



28-01-2026
Total pilgrims: 72,637
Tours: 24,739
Hundi Kanakulu: 4,510
Waiting Compartments: 15

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam
(with our SSD Tokens): 8 H



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'Symbol of women's power': Leaders across party lines hail FM Sitharaman for 9th consecutive budget



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STRIKES IRAN?

SPORTS | NEWS

Why Are India
Struggling In Tests?
Rahul Dravid Gives Blunt
Reply: "Not Easy"



INBRIFS

PM Modi meets Deve Gowda, praises his insights on key issues



Bengaluru (TSIT): In an important development, former Prime Minister and Janata Dal (Secular) national president H.D. Deve Gowda met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday and held a discussion. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, taking it to social media X, stated, 'Had an excellent meeting with Shri H.D. Deve Gowda Ji. His insights on key issues are noteworthy. Equally admirable is his passion for India's development.' The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has also made a post in the Kannada language in this regard. The development has become a topic of discussion in the state's political corridors. The development has also assumed significance with Deve Gowda and his son, Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, organising a massive rally in their native Hassan and giving a call for the people of the state to overthrow the Congress-led government in the next Assembly election.

235 lakh demat accounts added in FY26 till December

New Delhi (TSIT): India's capital markets are witnessing a strong surge in retail investor participation, with 235 lakh new demat accounts added during FY26 up to December 2025, according to the Economic Survey 2025-26 tabled in Parliament on Thursday. The milestone reflects growing financial awareness and confidence among households, even as global trade uncertainties and geopolitical tensions continue to impact markets worldwide. The Economic Survey noted that despite volatile foreign investment flows, India's equity markets showed measured yet resilient performance during April to December 2025. The Nifty rose by around 11.1 per cent, while the Sensex gained nearly 10.1 per cent in the same period, supported by strong domestic investor participation, improving corporate earnings and supportive policy measures such as tax relief, easing inflation and accommodative monetary policy. A major highlight of the year was the crossing of 12 crore unique demat investors in September 2025, with nearly one-fourth of them being women.

SC stays UGC regulation pertaining to definition of caste discrimination



A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi issued notices to the Centre and the UGC on the pleas challenging the regulation.

NEW DELHI (TSIT): The Supreme Court on Thursday stayed a recent University Grants Commission (UGC) regulation after various pleas were filed contending that the Commission adopted a non-inclusionary definition of caste-based discrimination and excluded certain categories from institutional protection.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi issued notices to the Centre and the UGC on the pleas challenging the regulation. The new regulations mandating all higher education institutions to form 'equity committees' to look into discrimination complaints and promote equity were notified on January 13.

The University Grants Commission (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2026, mandated that these committees must include members of the Other Backward Classes (OBC), the

Scheduled Castes (SC), the Scheduled Tribes (ST), persons with disabilities, and women.

The new regulations replaces the UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2012, which was largely advisory in nature. The pleas assailed the regulation on the grounds that caste-based discrimination is defined strictly as discrimination against members of the SCs, STs and OBCs.

It said that by limiting the scope of 'caste-based discrimination' only to SC, ST and OBC categories, the UGC has effectively denied institutional protection and grievance redressal to individuals belonging to the 'general' or non-reserved categories who may also face harassment or bias based on their caste identity.

Protests were held at various places against the regulations, with student groups and organisations demanding its immediate rollback.

FM Nirmala tables Economic Survey 2026 in Parliament



New Delhi (TSIT): Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday tabled the Economic Survey 2026 in Parliament, which will set the official tone on how the economy of the country is performing on a strong note despite global uncertainties and US tariffs. The Economic Survey will reveal India's projected GDP growth estimates for the current fiscal (FY26) as well as the upcoming financial year (FY27).

The key pre-budget document summarises the annual economic development of India and charts out short and medium-term prospects of the economy. Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran will later explain the key findings of policy reforms as stated in the Economic Survey 2026, including key topics like rupee depreciation, geopolitical volatility and more.

Meanwhile, Sitharaman is the first woman to present Union Budget for the ninth consecutive time, making history in the Parliamentary history of the country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said.

Clean air key to true development, says Bhatti



Hyderabad (TSIT) Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu said that true development is possible only with clean air and highlighted Telangana's scientific, target-driven approach to improve air quality across the State. He was speaking at a conference on Air Quality Index (AQI) and Air Quality Management, organised by the State Planning Department at the Marri Channa Reddy Human Resource Development Institute (MCRHRD).

Under Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's leadership, the government is committed to ensuring a clean and healthy environment for the people, he said. Emphasising that development without environmental protection leads to long-term harm, Bhatti Vikramarka described air quality as a key public health, productivity, and economic indicator, citing studies that rank air pollution as the second leading cause of death globally.

The Deputy CM announced that Telangana has established 40 new air quality monitoring stations, doubling the network for accurate, real-time data. Air Quality Dashboards accessible to the public will be launched soon. He added that the State Clean Air Action Plan 2025 is being implemented to tackle pollution from vehicles, construction, industries, road dust, and open burning. Initiatives include promoting electric vehicles, expanding

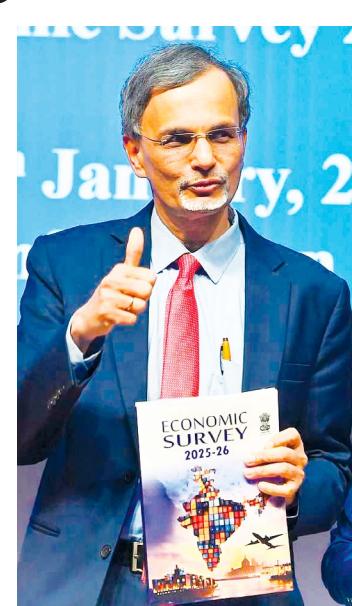
THE DEPUTY CM ANNOUNCED THAT TELANGANA HAS ESTABLISHED 40 NEW AIR QUALITY MONITORING STATIONS, DOUBLING THE NETWORK FOR ACCURATE, REAL-TIME DATA. AIR QUALITY DASHBOARDS ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC WILL BE LAUNCHED SOON.

public transport, developing charging infrastructure, and introducing vehicle scrapping facilities. On industrial pollution, continuous emission monitoring systems have been linked to Pollution Control Board servers, while cleaner fuels and stricter enforcement

are encouraged. Under the Renewable Energy Policy-2025, Telangana aims to achieve 20,000 MW of renewable energy capacity by 2030.

The Deputy CM also raised concerns over industries operating in residential areas, including Jeedimetla, and announced plans for industrial restructuring, zoning reforms, and better land-use planning. Special response teams will be piloted in two GHMC zones to handle pollution complaints efficiently, with plans to expand statewide. Urging public participation, Bhatti Vikramarka called on citizens, industries, and civil society to adopt eco-friendly practices, emphasising that protecting the environment is a moral duty for future generations.

India to grow 6.8-7.2 % in FY27, 'Swadeshi' growth to be emphasised



New Delhi (TSIT): The Economic Survey, tabled in Parliament on Thursday, projected India's GDP growth at 6.8-7.2% for 2026-27, following an estimated 7.4% growth in the current fiscal year. The survey, prepared under Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran, noted that policy reforms over recent years have strengthened India's medium-term growth potential to around 7%, with domestic demand emerging as the main driver of expansion.

The report described India as an "oasis of macro stability" in a turbulent global economy. While the outlook is broadly positive, it cautioned that slower global growth, trade wars, and tariff disruptions could weigh on exports and investor sentiment. The survey stressed that initiatives like Make in India serve

CM Stalin announces 20% subsidy for textile machinery



COIMBATORE (TSIT): The Chief Minister MK Stalin on Thursday announced a 20 per cent capital subsidy on the purchase of advanced weaving and knitting machinery for textile units.

The Chief Minister, in his address through a video message at the International Textile Summit- 360 in Coimbatore, said the textile firms purchasing state-of-the-art weaving and knitting machinery would be eligible for a 20 per cent capital subsidy with an annual budget allocation of Rs 30 crore under the newly integrated textile policy 2025-26.

"While ensuring inclusive growth and social justice under the Dravidian model of

governance, the State has retained its position as the country's largest exporter of ready-made garments for five consecutive years, accounting for 33 per cent of India's total textile trade, providing direct employment to 31 lakh workers, of whom 60.12 per cent are women," he said, highlighting the State's robust infrastructure and investor friendly ecosystem.

KCR summoned for questioning in phone-tapping case

Hyderabad, Jan 29: In a significant development in the phone tapping case in Telangana, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) has summoned Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) President and former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao. The SIT has issued notice to K. Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR).



directing him to make himself available for questioning at 3 p.m. on Friday (January 30). The SIT officials served the notice to KCR's resident at Nandinagar in Banjara Hills on Thursday.

Considering KCR's age, Investigation Officer P. Venkatagiri has communicated to that he may voluntarily appear before him at the Jubilee Hills Police Station or alternatively may specify any other place within Hyderabad city convenient for examination. The notice, issued under Section 160 of the Criminal Procedure Code, mentioned that during the course of investigation, it has been revealed that he is acquainted with facts and circumstances relevant to the case and hence his examination is necessary.

Sammakka-Sarakka Jatara Is a Tribal Maha Kumbh Union Minister Jual Oram



Man Yojana, and sanctioned 23 Ekalavya Model Residential Schools for Telangana. Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy said the Sammakka-Sarakka Jatara attracts lakhs of devotees from across the country. He thanked the Telangana Government and officials for smooth arrangements and said the Centre and State are jointly undertaking development works, including Rs.80 crore for regional tourism, 140 crore for Ramappa Temple development, and 3.70 crore for this year's Jatara arrangements.

Highlighting tribal welfare initiatives, the Union Minister said the Centre has allocated 1 lakh crore under the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, Rs.24,000 crore under the PM Jan

Baramati (TSIT) The last rites of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, killed in a plane crash, were held with full state honours on Thursday at Baramati in Pune district.

