI series against New Zealand, which begins on January 11. In their last match, Shardul Thakur ticked all the boxes, right from winning the toss to blowing the Chattisgarh top order with a match win-

ning four-wicket burst, as Mumbai cruised to nine wicket victory to complete a group stage hat trick in the Vijay Hazare Trophy on Monday. At the Jaipuria Vidyalaya ground, Shardul won the toss and used the early morning nip to good effect to reduce Chattisgarh to 10 for 4 inside first five overs. Chattisgarh never recovered from the blow and were skittled out for 142 in 38.1 overs. While Shardul wreaked havoc in first half an hour, it was left-arm spinner Shams Mulani (5/31) who demolished the latter half of the Chattisgarh batting by bowling quick and stump-to-stump line. The last six wickets tumbled for 27 runs. The chase was a cakewalk as Angkrish Raghuvanshi (68 no off 66 balls) along with veteran Siddhesh Lad (48 no off 42 balls) added 102 runs for the unbroken second wicket to wrap it off in just 24 overs. Mumbai with 12 points consolidated their position on top of group C.

England Will Win Ashes In Four Years In Australia With This Bowler Being The 'Player Of The Series'

Former England cricketer Phil Tufnell has made a bold prediction about pacer Josh Tongue and the England Test team ahead of the fifth and final Ashes Test, set to get underway on January 4. Appearing on the Stick to Cricket podcast, the former England cricketer said that England will win the Ashes the next time they tour Australia, which is expected to take place in 2028-29. He also noted that pacer Josh Tongue will be the man of the series in the Australia vs England series. "Four years' time, Josh Tongue, man of the series, England winning the Ashes. Four years. Write that down," Tufnell said on the podcast.



Tufnell's comments come after Josh Tongue produced a man-of-the-match performance in the recently concluded Australia vs England Boxing Day Test of the ongoing Ashes series, helping the Three

Lions win their first match on the tour Down Under. Coming into the match 3-0, the Ben Stokes-led England defeated Australia by four wickets at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) to rule out the

possibility of a clean sweep. Josh Tongue claimed a five-wicket haul in the first innings of the Boxing Day Test and followed it up with a two-wicket haul in the second innings, taking seven wickets in the match. He became the first England bowler to be named Player of the Match in an Ashes Test in Australia since Dean Headley in 1998. Tongue also earned a surprise call-up, as the Three Lions have included him in their T20 World Cup 2026 squad despite him never having played a limited-overs match for England. Along with the T20 World Cup squad, Tongue has also been included in Sri Lanka's tour squad.

Uganda Forced To Use 3 Goalkeepers During AFCON Match. This Is The Reason

The Africa Cup of Nations match between Uganda and Nigeria saw a bizarre incident as Uganda ended up using three different goalkeepers in the same game. With Uganda trailing in the second half, their 40-year-old first-choice goalkeeper Denis Onyango was forced to leave the pitch after suffering an ankle injury. He was replaced by Salim Jamal Magoola, but just 11 minutes later he was sent off for handling the ball outside the penalty area in an attempt to stop a shot from Victor Osimhen. As a result, Uganda had to introduce their third-choice goalkeeper, Nafian Alionzi. He played the remainder of the match, but Nigeria went on to win 3-1. Meanwhile, Senegal and Congo served notice of their intent with convincing wins at the



Africa Cup of Nations on Tuesday, when Tanzania and Tunisia grabbed the last places in the knockout stage. Senegal, the 2021 champion, survived Kalidou Koulibaly's sending off on his 100th appearance for the team by routing Benin 3-0 in Group D in Tangier. Congo finished second in the group on goal difference with a 3-0 win

over already eliminated Botswana in Rabat. Senegal, Congo and Benin were already assured of their places in the last 16. But Tanzania and Tunisia were not. They progressed from Group C by playing out a 1-1 draw that eliminated Angola. Feisal Salum's goal for Tanzania, which canceled out Ismael Gharbi's penalty, sent the

Taifa Stars to the last 16 as one of the six groups' best third-place finishers. Angola, which finished third in Group B, had been hoping for a favor from Tunisia to beat Tanzania and another from Nigeria, which complied by defeating Uganda 3-1. But Tanzania's goal proved the difference. Both Tanzania and Angola finished with two points and a goal difference of minus 1. Salum's goal meant the Taifa Stars had scored more in the group stage (Tanzania's three goals vs. Angola's two), meaning they go through to the next round. "I hope this will be a reminder to these players and the next generation of players on the potential of Tanzanian football," Taifa Stars coach Miguel Gamondi said.