Union ministers Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari, former Union minister Sharad Pawar and BJP president Nitin Nabi attended the 66-year-old Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief's funeral at the Vidyaprashtan ground at Baramati, around 100 km from Pune. Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis and Deputy CM Eknath Shinde were also present, along with Ajit Pawar's wife Sunetra, who is a Rajya Sabha member, and

sons Parth and Jay. Ajit Pawar's cousin Supriya Sule, Lok Sabha member from Baramati, and NCP working president and former Union minister Praful Patel were also present. Parth and Jay lit their father's funeral pyre. On Thursday morning, the mortal remains of Ajit Pawar were taken from the Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Hospital in Baramati, where they were kept overnight, to his village.

Ajit Pawar cremated with full state honours; Amit Shah, Nabin attend funeral



Hyderabad (TSIT): Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Jual Oram on Thursday described the Sammakka-Sarakka Jatara as the largest tribal festival in the country and a 'Tribal Maha Kumbh.'

Union Minister Jual Oram, along with Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy, visited the Medaram temple and offered special prayers to Sammakka-Sarakka, fulfilling their vows. Union Ministers were accorded a traditional welcome at the temple entrance by State Ministers Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Danasaari Anasuya (Seethakka), and Adluri Laxman Kumar, amid tribal drum beats. Special rituals were performed, and offerings were made to the goddesses.

Addressing the media, Jual

Governor Inaugurates 108-Foot National Flag at Mehdipatnam Army Garrison

Hyderabad, January 29: Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma inaugurated a 108-feet-high National Flag at the Mehdipatnam Army Garrison in a ceremony organised by the Indian Army. The event saw senior Army officers, civil dignitaries, veterans, and NCC cadets in attendance, along with a Guard of Honour and the National Anthem.



Addressing the gathering, the Governor paid tribute to the bravery and sacrifices of the Indian Armed Forces, appreciating

ed veterans and Veer Naris, and encouraged NCC cadets to uphold discipline and patriotism. He also thanked Naveen

Jindal, President of the Flag Foundation of India, for sponsoring the high-mast flag.

Maj Gen Rahul Dev Sharma said the installation symbolizes strong civil-military collaboration and reinforces the dignity of the National Flag. Officials including Special Chief Secretary C.V. Anand and DGP B. Shivadhar Reddy were present.

Dr Rekha Criticises Modi, Praised Rahul Gandhi's Political Maturity



Hyderabad, January 29: Telangana Pradesh Mahila Congress Vice President Dr Rekha Boyalapalli condemned Prime Minister Narendra Modi for denying Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi his front row seat during Republic Day celebrations, calling it a violation of constitutional convention and democratic values. She said the BJP's act reflects arrogance and disregard for democratic institutions, while Rahul Gandhi's silent and dignified response demonstrates political maturity and principled leadership.

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on SCRailwaysIndia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C.Railway can be seen on our website : www.scrailwaytenders.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE No. 05 to 06 DRW_W_HYB_26 dt. 28/01/2026

On behalf of the President of India, Divisional Railway Manager/Works, Hyderabad Division, South Central Railway, Secunderabad invites Open Tenders for the following works through e-procurement up to 15.00 hours of 23/02/2026.

Tender No.: 05_DRW_W_HYB_26
Name of the work: Hyderabad Division - ZRTI - Godavari Hostel - Improvements to Distressed columns, Wall plaster, Leaky roof, Doors, Windows & Toilets **Approve Value (₹):** 3,43,82,429 **EMD (₹):** 3,21,900

Tender No.: 06_DRW_W_HYB_26
Name of the work: MUE-SC section : ADEN/NZB sub division : Yard Improvements and upgradation over Indian railways works for SSE/PW/UMRI and SSE/PW/NZB **SECTION Approval Value (₹):** 6,63,28,520 **EMD (₹):** 4,81,700

For further details visit the website www.irps.gov.in

Divisional Railway Manager/ Works/Hyderabad

Tender Notice No: G/E/29/T/
Tender Notice/47/2025-26

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction/Guntakal acting for on and behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Tender No.: GTL-TRD-29-eTN-78-2025-26 Name of work: Modification of OHE arrangement for avoiding live OHE portion on platform in view of safety over GTL division **Approximate Value (₹):** 1,28,02,594/- **EMD (₹):** 2,14,00/-

Tender Closing date & time: 19.02.2026 at 15.00 hrs

Note:

1. Tender Document may be downloaded from www.irps.gov.in by tenderers free of cost.

For Bidding the tender and other details login to <http://www.irps.gov.in>. Corrigendum if any will be issued online only.

Sr.Divisional Electrical Engineer, Traction, Guntakal

No.Dy.CEE-GS-BZA-33-2025-26
Dt: 27.01.2026

Chief Project Manager, Gati Shakti, South Central Railway, Vijayawada invites e-tender on behalf of the President of India for the following works in Open tender / Single packet system of tendering

S.No.: 01 Tender No.: BZA-GSU-Elec-33-2025-26 Dt:23.01.2026 Name of work: BZA Division Provision of power supply arrangements to the development of Freight train Examination facilities for CC Rake maintenance at Blitrangappa (BTTR) **Tender value (₹):** 10,70,646.33 **EMD (₹):** 14,170/- **Completion Period:** 09 months **Cost of Tender form (₹):** Nil **Date of Closing & time:** 19.02.2026 @ 15.00 hrs

1. For bid document and other details, please login to website [https://www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in).

2. Payment of Earnest Money Deposit should be paid only through Net Banking / Payment Gateway facilities made available online in IRPS (OP) Bank Guarantee towards Bid Security may be submitted in favor of F.A & C.O / C.o / S.C. RAILWAY, Secunderabad manually.

3. Tenderers can submit their offers online during tender Submission / Bidding period which is fifteen days period prior to closing of Tender.

4. Tenderers should watch for any corrigenda (issued online only) up to the date of commencement of the Tender Submission / Bidding Period.

Chief Project Manager,

Gati Shakti, Vijayawada

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at [https://www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in) or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

Date: 30th January, 2026

Place: Hyderabad

FOR ADVERTISEMENT PLEASE CONTACT:
9948480279, 7330778889



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

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules, on this **28TH JANUARY, 2026**.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules, on this **28TH JANUARY, 2026**.

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Jagga Reddy Urges Police to Protect Women's Privacy, Backing Anti-Blackmail Measures

Hyderabad, January 29:PCC Working President Jagga Reddy expressed concern over incidents where miscreants exploit women's photographs and personal information for blackmail, causing psychological trauma. He welcomed police measures, such as registering FIRs at victims' residences, and praised CID



officer Charu Sinha's statement as a safeguard for

women and families. Jagga Reddy urged authorities to maintain confidentiality in complaints to protect victims' dignity and warned against publicizing such cases. He appealed to media, officials, and political leaders to respect privacy, noting that laws exist to punish blackmailers and criminal intimidators.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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 Address: 2nd floor, Plot No.141, VDO Colony, Gattaiah Centre, Khamman 507001.

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from ICICI Home Finance Company Limited ("ICICI HFC") and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number & Address)	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Thammalla Saibaba (Borrower), Sahithi Thammalla (Co-Borrower), H No. 10/ 2/ 212 Ramatakesh Area Kothagudem Kothagudem- 507101 Telangana, LHKHA00001616339	All That The Part And Parcel Of Residential House Bearing No. 10-2/212 Site An Extent Of 149.1 Sq.yds Or 124.75 Sq.mts Within S.No. 143, Rcc Building Plinth Area 343.42 Sq.ft Acc Plinth Area 315.52 Sq.ft Situated At Ram Takies Area Kothagudem Municipality Bhadrabadi Kothagudem Dist Ts 507101 Telangana. Bounded By- North: House of Kumar, South By: Municipal Road, East By: House of Radha Rani, West By: House of G. Anjisha.	20-01-2026 Rs. 18,19,807.4/-	8-Jan-2026
2.	Jampala Venkatesh (Borrower), Markapuram Anusha(Co-Borrower), H No. 15 0 5 Nc Circle Near Taruni Restaurant Khamman Khamman- 507001 Telangana, LHKHA00001581263	All That The Part And Parcel Of Residential Open House Site Admeasuring An Extent of 124 Sq.yds Or 103.68 Sq.mts Bearing H. No. 16-6-7/7 Situated At LB Nagar, Golapupuram Revenue Khamman Municipal Corporation Khamman Telangana- 507003. Bounded By- North: By Land of Others, South: By: House of Bheemagani Nirosha, East: By: Open Place Of Jaya Prakash, West: By: Municipal Corporation Road.	20-01-2026 Rs. 18,36,445.52/-	8-Jan-2026

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date: January 30, 2026
Place: Khamman

Authorized Officer
ICICI Home Finance Company Limited

NIWAS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

(Formerly, Niwas Housing Finance Private Limited)



Regd. Office: - Unit No. 305, 3rd Floor, Wing E, Corporate Avenue, Andheri- Ghatkopar Link Road, Chakala, Andheri (East), Mumbai – 400093

Notice under Section 13 (2) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

NHFL has sanctioned home loan/mortgage loan/construction loan to the following borrowers against mortgage of residential premises. The repayment of the said loans were irregular and the accounts are finally classified as Non-Performing Asset in accordance with directions and guidelines of National Housing Bank/RBI.

NHFL has therefore invoked its rights and issued a notice under section 13(2) of the SFAESI ACT, 2002 and called upon the below listed borrowers to repay the total outstanding mentioned below within 60 days from the date of the demand notice. The following borrowers are hereby called upon by this publication to pay the total dues mentioned against them plus further charges & interest accrued till payment within 60 days from the date of the said demand notice, failing which NHFL shall resort to all or any of the legal rights to take possession of the secured assets, dispose/sale it and adjust the proceeds against the outstanding amount.

The borrowers are also restrained from alienating or creating third party interest on the ownership of the properties.

Sr. No	Location/ No. Loan Account Number	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantor	NPA Date	Date & Amount as per Demand Notice
1	BHONGIR / LNBIGLAP-10240048904	PONNALA NARASIMHULU (BORROWER) ARCHANA PONNALA(CO-BORROWER)	07-Jan-2026	16-Jan-2026 & Rs.7,87,246 As on 15-Jan-2026

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY/SECURED ASSET: - ALL THAT THE PIECE AND PARCEL OF BEARING H. NO. 1-76/1, ASSESSMENT NO.105, CONSISTING OF TWO ROOMS AND OPEN PLACE WITH R.C.C. ROOF AREA 250 SFT, IN ALL ADMEASURING AN EXTENT OF 78 SQ. YARDS, OR 65.20 SQ.MTRS., SITUATED AT RALLAJANAGAM H.O. JANGAMPALLY VILLAGE, YADAGIRIGUTTA MANDAL, YADADRI BHUVANAGIRI DISTRICT. & P.RALLAJANAGAM UNDER S.R.O. YADAGIRIGUTTA AND BOUNDED BY: NORTH: HOUSE OF THUMMALA MALLAMA, SOUTH: OPEN PLOT OF PONNALA BAXIPATH & OTHERS EAST: 18' WIDE ROAD, WEST: 10' WIDE ROAD

2	BODUPPAL / LNBODLAP-10240049204	BIKSHAPATHI SALLA (BORROWER) SANTHOSHA SALLA(CO-BORROWER)	07-Jan-2026	16-Jan-2026 & Rs.10,10,513 As on 15-Jan-2026
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DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY/SECURED ASSET: - ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE PROPERTY BEARING SOUTH PART OF THE HOUSE BEARING NO.2-12/1, IN GRAMAKANTAM, ASSESSMENT NO.206, CONSISTING OF TWO ROOMS AND OPEN PLACE, IN ALL ADMEASURING AN AREA 120 SQ. YARDS., OR EQUIVALENT TO 100.32 SQ.METERS., WITH R.C.C. ROOF AREA 296 SFT, SITUATED AT RAMLINGAMPALLY VILLAGE AND GRAMPANCHAYATH, BOMMAL RAMARAM MANDAL, YADADRI BHUVANAGIRI DISTRICT. BOUNDARIES AS FOLLOWS: NORTH: NORTH PART OF THE HOUSE NO.2-12/1 OF DONOR'S. SOUTH: OPEN PLOT OF DONEE. EAST: HOUSE OF SALLAPOCHAIAH. WEST: 30' WIDE ROAD.

Date: 30-01-2026
Place: Telangana

Sd/- Authorized Officer
NIWAS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

IDBI BANK

IDBI Bank Limited, 3rd floor, D. No: 5-9-89/1 and 2, Chapel Road, Hyderabad-500001, Telangana, www.idbibank.in, Email: dv.krishna@idbi.co.in

CIN: L65190MH2004GO148838

NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Appendix – IV-A [See proviso to Rule 8 (6) and Rule 9 (1)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("Act") read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) and Rule 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ("Rules")

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to IDBI Bank Ltd, the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of IDBI Bank Ltd, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on February 17th, 2026 (as per detailed schedule given below), for recovery of amounts due to the IDBI Bank Ltd, Secured Creditor from Borrower/s and Guarantor/s as mentioned herein below along with reserve prices and the Earnest Money Deposits (EMD) of each of the properties.

Important Dates

Date of Sale of Bid document: January 30th, 2026 onwards

Date of Inspection : Every working day during January 30, 2026 to February 12, 2026 during 10.30 am to 5.00 pm with prior request.

Last Date of submission of Bid: February 13, 2026

Opening of Bids : February 16, 2026

Date and time of e-auction : February 17, 2026 from 11.00 am onwards

Name(s) of the Borrower(s): Shri Amar Ganesh and Ms Tankari Annapurna

Names of the Mortgagor(s)/ Guarantor(s): Shri Amar Ganesh S/O Dala Bala Swamy

Amount due : Outstanding dues of Rs. 17,35,434/- as on January 28, 2026 plus charges, expenses and further interest thereon with effect from 29th January 2026 at the contractual rates upon the footing of compound interest.

Property Details

Reserve Price Rs. 22,00,00/- EMD Rs. 22,00,00/-

All that open plot No:288 Middle Part admeasuring 150 Sq Yards or 125.4 Sq Mtrs in Survey No:368,369,382, part & 383 part in VRR Grand Enclave situated at Keesara and bounded by:North: Plot No:288 North part;South: Plot No:288 South part;East: 30' wide road;West: Plot No:294

Location Coordinates | 17.529432 78.663981

Gist of Terms and Conditions: 1. Interested bidders shall submit proof of payment along with KYC documents (photo identity and address proofs) like PAN Card (compulsory), Aadhaar Card, Passport, Voter ID card, Driving License etc. in person to the authorized officer at the address given above. Online submission of auction participation application shall not be entertained and rejected. The bidder shall have to submit the bid along with necessary documents and filling forms in person by visiting the Authorized Officer ('AO') at the address given above. EMD to be remitted to Account No.116934915010206, IFSC Code: IBKL0001169. Branch Name: IDBI Bank Limited, AS Rao Nagar Branch, Hyderabad, by way of RTGS only in favour of IDBI Bank Ltd. The amount of EMD paid by the interested bidders shall carry no interest. The EMD shall be forfeited if the bidder does not participate in the e-auction by placing the bid. AO may retain EMD of top three bidders up to 3 months from the date of opening of the bids.

2. The AO shall not take responsibility for any dues (Statutory or otherwise) outstanding as on date and yet to fall, including dues that may affect transfer of properties in the name of the successful bidder and such dues, if any, shall have to be borne by the successful purchaser. IDBI shall not take any responsibility to provide information on the same. The successful bidder would be required to bear all the necessary expenses like stamp duty, registration, expenses, tax liabilities, if any, etc. for transfer of immovable property.

3. IDBI Bank Ltd and AO do not take responsibility for any errors/omissions/discrepancy/shortfall etc. in the immovable properties or for procuring any permissions etc. or for the dues of any authority established by law. IDBI Bank Ltd and AO shall not be responsible for any error, inaccuracy or omission in this proclamation of sale.

4. AO reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reason(s). In case all the bids are rejected, the AO reserves the right to sell the assets by any of the modes as prescribed in the Act.

5. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in IDBI Bank's website i.e. www.idbibank.in. For any clarification, the interested parties may contact **Shri Venkata Krishna Reddy Devireddy DGM** (Tel: 040 6769 4111, E-mail: dv.krishna@idbi.co.in) and **Shri N.Sreekanth, AGM** (Tel: 901000348). E-mail: n.sreekanth@idbi.co.in.

6. For E-auction support, please contact Miss. B M Sushmitha / Mrs. Poogi M, Land: 080-45982100 Mobile: 8951944383

9686196751, E-mail: sushmitha@antaresystems.com, Website: www.bankaeuctions.com, Antares Systems Ltd., "Honganusa", #1373,Bangalore Mysore Road, Opp: to Metro Pillar P-696, Kengeri, Bangalore-560060.

Statutory Notices as per Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ("the Rules")

The Borrower and Mortgagor Shri Amar Ganesh hereby notified under Rule 9(1) of the Rules that the above mentioned immovable property shall be sold after 15 days from the date of this notice by holding public e-auction. However, the Borrower/Mortgagor(s) /Guarantor(s) may pay outstanding dues of Rs. 17,35,434/- as on January 28, 2026 plus charges, expenses and further interest thereon with effect from January 28,2026 at the contractual rates upon the footing of compound interest and take back the possession of the immovable properties in question. In case Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor(s) fail to pay the outstanding dues as demanded herein within 15 days from the date of this Notice, the Authorized Officer would be at liberty to proceed with the above mentioned public e-auction of the immovable property of the respective Borrower/Mortgagor.

Date: 30th January, 2026
Place: Hyderabad

Sd/- Authorized Officer

Telangana

HYDERABAD
FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2026

3

Vishnu Reddy condoles Demise of Puli Prabhakar's Wife

Warangal: Vishnu Reddy congress Leader son-in-law of Warangal West MLA Naini Rajender Reddy, visited the residence of former TGO Vice President Puli Prabhakar, a resident of NGOs Colony in the 58th Division of Warangal West constituency, on Wednesday morning to offer condolences following the demise of Prabhakar's wife, Puli Mani who passed away on Wednesday .



HINDUJA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

Corporate office at "#167-169", 2nd Floor, Little Mount, Saidapet, Chennai- 600 015.

APPENDIX- IV-A [See provision to rule 8 (6)]

Public Notice For E-Auction Cum Sale (Appendix - IV-A) (Rule 8(6))

Sale of Immovable property mortgaged Hinduja Housing Finance Limited (HHF) having its Corporate Office at 167-169, 2ND Floor, Little Mount, Saidapet, Chennai – 600 015 and Regional Office at - Hinduja Housing Finance Limited- Ashok Bhoopal Chambers, Unit No.101, Municipal No. 1-8-271, to 273 & 1-8-301 to 302, 1st Floor, Sardar Patel Road, Secunderabad – 500 003 under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter "Act"). Whereas the Authorized Officer ("AO") of HHF had taken the possession of the following property/ies under Section 13(4) pursuant to the notice issued U/s 13(2) of the Act in the following loan accounts/prospectus held with a right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS & AS WHAT IS BASIS" for realization of dues. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the website: www.bankaeuctions.com.

SI No	Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Date of Possession	Reserve Price	Date of Inspection of property

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Governor Releases Report on Telangana–North East India Connect Sports Festival



Hyderabad, January 29: Telangana Governor H.E. Shri Jishnu Dev Varma released a special report on the "Telangana–North East India Connect – Sports Festival" at Lok Bhavan, Durbar Hall, Hyderabad. The festival, organised on the Governor's initiative, aimed to strengthen ties between Telangana and North-Eastern states through sports and cultural

al programmes.

The Governor appreciated the efforts of officials and the Sports Authority of Telangana in making the event a success and directed that the report be widely circulated for public access. Officials present included Sports Authority Chairman K. Shivas Reddy, Vice Chairman and MD Dr. A. Soni Bala Devi, and other senior staff.

Devotees rejoiced at the actions of the police to avoid traffic problems



WARANGAL, January 29, TSIT : In the past, during the Medaram

fair, vehicles were stuck on the roads for a long time due to traffic jams. But with the proactive measures taken by the police in the current Medaram fair, the problem of traffic jam has been checked.

Warangal Police Commissioner Sunpreet Singh as the traffic in-charge has appointed police officers to control the traffic on the roads leading to Medaram. The performance of the personnel is being reviewed at the field level and the police is constantly being alerted.

Manakondur MLA Presents Silk Clothes to Matsyagirindra Swamy at Kothagattu



Karimnagar, January 29 (TSIT): Manakondur MLA Dr. Satyanarayana participated as the chief guest in the Swamivari Kalyana Mahotsava held at Sri Matsyagirindra Swamy Devasthanam in Kothagattu village of Sankarapatnam mandal on Thursday.