ANDERSON BEATS VAN GERWEN TO REACH QUARTER-FINALS



Scotland's Gary Anderson got the better of long-standing rival Michael van Gerwen to reach the PDC World Championship quarter-finals. Having been part of the sport's elite for more than a decade, the pair's fourth-round tie was much anticipated and both players averaged more than 99 overall. Anderson, who lifted back-to-back world titles in 2015 and 2016, won the first two sets against 36-year-old Dutchman Van Gerwen - himself a three-time former champion and the third seed at this year's event. Although last year's runner-up pulled a set back, 55-year-old Anderson recovered to seal a 4-1 success and move into the last eight of the World Championship for the first time in four years. He will next face popular English debutant Justin Hood, who produced a finishing masterclass to eliminate 11th seed Josh Rock 4-0 during

the afternoon session. Meanwhile, world number two Luke Humphries and Dutch 10th seed Gian van Veen set up a blockbuster quarter-final on Thursday by winning their respective last-16 matches by a 4-1 scoreline. Unseeded Dutchman Kevin Doets averaged more than 111 to win the first set against England's Humphries, but was unable to maintain his exceptional start. The 2024 champion won 12 of the next 14 legs as he coasted to a comfortable victory with an overall average of 103.07. Humphries told Sky Sports: "I've felt like I've played well but I feel like that there's another level in me, which is important. If you're going to win this tournament, you have to have another level in you because that won't win you the World Championship. "Gian is a classy player. He's changed a lot, he's worked on his game and now he's a top player.

Anaganaga Oka Raju is a Complete Festival Feast - Naveen Polishetty

Star entertainer Naveen Polishetty, who has earned a special place in the hearts of Telugu audiences with three consecutive blockbusters, is set to entertain once again with his upcoming film Anaganaga Oka Raju for Sankranthi 2026. Produced by Suryadevara Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya under the banners of Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas, the film is presented by Sri Kara Studios. Directed by debutant Maari, the film stars Meenakshi Chaudhary as the female lead with music by Mickey J. Meyer. Set to hit theaters on January 14th as a true festive treat, expectations for the film are sky-high. The team has already grabbed attention with their innovative promotional material. Recently, they hosted a unique event—"Raju Gari Pelli Reception" (Raju's Wedding Reception)—at the Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel in Hyderabad on Tuesday evening. Attended by members of the press, the event was filled with creativity at every turn. Lead pair Naveen Polishetty and Meenakshi Chaudhary energized the crowd by dancing to the songs Bhimavaram Balma and Raju Gari Pelli ro, from the film. Following the performance, they welcomed guests just like a real wedding reception. Appearing on stage as a "newlywed couple," the duo was the center of



attraction. In a fun twist, journalists approached the stage like relatives to bless the couple, handing over "gift covers" and asking questions in return. Naveen Polishetty began his speech with New Year wishes to everyone, "I wish for this New Year 2026 to bring light into everyone's lives. 2024 was a difficult year for me. After three consecutive hits, I

wanted to bring you another amazing film immediately, but an accident kept me away from shooting. It took a lot of time to recover mentally and physically. During that recovery, I sat with our team to write the story for Anaganaga Oka Raju." Later, he explained the timeline of the film, "We started filming this February. Many people mes-