On the occasion, Zilla Grandhalaya Sansthan Chairman Sattu Mallesham presented silk clothes to Lord Matsyagirindra Swamy and per-

formed special poojas. Temple priests offered auspicious blessings and inscriptions to the dignitaries. Speaking later, Dr. Satyanarayana wished for the people of the constituency to

lead peaceful and healthy lives. He said the state should be prosperous not only in wealth but also in the well-being of its people. He also appreciated the authorities for beautifying the

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar paid Sammakka thalli mokkulu



Karimnagar TSIT: Minister Ponnam Prabhakar visited Sammakka Saralamma Goddess in Jagirupalli in Saidapur Mandal of Husnabad Constituency and offered special pooja to the Goddess and paid prayers.

Same type plants should be planted in the medians



- BALDIA COMMISSIONER CHAHAT BAJPAI
- PARKS DEPARTMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR BEAUTIFYING THE CITY...
- HORTICULTURE OFFICIALS MEETING WITH CONTRACTORS....

WARANGAL : Baldia Commissioner Chahat Bajpai said that same type plants should be planted in the medians in the same rows. Horticulture officials participated in the meeting organized with the contractors in the council hall of Baldia headquarters on Thursday and gave suitable suggestions to conduct it efficiently. On this occasion, the commissioner said that ten-

ders will be invited soon to hand over the responsibilities of plant management in the medians to the contractors. That the beautification of the city depends on the work of the Parks and Forests Department, that there is a need to maintain them well.

that the plants are regularly watered so that they don't die, and weeding in the medians is done regularly. She said that the planting of the same type of plants in the medians will bring beautification as well as a cinematic view that will bring pleasure.

As Kono Corpus plants were recently removed from the medians in Balasamudram area of Hannamkonda, the commissioner advised the officials to immediately take up plantation programme and plant plants in their place. CHO Ramesh, HO L a k s h m a r e d d y , Horticulturist Assistant and others participated in this meeting.

In ORR Hyderabad, the management of medians is good and keeping in mind the upcoming Vana Mahotsava, tenders are being called for the management of nurseries. Keeping the coming summer season in mind, the authorities should see to it

Inspection of ongoing development works on Bhadrakali Bund



WARANGAL, January 29, TSIT : City Mayor Gundu Sudharani inspected the ongoing development works on Bhadrakali Bund along with Bhadrakali Commissioner Chahat Bajpai at the field level and

inquired about the progress of the works from the officials. SE Satyanarayana, EE Madhavi Latha, DE Ragi Srikanth and others participated in this programme.

CBIT Signs MoU with Lloyds Technology Centre to Establish AI & ML Research Lab



Hyderabad: Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT), Hyderabad, has strengthened its Industry-Academia collaboration by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Lloyds Technology Centre for the establishment of a state-of-the-art Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AI & ML) Research Lab. The MoU was formally signed on Wednesday, marking a significant step towards advancing AI-driven education and research at the institute.

Under the collaboration, Lloyds Technology Centre has sanctioned funds for setting up the AI & ML Research Lab with the aim of enhancing students' research capabilities and practical skills in Artificial Intelligence. The lab will focus on addressing real-world industry challenges, with problem statements provided directly by

Indian Rupee Under Pressure: What It Means for India in 2026

Dr. Jithender Rao Thanugula
SENIOR JOURNALIST • PRESIDENT,
TELANGANA YOUTH JOURNALIST
FEDERATION, SENIOR CORRESPONDENT,
THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES

The Indian rupee is once again under pressure, raising concerns about its impact on the economy in 2026. Warnings that the currency may weaken further against the US dollar have sparked renewed debate among policymakers, economists, and the public. While currency fluctuations are a global phenomenon, their consequences are deeply felt at home. The primary reason for the rupee's weakness lies in the global strength of the US dollar. With the US Federal Reserve maintaining tight monetary policies to curb inflation, investors are shifting funds towards safer, dollar-denominated assets. This has resulted in capital outflows from emerging economies, including India. In addition, ongoing geopolitical tensions and global economic uncertainty have increased risk aversion, further pressuring the rupee. India's trade imbalance also contrib-

utes to the problem. Heavy dependence on imported crude oil, defence equipment, and electronic goods widens the trade deficit. Since oil imports are priced in dollars, any increase in global oil prices directly impacts the rupee and fuels domestic inflation. For the common citizen, a weakening rupee translates into higher prices. Fuel costs rise, pushing up transportation and food prices. Imported goods such as medicines, electronic devices, and educational expenses abroad become costlier, reducing household purchasing power. In effect, currency depreciation acts as an invisible burden on ordinary people.

However, a weaker rupee is not without advantages. Export-oriented sectors such as IT services, pharmaceuticals, textiles, and manufacturing benefit as Indian goods become more competitive in global markets. Export earnings increase in rupee terms, offering some relief to businesses. Yet, these benefits are limited if global demand remains sluggish. For the Reserve Bank of India, managing the rupee involves a careful balance.

Excessive intervention can drain for-

ign exchange reserves, while limited action risks market volatility. Although India's forex reserves remain strong, they are not a permanent solution. The need of the hour is structural reform. Strengthening domestic manufacturing, attracting stable long-term foreign investment, and diversifying export markets are essential to reduce vulnerability. Fiscal discipline and improved energy security, especially through renewable sources, can also help stabilise the currency in the long run. The rupee's performance in 2026 will serve as a test of India's economic resilience. While global factors are beyond control, sound domestic policies can cushion their impact. A stable rupee is more than a financial indicator—it reflects confidence in the nation's economic direction.

As India moves towards becoming a major global economy, protecting currency stability must remain a strategic priority. The challenge is not merely to manage volatility, but to build a stronger, more self-reliant economic foundation capable of withstanding global uncertainty.

Media Centre to Monitor Municipal Poll Campaigns



Khammam (TSIT): As part of efforts to ensure free, fair and transparent conduct of municipal elections, the district administration has strengthened monitoring mechanisms. In this connection, Collector and District Election Officer Anudeep Durishetty on Thursday inaugurated the Municipal Elections Media Centre at the District Public Relations Office.

The Collector said the media centre has been set up as part of the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct. Advertisements released by contestants in print media and campaign activities on social media platforms will be closely monitored through the centre, he said. He also instructed officials to ensure that election-related information is shared with the

media on a regular basis. Collector further stated that a District Media Certification and Media Monitoring Committee has been constituted to keep a check on expenditure incurred on print media advertisements and to grant permissions for campaign content in electronic media. District Public Relations Officer M.A. Ghouse, committee members Muralikrishna and Ramesh, typist K. Pravalika, computer operators Naveen and Harish, and other staff were present on the occasion.

Annual Brahmotsavams of Sri Venkateswara Swamy at Jubilee Hills from February 17 to 25

Tirupati: The Annual Brahmotsavams of Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple, located near Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad, Telangana State, will be conducted from February 17 to February 25, 2026. The festivities will commence with Ankurarpana on the evening of February 16, 2026. Koil Alwar Thirumanjanam will be performed from 7:00 AM to 10:30 AM, during which the Lord will be awoken during the early



morning hours followed by Agama-prescribed religious ceremonies. Koil Alwar Thirumanjanam will be performed from 7:00 AM to 10:30 AM, during which the temple premises,

including walls, ceilings, and all ritual articles, will be purified with water. This will be followed by sprinkling sacred water mixed with aromatic substances throughout the temple. Devotees will be permitted for Sarva Darshan from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM on the same day.

Vahanam Sevas Timing

Vahanam Sevas will be conducted daily from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM, unless otherwise specified.

AAI Pavilion at Wings India Highlights India's Aviation Journey from Regional Airstrips to Global Hubs



Hyderabad: The Airports Authority of India (AAI) is showcasing India's remarkable aviation transformation at Wings India, highlighting its journey from modest regional airstrips to world-class global gateways. The AAI pavilion presents the authority as a key architect of India's aviation ecosystem, integrating infrastructure development with inclusivity, safety, sustainability, and innovation. Visitors to the pavilion are offered an immersive experience that reflects AAI's multifaceted role in shaping the nation's aviation landscape. A major attraction is the anamorphic immersive display, which

under the RCS-UDAN scheme. Additional attractions include an Aviation Quiz and a Digital Selfie Pavilion, which introduces visitors to diverse aviation careers through virtual, profession-specific environments. Adding a strong cultural and national dimension.



Tirupati District Media Accreditation Committee (DMAC) meeting held under the chairmanship of District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar.



Madhira (TSIT): Former minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar on Thursday termed the issuance of SIT notices to BRS president and former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao as a deplorable act. Addressing a media conference in Madhira, he said summoning KCR for inquiry was nothing but an attempt to divert public attention.

He alleged that the Congress had come to power on false promises and was now resorting to diversionary politics to cover up its failure to implement assurances given to the people. Puvvada appealed to voters to support BRS and CPI(M) candidates in the municipal elections, stating that the parties would continue to fight until the Congress fulfilled its promises. Stating that no politics was ever played in matters of development during the BRS regime, Puvvada said Madhira was developed on the lines of Khammam when he was a minister. He accused the present government of taking credit for works carried out earlier and alleged that key schemes such as Rythu Bandhu, loan waiver and farmer support had been pushed aside.

FUTURE OF THE NATION LIES IN THE HANDS OF YOUNG VOTERS: KAZIPET TRAFFIC CI PITTALA VENKANNA



Warangal, January 29 (TSIT): Kazipet Traffic Circle Inspector Pittala Venkanna said that the future of the country depends on young voters and their conscious participation in the democratic process.

He stressed that electing good leaders through voting is essential for the nation's progress. He was speaking as the chief guest at a grand youth voter awareness conference and rally organised by the Mera Yuva Bharat Department at St. Ann's College of Nursing, Fatima Nagar, under the auspices of the Department of Youth Affairs, Government of India. The programme was presided over by Nursing College Superior Officer Jyoti.