saged me asking, 'Brother, when is the movie coming?' It is because of your love and support that I recovered quickly. I thank each one of you. With your love, we completed this film happily in six months. The output is excellent. When discussing the release, our producers felt Sankranthi would be perfect," shared Naveen. Talking about the film's vibe and his connect with audiences, he further said, "I came from the audiences. It makes me happy that my film is releasing alongside the stars whose movies I used to watch as a fan. I want to thank the audience for bringing me to this level. We are bringing this entertainer for the festival because Sankranthi means entertainment, it has a specific vibe. I, Meenakshi, and the whole team worked with our hearts. We look forward to you watching Anaganaga Oka Raju with your families on Jan 14. I also wish success to Chiranjeevi Garu's Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu and Prabhas Garu's The Raja Saab. This Sankranthi will be a true cinematic feast for Telugu audiences." Talking about the film, Meenakshi Chaudhary said, "This is my third Sankranthi film. I am very happy to be a part of Anaganaga Oka Raju. I am confident you will like it because it is a great family entertainer. I am eagerly waiting for the love you will show this film.

Honest Films Will Always Win: Audience Proves It Again with 'Eesha' – Producer Suresh Babu

Following the blockbuster Success of Little Hearts and Raju Weds Rambai, the successful duo Bunny Vas and Vamsi Nandipati has delivered yet another hit with the horror thriller 'Eesha', produced under the banners Nandipati Entertainments and Bunny Vas Works. Released on December 25 as a Christmas special, Eesha emerged as a Christmas winner, giving the duo a hat-trick of successes. Presented by KL Damodar Prasad and produced by Pothula Hema Venkateswara Rao under the HVR Productions banner, Eesha features Trigun, Hebba Patel, Akhil Raj, Siri Hanumanth, and Prithviraj in key roles. The film was jointly released by Bunny Vas and Vamsi Nandipati and is currently running successfully in theatres. On this occasion, the film unit organized a grand success meet, graced by eminent producer Suresh Babu as the chief guest. Speaking at the event, Suresh Babu congratulated Bunny Vas and Vamsi Nandipati for delivering yet another hit and stated that the audi-



ence has once again proved that honest filmmaking will always be rewarded with success. He emphasized that there is no distinction between small and big films—content is the only deciding factor. He encouraged filmmakers to remain positive, not to be discouraged by rejections, and to trust that everything happens at the right time. Presenter KL Damodar Prasad praised Bunny Vas and Vamsi Nandipati for their consistent success and thanked his friends Suresh Babu and Ashok for

attending the event. He stated that in cinema there is no concept of small or big films—a successful film automatically becomes a big film. He spoke highly of director Srinivas Manne's long journey and dedication, expressing confidence that this success would mark a new phase in his career. Producer Bunny Vas expressed happiness over Damodar Prasad's success with Eesha and appreciated director Srinivas Manne for connecting strongly with the audience.

Grand Trailer & Song Launch of “RK Deeksha” - Panel Members Clarify Their Stand on Film Chamber Elections



The trailer and songs of the upcoming film “RK Deeksha” were launched in a grand and festive manner. The film is being produced under the banners RK Films and Sigdha Creations, with Dr. Pitani Ramakrishna Goud serving as both producer and director, and BS Reddy as the presenter. The film features Kiran in the lead role, with Dhee fame Aqsa Khan and Alekhya Reddy as the female leads. Tulasi, Anusha, Keerthana, Pravallika, and Rohit Sharma play key supporting roles. The music has been composed by Raju Kiran, while Meghana Srinu has worked as the editor. With the release

approaching, the trailer and songs were officially unveiled by prominent guests. The event was attended by producer Chadalavada Srinivasa Rao, Telugu Film Producers Council Secretary Tummala Prasanna Kumar, and several other industry personalities. Speaking at the event, producer-director Dr. Pitani Ramakrishna Goud thanked the chief guest Chadalavada Srinivasa Rao, other dignitaries, and the media for their support. He announced that RK Deeksha is planned for a February release. As a devoted fan of NTR, he said it was an honor to make a film inspired by an iconic title

associated with the legendary actor. He revealed that the film includes a special song dedicated to martyr Murali Naik, who sacrificed his life for the nation. Expressing confidence in his cast, he said audiences would surely support the film and make it a success. Heroine Aqsa Khan greeted everyone and sought the blessings of the audience for the film's success. She expressed happiness over the positive response to the trailer and songs and thanked director Ramakrishna Goud for giving her the opportunity. She shared that the entire cast and technical team worked hard