Venkanna urged all eligible youth above 18 years of age to register as voters and exercise their right to vote responsibly. He also cautioned students against traffic violations, stating that driving without a helmet, proper documents, or under the influence of alcohol is a punishable offence and strict action would be taken against violators. On the occasion, five newly registered young voters were honoured and congratulated. Later, Dr. Ram Kumar Reddy, NSS Coordinator of Kaloji Narayana Rao University of Health Sciences, addressed the gathering and emphasised that the development of society and the nation rests with the youth and their active participation.

Following the meeting, Traffic CI Pittala Venkanna, Kaloji University NSS Coordinator Dr. Ram Kumar Reddy, and Mera Yuva Bharat Deputy Director Anvesh Chintala flagged off the awareness rally. Students raised slogans such as "My Vote – My Right" and "Vote is a diamond weapon in our hand," spreading awareness on the importance of voting at the Fatima Nagar junction.

Media Centre to Monitor Municipal Poll Campaigns

Khammam (TSIT): As part of efforts to ensure free, fair and transparent conduct of municipal elections, the district administration has strengthened monitoring mechanisms. In this connection, Collector and District Election Officer Anudeep Durishetty on Thursday inaugurated the Municipal Elections Media Centre at the District Public Relations Office.

The Collector said the media centre has been set up as part of the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct. Advertisements released by contestants in print media and campaign activities on social media platforms will be closely monitored through the centre, he said. He also instructed officials to ensure that election-related information is shared with the

media on a regular basis. Collector further stated that a District Media Certification and Media Monitoring Committee has been constituted to keep a check on expenditure incurred on print media advertisements and to grant permissions for campaign content in electronic media. District Public Relations Officer M.A. Ghouse, committee members Muralikrishna and Ramesh, typist K. Pravalika, computer operators Naveen and Harish, and other staff were present on the occasion.

'Symbol of women's power': Leaders across party lines hail FM Sitharaman for 9th consecutive budget



New Delhi, Jan 29 : As Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for becoming the first woman holder of the post to present the Union Budget for the ninth consecutive time, leaders, cutting across party lines, on Thursday backed him and said the milestone reflects the growing power and participation of women in India's public life.

Speaking to IANS outside Parliament, AAP Rajya Sabha member Ashok Kumar Mittal said that women reaching top positions and contributing meaningfully to the nation is a strong reflection of women's empowerment.

"When women in India rise to positions of responsibility and serve the country, it highlights the strength of women. This is something that deserves appreciation. We must encourage and enable more women to move forward. The Women's Reservation Bill has already been passed,

under which one-third of the seats will be reserved for women, which is a major step," he said.

However, some Congress leaders underlined that while the achievement is noteworthy, the focus must remain on the substance of the Budget. Congress MP Deepender Singh Hooda said: "It is a good thing that she is presenting the Budget for the ninth time, but we hope that this Budget is prepared keeping the public in mind. The country is facing several challenges today. The value of the Indian rupee has weakened, unemployment remains a concern, and people are struggling with inflation. The economy is under pressure from multiple directions. In such a situation, it is important that this Budget provides real relief to the common people."

Congress MP Vivek Tankha also acknowledged Sitharaman's role, recalling a previous interaction with her.

Hasina slams Bangladesh polls from India, warns of instability after Awami League barred

Dhaka, Jan 29: Bangladesh's ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has criticised the country's upcoming election, warning that the February 12 polls could trigger prolonged instability after her party, the Awami League, was barred from contesting.

Speaking from exile in India, Hasina told The Associated Press in an email last week that Bangladesh urgently needs "inclusive, free and fair elections," and claimed the interim government led by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus has deliberately disenfranchised millions of Awami

League supporters by excluding the party from the vote. "Each time political participation is denied to a significant portion of the population, it deepens resentment, delegitimizes institutions and creates the conditions for future instability," Hasina said, adding that "a government born of exclusion cannot unite a divided nation."

Bangladesh, where more than 127 million people are eligible to vote, is heading into what is being seen as the most consequential election in decades — the first since Hasina fled to India on August 5, 2024, following weeks of unrest and a mass



uprising that ended her 15-year rule.

Yunus assumed charge three days later and has pledged to ensure a free and fair election. However, concerns have been raised by critics and rights groups over the inclusivity of the process, security arrangements, and uncertainty sur-

rounding a proposed constitutional referendum on sweeping political reforms. Yunus' office said security forces will ensure an orderly election and prevent coercion or violence. The administration has also invited international observers and human rights organisations to monitor the polls. The Election Commission has stated that around 500 foreign observers, including representatives from the European Union and the Commonwealth, are expected to be present.

Since Hasina's removal, Bangladesh has faced mounting political and security challenges, with allegations of

rights violations and growing fears over the rising influence of Islamist groups. Minority organisations have raised concerns over attacks, particularly against Hindus, while media freedom has also come under the spotlight, with journalists facing criminal cases and reports of attacks on major newspaper offices. The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), led by Tarique Rahman, has emerged as a key contender in the election. Rahman, son of former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, returned to Bangladesh in December after more than 17 years in exile and has promised stability for the nation of 170 million people. His main

challenge is expected from a coalition of 11 groups led by the Islamist Jamaat-e-Islami. Hasina, who was sentenced to death in absentia over her government's crackdown on the 2024 student uprising, dismissed the trial as a "kangaroo court," while international rights groups have expressed concern over the fairness of proceedings. Calling for an end to the cycle of bans and boycotts in Bangladesh politics, Hasina said the country needs a "legitimate government" that rules "with the genuine consent of the people," which she described as the only way for the nation to heal and move forward.

Kerala: Frontline workers get Rs 1,000 hike; major welfare, infrastructure initiatives unveiled

Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 29: The Kerala Budget 2026-27, presented by Finance Minister K. N. Balagopal on Thursday, has brought a major relief for ASHAs, anganwadi workers, pre-primary teachers, and literacy instructors with a monthly honorarium hike of Rs 1,000, as the state gears up for Assembly elections in the coming months.

In addition, anganwadi helpers will receive an extra Rs 500 per month, and noon-meal cooks will get a Rs 25 hike in daily wages. The Finance Minister also assured that Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief (DA/DR)

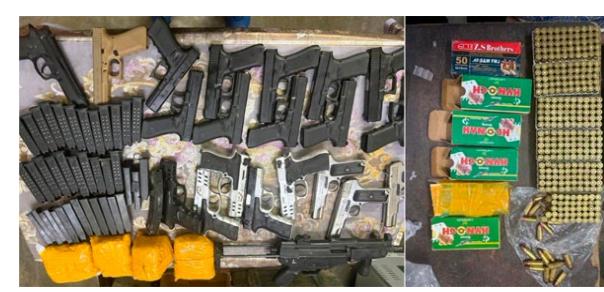
for government employees and pensioners would be expedited.

From April 2026, the honorarium for elected representatives of local bodies will be enhanced, and a welfare fund board with a corpus of Rs 250 crore will be set up for their benefit. For the first time in India, Kerala will also present an elderly budget document alongside the main budget.

for government employees and pensioners would be expedited.

According to DGP Gaurav Yadav, the seized weapons include 11 Glock pistols with 22 magazines, one Beretta with one magazine, five Zigana pistols with 10 magazines, three Norinco pistols with five magazines, one Ghaffar

Punjab police and BSF foil cross-border smuggling, seize heroin and firearms



Security (MP-5 type) pistol with a magazine, and 310 rounds of 9mm ammunition. Preliminary investigations suggest that Pakistan-based smugglers crossed the zero line, attempting to exploit dense fog and nighttime conditions to transport arms and narcotics into India. Alert BSF troops

Ruhela village, Fazilka. The swift response by the BSF and police teams prevented the consignment from entering Indian territory.

Authorities confirmed that further investigations are ongoing to identify local accomplices and dismantle the entire smuggling network. An FIR has been filed under Sections 21-C and 29 of the NDPS Act and Section 25 of the Arms Act in Fazilka.

DGP Yadav emphasized that the Punjab Police remain vigilant and are committed to zero tolerance against cross-border crimes, ensuring the security of the state.

TG ICET -2026 to be held on May 13 and 14

Nalgonda, Jan 29 (TSIT): The Telangana Integrated Common Entrance Test-2026 (TG ICET-2026) will be conducted on May 13 and 14 in two sessions each on two days through Computer Based Test (CBT) by the Mahatma Gandhi University (MGU), Nalgonda, for admission into first year M.B.A. and M.C.A. courses for the academic year 2026-27. Chairman of the TG ICET-2026 and Vice Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi University Prof Khaja Althaf Hussain and Convenor Prof Aluvala Ravi on Thursday disclosed the details of the TG ICET-2026 as approved by the Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TSCHE). Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor Prof Khaja Althaf Hussain and Convenor Prof Aluvala Ravi said that the Notification of TG ICET-2026 would be released on February 6 and the candidates who wish to apply for TG ICET-2026 may submit their applications through online mode only from February 12 till March 16.

LIC Inaugurates All India Public Sector Table Tennis Tournament 2025-26 in Lucknow



Lucknow: Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) inaugurated the All India Public Sector Table Tennis Tournament 2025-26 at the K.D. Singh Babu Stadium here on Tuesday. The tournament was formally opened by Shri Salil Vishwanath, Executive Director (HRD & Training), LIC of India.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by Shri Sanjay Kumar

Singh, Senior Divisional Manager, Lucknow Division; Ms. S. Gayathri, Secretary (HRD & Training), Central Office, Mumbai; and Shri Ajay Kumar Mishra, Regional Manager (HRD), North Central Zone, Kanpur.

An annual event of the All India Public Sector Sports Control Board, the tournament is being hosted by LIC of India this year. Around 120 players from 13 Public Sector Organizations, including LIC, are participating in the competition.

Addressing the players, Shri Salil Vishwanath highlighted the role of sports in fostering discipline, focus, and resilience, and urged participants to compete with enthusiasm and uphold the spirit of fair play. The tournament will conclude on January 31, 2026.

Kolkata man loses Rs 3.35 crore in stock scam, cyber police arrest key accused



Kolkata, Jan 29: The Kolkata Police have arrested a man from West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district in connection with a massive cyber fraud that allegedly duped a city resident of Rs 3.35 crore by promising lucrative stock market returns.

The accused, Hasan Molla, was taken into custody following an investigation by the Cyber Crime branch, police officials confirmed on Thursday.