on the project and mentioned that she also contributed as a choreographer in the film. She requested audiences to encourage her further as both a dancer and an actress. Producer Tummala Rama Satyanarayana wished the entire RK Deeksha team great success and conveyed his best wishes to the unit. Telugu Film Producers Council Secretary Tummala Prasanna Kumar expressed hope that RK Deeksha would achieve good success and be well received by audiences. Mohan Vadlapati said that the trailer and songs are very impressive and wished the

film a grand success. Palli Keshava Rao extended his best wishes to director Ramakrishna Goud and hoped the film would turn out to be a successful venture. Padmini stated that dedicating a song to martyr Murali Naik is a proud moment and wished heroine Aqsa Khan all the best, expressing confidence that the film would become a big hit. Ajay praised the film's title and song lyrics and wished the film great success and prosperity for the producers. Presenter DS Reddy thanked everyone who attended the event and explained that the film portrays the life of a jawaan.

GRAND LAUNCH OF "SIDHU GAADI LOVE STORY" FIRST LOOK POSTER

"Sidhu Gaadi Love Story," starring Mahan, Shruthi, and Mohana Sidhi in the lead roles, is being produced by Savithramma C under Shiva Brahmendra Creations, presented by Balabrahmachari. The film is directed by Ramesh C, with Venugopala Chari as co-producer. The first look poster was launched today at the Hyderabad Film Chamber. Renowned director VN Aditya attended the event as the Chief Guest and unveiled the poster. Director VN Aditya said: "Savithramma garu has fulfilled her son Ramesh's dream of becoming a director through this film. I met Ramesh in the US—he is someone who carries pure passion for cinema. Even while con-



tinuing his professional career there, he came back to India and completed this film. Just like we made 'Khushi' a hit by showcasing Sidhu-Siddharth Roy's love story, I hope the audience will also make 'Sidhu Gaadi Love Story' a success. Mahan, Shruthi, and Mohana Sidhi have already

worked in a few films, and I hope this one earns them great appreciation. Samba Shiva Rao, the executive producer, is also a good friend of mine. The songs in the film are excellent. I wish the entire team a grand success." Hero Mahan said: "Our film 'Sidhu Gaadi Love Story' has

beautiful songs and action sequences. Along with a love story, the film also carries a meaningful message. Shruthi will appeal more to the class audience while Mohana Sidhi will connect well with the mass crowd. I'm confident everyone will love my character." Heroine Mohana Sidhi said: "Opportunities are comparatively limited for Telugu girls. I am thankful to director Ramesh garu for giving me this role. I have a solo song in the film based on nature. I'm sure this movie will give me a remarkable identity as a heroine." Heroine Shruthi said: "We thank VN Aditya garu for launching our first look poster.

Meher Ramesh Wishes Marathi Audience in Hyderabad to Watch and Make ‘Magic’ Movie a Hit

'Magic' is a Marathi film produced by Raju Satyam under the banner of TwoThree Ventures. The movie stars Jitendra Joshi and is directed by Ravindra Vijay Karmarkar. This film is set to be released on January 1st. On this occasion, the film unit met with the media. The event was graced by the President of the Maharashtra Mandal, Geeta, MLC Arun Kumar, and director Meher Ramesh, who attended as chief guests. Subsequently, during the media interaction: Meher Ramesh said... "Raju Satyam is a very good friend of mine. Raju acted in my film 'Veera Kannadiga' which I did with the late Puneeth Rajkumar Garu. Since then, our friendship has continued. He has now produced



the movie 'Magic'. I saw the trailer. I found it very gripping. Raju acted in Puri Garu's films. Now he has become a passionate producer. All of Bollywood has come forward to support this

film. The Marathi audience in Hyderabad also have screens. I urge everyone here to watch the 'Magic' movie and make it a success." Geeta, President of the Maharashtra Mandal, said...