According to investigators, the victim, Ashish Kumar Ghora (56), a resident of Entally in central Kolkata, was allegedly drawn into a WhatsApp group that projected itself as a legitimate investment advisory platform. The

group promised exceptionally high returns within a short span, persuading Ghora to transfer large sums of money to multiple bank accounts as directed by its administrators.

Police sources said the WhatsApp group contained several members and regularly shared stock market tips, creating an illusion of credibility and active trading. Trusting the assurances, the victim

GITAM Hosts Two-Day National Symposium on Literature and Socio-Political Movements



Hyderabad, January 29, 2026 : The Department of English & Other Languages, GITAM School of Humanities and Social Sciences (GSHS), Hyderabad, inaugurated a two-day national symposium titled "The Liminal Space: Literary Cultures and Socio-Political Movements in India" on Wednesday. The event brought together eminent scholars and academicians for in-depth discussions on literature, ideology, culture, and social change in the Indian context.

The opening session, "Literature, Ideology, and Social Resistance in Colonial and Early Modern India," featured lectures by Dr. Amandeep

Kaur, Dr. Jagvir Singh, and Dr. Jondhale Rahul Hiraman.

Keynote addresses by Prof. Alladi Uma and Prof. M. Sridhar (Retd., University of Hyderabad) focused on caste, modernity, and reinterpretations of early

Telugu literature. Subsequent sessions examined themes of gender, sexuality, morality, devotion, and modernity, with presentations by scholars from universities across India. The symposium will conclude with

discussions on liminal identities and transitional texts, highlighting evolving literary modernity. The event offers a vibrant platform for interdisciplinary academic dialogue on India's socio-cultural transformations.

Addressing officers and staff, the General Manager said that the real strength of the Railways lies in its workforce and emphasized time-bound reforms across customer service, maintenance, and production, driven by accountability and effective execution. He stressed the need to encourage new ideas and ensure their proper evaluation and implementation. Highlighting the im-

portance of technology, he urged employees to continuously upgrade their skills by leveraging digital learning platforms, with special focus on safety and modernization. During the celebrations, the GM presented the Overall Best Performance Efficiency Shield jointly to

Hyderabad and Guntakal Divisions. A total of 35 Zonal Level Performance Efficiency Shields were awarded to various divisions, workshops, and departments, while 86 officers and staff received the prestigious Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar awards for

Systemic Reforms, Skill Upgradation Vital for Railways' Future: SCR GM



Secunderabad: South Central Railway (SCR) celebrated its 70th Railway Week on Wednesday at Rail Kalarang, New Bhoiguda, Secunderabad, with Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, General Manager, SCR, calling for systemic reforms and continuous skill upgradation to meet future challenges.

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meritorious service. The event was attended by Shri Satya Prakash, Additional General Manager, along with senior officers, divisional railway managers, and staff. Cultural programmes by railway employees added colour to the celebrations.

EDITORIAL

DEALS WITH EU AND UK GIVE TIPPLERS AND TRADE REASONS TO BE HIGH

Alcoholic beverages may not figure among the top ten exports from the 27-nation European Union (EU) to India, but the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) signed on Tuesday, January 27, read along with the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) okayed on July 24, 2025, has raised the spirits of the liquor trade and tipplers in India by several pegs. The most obvious benefit, according to industry insiders, is the growing access the market will now have to a greater variety of alcobev brands, from whisky, vodka and beer to wines, cognacs and liqueurs, at lower prices. This positivity stems from the significant reduction of tariffs on spirits (from up to 150% down to 40%), wines (150% to 20% on the premium range; medium range, 30%), and beer (110% to 50%).

The India-UK CETA, meanwhile, promises an immediate reduction of the tariff on India's much-loved Scotch whiskies from the present 150% to 75% next year and further down to 40% in another ten years. India is the No. 1 consumer of Scotch whiskies in the world, having toppled France from that position in 2023. Scotch today accounts for just 3% of India's exploding whisky market, but the Scotch Whisky Association, which has for long been lobbying for tariff reductions, sees India, in the post-CETA world, importing an additional £1 billion worth of Scotch over the next five years. "If that materialises, it won't just shift market dynamics, it could reshape the global Scotch landscape," says Cask Trade, the official mouthpiece of the Masters of Whisky Appreciation, a group of top-end collectors of cask whiskies. "A bottle of Johnnie Walker, once sold in India at around £60, could now be found for £40 as a result of the new tariff reductions." Cask Trade notes optimistically. "Though still expensive compared to locally produced spirits, that reduction will put imported Scotch within reach of tens of millions more consumers." It is how the world now views the Indian Scotch whisky market. Significantly, India's Scotch whisky imports, as Cask Trade points out, includes a substantial percentage of the 'bulk blend' category, which is mixed with local spirits and bottled under blended labels such as 100 Pipers and Royal Stag. It will be cheaper, as a result, to produce premium domestic whiskies, but will the large alcohol companies pass the benefit on to the consumer? That remains to be seen.

Forays by Indian companies into the international Scotch and Irish whisky markets also stand to benefit from the new business environment. It will be interesting to see how the ADS Group's entry into the Irish whiskey market with its brand The Irish Smith, produced in Ireland's Great Northern Distillery by industry veterans John Teeling and Brian Mongan, pans out after the European Parliament adopts the FTA (almost certainly in 2027). Likewise, Radico Khaitan, which has just announced that it will set up a Scotch whisky subsidiary in Scotland, will stand to benefit from the new tariff regime – it gains access into the European market and at the same time can take advantage of lowered tariffs if and when it decides to export its Scotch whisky from Scotland to India.

India's love for premium international alcohol brands, in tune with the rising aspirations of the country's upwardly (and outwardly) mobile class, is not limited to Scotch. Russian vodka exports to India, for instance, are reported to have experienced a 4x surge in 2025. The domestic industry does see it as a threat, but imported premium wines and spirits at present account for a small (albeit fast-growing) segment of the alcobev business in the country. Increases in imports, moreover, are not expected to happen overnight and are most likely to be absorbed by a growing market.

Edit

HYDERABAD
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An India Miscalculation, And Ego: Inside Bangladesh's Costly World Cup Exit



Like everything else, the landscape of global cricket has also changed over the decades. And like in most things of modern life, change has (amongst other things) ushered in heavy doses of chaos, anxiety and bad blood. Gone are the days when a cricket rivalry meant only an on-field battle of skills and nerves between two very talented groups of players. When people would gather in living rooms, in clubs, at roadside tea stalls, in college grounds, etc, to talk about which batter is in red hot form, or which bowler has the skills to torment an opposition batting line-up, or which captain has more tricks up her or his sleeve. Now, the 'rivalry' that is mainly talked about and makes headlines, often well before a tournament commences, is the off-field clashes between countries, cricket boards and officials. Sure, the purists still exist, but they are outnumbered. Trying to keep sports separate from politics is now a futile exercise. In the upcoming ICC men's T20 World Cup, cricketers of a talented team which had officially qualified have been robbed of a chance to play and entertain fans on the biggest stage of them all. Along with that, the almost 18 crore people of that country, where cricket has become an intrinsic part of national identity, will now not get to see their heroes in action. Bangladesh were drawn, with England, the West Indies, Nepal and Italy, in Group C of the upcoming World Cup, which will be played in India and Sri Lanka. The Bangla Tigers are the third-highest ranked team in that group and in the extremely fickle T20 format, they could have potentially made it to the Super Eight stage, with one good day's worth of cricket. Beyond that, who knows what could have happened. Now, all that is just a hypothesis, which is a crying shame. India and Sri Lanka were announced as co-hosts in November 2021 as part of the ICC's 2024-2031 cycle of men's tournaments. There were credible reports of the Hindu community in Bangladesh being targeted from August 2024. So, timing-wise, the biggest questions that need to be asked are... If the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and the Bangladesh government thought that there was a genuine security threat to their players in India, why weren't these concerns raised earlier? Why did their interim government direct the BCB to ask the ICC for a venue change for

their matches scheduled to be played in India exactly a day after the Kolkata Knight Riders released Bangladesh fast bowler Mustafizur Rahman from their IPL 2026 squad (Mustafizur was released on January 3, 2026 and the BCB asked for a venue change on January 4)? Did the BCB confer with the BCCI about this directly? Why did the interim Bangladesh government ban all IPL broadcast and promotions indefinitely - what possible connection does this have with player security in India? Though the reason given for this was "in public interest", this was widely seen as a tit-for-tat retaliation to Mustafizur, the only Bangladeshi player in IPL 2026, being told he can't play in the IPL this season. At this end, could the entire Mustafizur episode have been handled better? Absolutely. Everyone knew just how volatile the situation was in Bangladesh ever since the first anti-establishment protests began against Sheikh Hasina's government in July 2024, which quickly spiraled from peaceful demands to violent clashes. The safest thing to do, to avoid public backlash of any kind in India against Bangladeshi players, would have been not to include Mustafizur in the player auction. Instead, he was included, the Kolkata Knight Riders spent as much as Rs 9.20 crore to buy him, and then the franchise was asked to release him. Bangladesh clearly viewed this as being extremely humiliating. It also made things worse in terms of the diplomatic

standoff. So, could this entire fiasco be avoided? It would have been unfair to Mustafizur himself, of course, but it would have been infinitely better to explain things to him at that stage instead of telling him, after he had secured a team and good money, that he couldn't play. However, what the Bangladesh regime also needed to understand was that they cannot turn this into an ego battle, for the health of their cricket. There was just too much at stake. Despite being given assurances by the ICC of heavy security for their players and staff, while in India, and an ICC internal security assessment that showed no specific threat to their team, Bangladesh risked a bit too much by sticking to their stance of threatening to pull out of the World Cup. And ironically, at the end of the day, their attempt to salvage lost pride has backfired spectacularly and only meant more humiliation, with the ICC promptly replacing them with Scotland in the tournament.

Those in Bangladesh who are taking these decisions need to understand the reality of the times we live in.

The ripple effects, financial and otherwise, are going to be enormous.