"You must have understood what 'Magic' is going to be like by watching the teaser and trailer. Raju Satyam Garu took a great step forward by producing this movie in Marathi. I wish for this film to come with Telugu subtitles. You would have never seen a film like this." MLC Arun Kumar said... "All the best to the producer of 'Magic,' Raju Satyam. The Marathi industry holds a special place in Indian cinema. Wonderful artists have emerged from there. The film 'Magic' is coming directly from such an industry. Even before its release, it has already won 9 international awards worldwide. The entire Hindi industry genuinely rallied together for this movie. It is a good film.

2026

Happy New Year

మీకు, మీ కుటుంబసభ్యులకు నూతన సంవత్సర శుభాకాంక్షలు

డా॥ విజ్ఞేష్ వేణ్మల
జిల్లా సర్వేమాధికారి
ఖమ్మం జిల్లా & జిల్లా మహిళా ప్రాంగణాధికారి
ఉమ్మడి ఖమ్మం జిల్లా

నూతన సంవత్సర మరెయ్య సంక్రాంతి శుభాకాంక్షలు... ఈ శుభ సందర్భంగా యావత్ ప్రజలు... సుఖ సంతోషాలతో వర్షిల్లాలని ఆకాంక్షిస్తూ...

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026

డాక్టర్ శీలం పాపారావు
భారతీయ జనతా పార్టీ రాష్ట్ర అధ్యక్షులు

నూతన సంవత్సర శుభాకాంక్షలు 2026

డా॥ ప్రభాకర్ విజయ కుమార్
MBBS, MD, General Medicine (APMC) (M. Ch. Cardiology, JMMC)
Consultant Interventional Cardiologist
గుంటూరు సంచార ఆస్పత్రి, నెల్లూరు

డా॥ ప్రభుద్ దనుమాల
M.B.B.S., M.S., M.C. (Neuro)
Brain and Spine Surgeon Gold Medalist
స్వాంధీ సర్జన్

డా॥ కేసరిబ్ భరత్ బాబు
MBBS, MD, Gen.
జనరల్ మెడిసిన్

డా॥ డి. బసవయ్య చౌదరి
MBBS (Gold Medalist)
MS (General Surgery) MCh
సర్జికల్ గ్యాంగ్రి

డా॥ రాజ్ కుమార్ చింతపల్లి
MBBS, MS, Ortho (Diploma)
FACS, FICS, Fellowship in
Rheumatology, Transports Injuries,
Key Word: Surgeons, Knees and Shoulder
E.S. Senior Registrar Yashoda Hospital, Hyderabad

డా॥ కృష్ణ ప్రసాద్
MD DM (Nephrology) (NIMS)
నెఫ్రాలజిస్ట్

డా॥ పాటిబండ హేమంత్
MBBS, MS, Gen
Laparoscopic Surgeon
జనరల్ & లాపరోస్కోపిక్ సర్జన్

డా॥ పార్ ప్రదీప్ రాయర్
MS, M.Ch.
(Urology & Renal Transplant) Manipal,
శిర్డి, సంచార ఆస్పత్రి, నెల్లూరు

డా॥ పద్మావతి రిషివత్ కుమార్
MBBS, DA, Anaesthesia
డా॥ పాపిరెడ్డి, MD, Radiologist

నెల్లూరు నగర్, ఖమ్మం. సెల్ : 9000432663

Happy New Year 2026

www.kurapathospital.com

When it's about YOUR HEALTH CARE YOU DESERVE THE BEST

EXPERIENCED DOCTORS & SPECIALISTS
ETHICAL HEALTHCARE
AFFORDABLE SURGERIES & TREATMENT

OUR DEPARTMENTS
General Physician
Paediatrics
Paediatric Surgery
Gen. & Laparoscopic Surgery
Neonatology
Endocrinology

OUR SERVICES
In-House Pharmacy
Emergency & Critical Care
Ambulance Facility
Personalised Care
Lab Testing
24/7 Vaccination Centre

Dr. Pradeep Kumar Kurapati
MBBS, MD (Paediatrics)