According to reports, there is the participation fee of \$3 million or approximately 36.33 crore Bangladeshi Taka that they will not receive, along with any prize money that the team and the players would have potentially earned. The big blow will be the cut of ICC's central

revenue. Bangladesh receives a 4.46% cut of ICC's annual revenue pie, which translates to about \$27.30 million, going by recent projections. That's almost 60% of BCB's annual income that they have jeopardised. Also, by deciding to stick to their guns and not play the World Cup unless their last-minute demands for change of venue for their matches are met, Bangladesh will also be hit with a \$2 million fine by the ICC. Under the ICC Member Participation Agreement, any member nation that withdraws from a tournament without any justified cause will be hit with this fine. Add to that the almost 300 crore BDT loss for the host broadcaster in the country, other losses in advertisement revenue and Bangladeshi players potentially losing endorsement deals with Indian companies. After all, in the modern game, visibility is the sponsors' holy grail. Time heals almost everything, and perhaps the BCB will somehow tide over the financial repercussions. But what they have also severely risked is India's future bilateral cricket association with their neighbours, or, in other words, millions more in cricketing and broadcast revenue. Regardless of which direction strictly diplomatic relations between the two countries are headed, cricketing relations going forward could well be strained. India are scheduled to tour Bangladesh later this year (the white-ball tour was postponed from August 2025 to September 2026).

Beyond Ajit Pawar: What Happens To Sharad Pawar's 'Succession' Plan Now?



nephew had agreed to use the clock symbol, which the Election Commission had taken away from Sharad Pawar and handed to Ajit Pawar's party. After that, reunification was a mere formality, expected to be completed after the local polls were done. Now, it's anybody's guess whether or not the process will be completed. Much depends on which way Ajit Pawar's 41 MLAs move in the coming weeks. Without his towering presence, they are pretty much orphaned. Given the manner in which Maharashtra parties have splintered since 2022, there is a strong possibility that they will either scatter in different directions or be welcomed wholesale by the BJP. Not that the BJP needs those numbers. Despite the death of one of its two Deputy Chief Ministers, there is no threat to the stability of the Devendra Fadnavis-led Nationalist Democratic Alliance (NDA) state government. The BJP has 131 MLAs of its own. It also has the support of the seven MLAs it had helped

win the last year's assembly election. This brings the BJP's tally to 138, just seven short of the halfway mark of 145. Eknath Shinde's faction of the Shiv Sena adds another 57 MLAs to the NDA's strength in the assembly. While on the face of it, this would seem to make the Shinde Sena indispensable for the government's survival, the party's poor showing in the recent corporation polls has made it vulnerable, leaving it with little room for manoeuvre within the alliance. A Dilemma For BJP There are opportunities as well as challenges for the BJP in Ajit Pawar's unexpected demise. His NCP proved useful as a balancing force against Shinde's Sena. In fact, it was Ajit Pawar's unconditional support that cleared the way for Fadnavis to become the Chief Minister despite Shinde's tantrums and pressure tactics. Every time Shinde tried to rock the boat subsequently, Ajit Pawar came in handy to make him toe the line. In a sense, Fadnavis and the BJP have

lost a valuable ally. Yet, Ajit Pawar's death can also be seen as fortuitous for the BJP's long-term ambition to be the single dominant force in Maharashtra and form a government on its own strength in the next assembly election. Ajit Pawar was groomed by Sharad Pawar from the early 1990s as his heir apparent. He not only familiarised himself with every nook and corner of the state, its demographics, caste composition and its geography, but also learnt from his uncle his canny political skills and the art of managing Maharashtra's complex dynamics. Although Sharad Pawar inducted his daughter Supriya Sule into politics, there was an unstated arrangement within the family that she would be the NCP's face at the Centre where her consummate skills as a parliamentarian and her talent for making friends across the political divide (which she seems to have inherited from her father) would prove useful for the party.

As the political adagio of West Bengal builds towards the upcoming assembly elections in March-April 2026, one can not help but observe the intricate dance of ambition, identity, and power at play. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), a party with an eye firmly trained on national significance, finds itself poised at a critical juncture, seeking to wrest Bengal from the entrenched grasp of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) led by Mamata Banerjee. The BJP's historical absence from the corridors of power in Kolkata is set against a backdrop of an electoral landscape in flux, where 2021's results revealed that the party is still nearly 10 percentage points adrift from the TMC. However, the BJP's impressive growth trajectory in Bengal from 4 seats in the 2016 assembly polls to 77 seats, out of 294, in the 2021 polls, tells a story of an extraordinary surge, beyond its traditional base of the Hindi heartland. Amit Shah's impending visit to focus on Internal Unity: The Imperative for Cohesion The internal dynamics of the BJP will also shape the electoral narrative. Amit Shah's forthcoming visit (on 30th and 31st January) - aimed at fostering unity and quelling factionalism - illustrates a critical recognition of the need for cohesion. In a political arena as turbulent as West Bengal, the fragility of internal alliances could be the Achilles' heel of any electoral endeavour. The previously sidelined former state president Dilip Ghosh and the assertive Leader of the Opposition in the state assembly, Suvendu Adhikari, emerge as key figures in the



push for collective leadership - a necessity that the party must articulate, lest it be exploited by the TMC, which has historically thrived on the politics of fragmentation. In a personal meeting with Amit Shah, Dilip Ghosh, at the end of December 2025, pointed out that "West Bengal is ready for change, but the BJP party is not ready yet." While mollifying Dilip Ghosh and roping him into active campaign mode, Shah had emphasised internal unity and the imperative for cohesion. The internal dynamics of the BJP will also shape the electoral narrative. Amit Shah's forthcoming visit (on 30th and 31st January) - aimed at fostering unity and quelling factionalism - illustrates a critical recognition of the need for cohesion. In a political arena as turbulent as West Bengal, the fragility of internal alliances could be the Achilles' heel of any electoral endeavour. The previously sidelined former state president Dilip Ghosh and the assertive Leader of the Opposition in the state assembly, Suvendu Adhikari, emerge as key figures in the

ed India finds itself reborn in the party's current narrative. Alongside Mukherjee's contributions, the spirit of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyaya's Anand Math, with its evocative hymn "Vande Mataram," resonates profoundly-echoing aspirations of nationalism, unity, and identity that continue to serve as the party's ideological compass.

• The Demographic Landscape

West Bengal presents a particularly intricate tableau, marked by its demographic stratifications. Muslims constitute around 32 per cent of the electorate in 2026 (27 per cent according to the 2011 Census), largely anchored to the TMC, while Hindus represent approximately 68 per cent, with about 50 per cent of them reportedly leaning towards the BJP.

"The BJP's ambition to capture at least 60 to 65 per cent of the Hindu vote, necessitating a strategic swing of at least 5 per cent, underscores the party's awareness that political dominance is as much about arithmetic as it is about the narratives that resonate with diverse community identities," says Dr Swapnil Dasgupta, a member of the newly constituted Manifesto Committee. In this light, the BJP's approach is not merely a matter of winning votes; it involves cultivating a profound understanding of the socio-cultural dynamics that etch the contours of political allegiance.

The party's efforts to engage different Hindu sects (the Matuas, the Rajbongshis among the Schedule Caste population, drawing on historical grievances and aspirations as well as the Bhadrolok upper castes) point toward a realisation that winning hearts must precede winning seats. Therefore, serious attempts to implement the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and ensure that the Matuas get the right to vote under the SIR scheme. The CAA provides a legal pathway to Indian citizenship for the Matua community-a Hindu Dalit sect (Namasudras) - who migrated from Bangladesh due to religious persecution.

"Crack Team, Internal Unity": Inside BJP's Bengal Election War Room



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K'taka Selected for 'State Champion in Aviation' Award at Wings India-2026

Bengaluru: Karnataka has been selected for the prestigious 'State Champion in Aviation' award, which will be conferred during Wings India-2026, India's flagship civil aviation event. This national-level recognition acknowledges the State's proactive and sustained contribution to the growth of the aviation sector in the country. The award is a recognition of Karnataka's policy initiatives, infrastructure development, facilitation of airport projects (including greenfield and regional airports), support to regional connectivity, and its role in strengthening the overall aviation ecosystem. The State's collaborative approach with the Government of India, Airports Authority of India, and private stakeholders has significantly enhanced air connectivity, passenger convenience, and economic activity. This honour underscores Karnataka's leadership position in civil aviation and reinforces its reputation as a progressive State committed to infrastructure-led development and connectivity-driven growth. Managing Director, KSIIDC will receive the award on behalf of the State Government on 28.1.2026 at Hyderabad.

Karnataka to Host First-Ever Exclusive Job Fair for Persons with Disabilities: Dr Sharana Prakash Patil

Bengaluru: In a major initiative to empower persons with disabilities and integrate them into the social and economic mainstream, the Karnataka government will organise the state's first exclusive job fair for persons with disabilities. The mega event will be held at Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru within the next three months, said Minister for Skill Development, Livelihood, Medical Education and Raichur District In-charge Dr

Sharana Prakash R. Patil. Responding to a question by BPLA MLA Gururaj Shetty Gantihole during the Question Hour in the Legislative Assembly, the minister said the job fair is being organised by the Department of Skill Development and Livelihood and described it as a novel and significant initiative of the state government. Dr Patil said the objective of the programme is to make persons with disabilities economically self-reliant by providing suitable employment opportunities. During the current financial year, the Karnataka Skill Development Corporation (KSDC) is implementing market-oriented vocational training programmes for 1,000 persons with disabilities at a cost of Rs.2 crore, including skill training, tool kits, and employment support. He added that reservation for persons with disabilities in training programmes has been increased from 3 per cent to 5 per cent, and entrepreneurship development programmes are also being conducted. From 2017-18 to 2024-25, 540 candidates with disabilities received training, of whom 83 secured jobs, he informed.

Court Order Once Again Proves Siddaramaiah's Integrity: S. Manohar

Bengaluru: KPCC General Secretary S. Manohar said that a recent court order has once again proved that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is a "pure and honest leader." He was speaking after attending a special puja organised by Congress workers at Bhagwan Sri Maruti Mandir near Bala Bruti Guest House, following Siddaramaiah receiving a clean chit in the Mysore Development Authority (MUDA) case. Manohar stated that false allegations were made regarding land allotted to Siddaramaiah's wife, Smt. Parvati, and that the Lokayukta investigation had clearly found no irregularities in the matter. He said the court rejected the appeal filed by Sneha Mahi Krishna against the Lokayukta's findings and upheld the clean chit given to Siddaramaiah. He added that with the court confirming that no family member was involved in any wrongdoing, Congress workers organised the special puja to pray for Siddaramaiah's continued strength and leadership. Several Congress leaders, including A. Anand, G. Prakash, Chandrashekhar, Kushal Harvegouda, Naveen Sunkatakatte, Umesh, Sai Naveen, Puttaraju, Praveen Rao, Hemraj, and party workers participated in the programme.

Congress Govt Misused Public Money, Insulted Mahatma Gandhi: R. Ashoka

Bengaluru (TSIT): Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka strongly criticised the Congress government, alleging that it misused people's tax money and insulted Mahatma Gandhi by publishing advertisements carrying statements made by Gandhi never made.

Speaking to reporters, Ashoka said the Congress government released newspaper advertisements on the VBG Ram Ji scheme, attributing statements made by Rahul Gandhi to Mahatma Gandhi by using his image. He termed this a serious misuse of public funds and an attempt to



mislead people by portraying party views as Gandhi's words. Ashoka stated that while laws can be debated in Parliament, criticising them through government-funded advertisements after implemen-

Karnataka

HYDERABAD
FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2026

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Coastal tourism to open new avenues, says minister Lakshmi Hebbalkar

Udupi, Jan 26: Stating that the state government is keen on developing tourism across the entire coastal belt, including islands, with a fresh perspective, Udupi district in-charge minister and minister for women and child development Lakshmi Hebbalkar said that such initiatives would open new avenues not only for the coastal region but also for the future of Karnataka and the country.

She was speaking after hoisting the national flag at the 77th Republic Day celebrations held at St Mary's Island on Monday, January 26. Lakshmi Hebbalkar said that as many as 116 islands in the state, including St Mary's Island, have remained neglected over the years. Despite possessing immense natural beauty and tourism potential, these resources have not been effectively utilised. Recently, an all-day coastal tourism conclave was organised in Mangaluru to discuss strategies for developing tourism in the region.

The conclave was attended by the chief minister, deputy chief minister, elected representatives from coastal districts, and senior officials. "After years of neglect, we have now taken concrete steps to promote tourism along the coast. The success of this new initiative depends on the cooperation, guidance, and suggestions of the people," minister



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Lakshmi Hebbalkar said.

Calling the occasion a rare and special moment, minister Lakshmi Hebbalkar said she felt privileged to hoist the national flag and address the gathering at St Mary's Island, the largest island in Karnataka. She also shared her experience of inspecting 11 boats of the Coastal Security Police during her visit, describing it as an exciting and memorable experience.

Appreciating the services of security personnel and volunteers, minister Lakshmi Hebbalkar said that coastal police, fishermen working as informants for national security, beach-cleaning volunteers, and members of the Coastal Guard and Naval forces were all true patriots and real heroes. "You are working day and night, risking your lives to protect the nation and its citizens. I salute your dedication and service," she said. She also urged personnel to prioritise their own safety while performing their duties. Among those present on the occasion were MLC Channaraj Hattiholi, Coastal Development Board chairman M A Gaffoor, District Guarantee Schemes Implementation Committee chairman Ashok Kumar Kodavoor, deputy commissioner T K Swaroopa T K, Zilla Panchayat CEO Prateek Bayal, superintendent of police Hariram Shankar, and several other dignitaries.

India-Canada Talks on Clean Mobility and Critical Minerals Yield Positive Outcomes: H.D. Kumaraswamy



New Delhi : Under the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and aligned with Viksit Bharat@2047 and Net Zero targets, Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy held a high-level bilateral meeting with a Canadian delegation led by Natural Resources Minister Tim Hodson at Udyog Bhawan to strengthen cooperation in clean mobility, critical minerals, and sustainable industrial development.

The Minister highlighted India's rapid progress in automobile and electric mobility sectors, citing initiatives such as FAME-II, PM E-DRIVE, and PM e-Bus Seva, which are boosting EV adoption, charging infrastructure, and domestic manufacturing. He also emphasized India's nearly USD 2 billion incentive programme for Advanced Chemistry Cell manufacturing and the need for

secure supply chains for critical minerals.

Discussions focused on collaboration in battery manufacturing, next-generation technologies, research and development, and access to minerals like lithium, cobalt, graphite, and rare earth elements. The Canadian side appreciated India's leadership in clean mobility and expressed willingness to share advanced battery technologies and support mineral requirements for India's green transition. Senior officials from the Ministries of Heavy Industries, Steel, External Affairs, and leading PSUs participated in the meeting. Both sides agreed to continue structured follow-ups and industry-level engagements to translate discussions into concrete partnerships, reaffirming a strong and future-ready India-Canada strategic collaboration.

Follow the Path of Fairness to Succeed in Life and Sports: MP Basavaraj Bommai

Haveri (Byadagi) (TSIT): Former Chief Minister and Member of Parliament Basavaraj Bommai said that while winning is important in both life and sports, success should never come at the cost of fairness. Emphasising that sports teach valuable life lessons, he said justice, discipline, and integrity must always guide one's actions.

Bommai was speaking after inaugurating the MP Sports Festival 2025-26 at the Byadagi Taluk Sports Ground in Haveri district on Thursday. He praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to promote sports at the grassroots level and said clear directions had been given to the Sports and Education Departments to organise such competitions at the taluk and district levels.

He noted that true human resource development begins in schools by identifying talent early and providing proper training, adding that sports play a crucial role in shaping personality, confidence, and resilience. Recalling his experiences at sports events in Haveri, Bommai said young girls displayed remarkable courage and determination on the field.

Highlighting India's progress, he



BOMMAI WAS SPEAKING AFTER INAUGURATING THE MP SPORTS FESTIVAL 2025-26 AT THE BYADAGI TALUK SPORTS GROUND IN HAVERI DISTRICT ON THURSDAY.

said the country is growing at 7.4 percent and has emerged as the

world's fourth-largest economy. He credited initiatives like Fit India, Khelo India, and Jeeto India for India's improved performance in international sports, including the Olympics and Paralympics. Expressing confidence in the region's youth, Bommai assured full support to talented athletes at all levels.

17th Annual Kanaka Purandara Music Festival on January 30, 31 and February 1

Bengaluru Sri Rama Seva Mandali and Rajajinagar Residents Welfare Association and Nallan Chakravartha Trust will organize the 17th Annual Kanaka Purandara Music Festival for three days on January 30 and 31 and February 1. Sri Rama Seva Mandali President K.S. Sreedhar, Vice President Mahesh, Secretary Manjunathaswamy, Joint Secretaries K.L. Sudarshan, M. Basavaraj and Abhaya Seva Foundation President M.B. Umesh Shetty released the poster.

On the 30th at 7 pm, the Devaranama Sri Jagadeeshwari Mahila Mandali will host a meeting with the chief guest, R.S.S.N. Thippeswamy, scholars Dr. H.R. Nagaraj Acharya and Karnataka Kalashri N.S. Prasad and violinist Nagaraj Gana Chetana title felicitation program will be held. On January 31 at 7 am, a procession will be held by Vidwan Chintanapalli Srinivas and Nagaswara Sri Ishwar team



with the statue of Purandas and Nagaswara. At 10 am, Dasa's compositions will be performed by Nritya Rachana Nritya Academy, at 11 am, Bhajan by Sakhi Bhajane Mandali and at 12 pm, Arohana Nrityalay Vidushi Bhargavi M. Prakash will perform, at 3 pm, Nritya Rukmana Natara Nritya Academy Smt. Lekhana Kulkarni will perform, at 4 pm, Purandasara Divya Darshan by V. Ramya Praveen, Dr. Ragini Sanath, at 5 pm, Devaranama Gana by Chetana Suvarna from Puranda International Trust, and at 6 pm, Bharatanatyam by Karunada Gurukul students, and at 7 pm, Dasaranama program by Anantharaju and his team.

Singing by Sai Nirajan and his team at 11 am, dance performance by Nrityanjali team Kumari Niharika at 12 pm, dance performance by The Structural School of Fine Arts Shri Akshara Bharadwaj team at 2 pm, Dasaranamana by Vidwan Haribhakti team at 3 pm, dance performance by Mrs. Mahima of Sabhapati Nritya Academy at 4 pm, bhajan by Sadhbhavana Bhajana Mandali at 5 pm, singing by Anish Nagesh at 7 pm, dance performance by Kaishiki Natya Vahini student group under the direction of director Dr. Mala Shashikant Rajajinagar Assembly Constituency MLA S. Suresh Kumar, Sri Kailasa Vaikuntha Mahakshetra President R.V. Harish, Nadaprabhu Kemppegowda Foundation President Dr. H.M. Krishnamurthy, All Karnataka Brahmin Mahasabha President S. Raghunath, and former BBMP member Mohan Kumar will be the chief guests.



tion is unethical. He alleged that the Congress government, influenced by Rahul Gandhi, distorted facts and disrespected Gandhi's legacy. He recalled that Mahatma Gandhi himself



Delayed but right step, CM Stalin welcomes UGC regulations

He urged the Union government not to succumb to pressure to dilute the regulations or their core intent and expressed apprehension about institutional leadership aligned with particular ideological groups.

CHENNAI: Chief Minister MK Stalin on Thursday said the UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2026, were a delayed but welcome step towards reforming a higher education system affected by deep-rooted discrimination and institutional apathy.

In a statement, the Chief Minister said there had been a visible rise in student suicides in higher education institutions in recent years, particularly among SC and ST students, and instances of harassment targeting students from South India, Kashmir and minority communities.



In this backdrop, equity safeguards were not optional but an unavoidable necessity, he said.

Welcoming the stated objective of dismantling caste-based discrimination and extending the framework to include OBC students, Stalin said the backlash against the

new regulations reflected a regressive mindset, similar to the opposition witnessed during the implementation of the Mandal Commission recommendations. He urged the Union government not to succumb to pressure to dilute the regulations or their core intent and

expressed apprehension about institutional leadership aligned with particular ideological groups. "If the Union government is serious about preventing student deaths, ending discrimination and reducing dropout rates among students from backward communities, these regulations must not only be retained but strengthened, revised to address structural gaps, and enforced with real accountability," the Chief Minister said. He added that meaningful reform in higher education would depend not merely on policy announcements, but on effective and transparent implementation across institutions.

EPS rules out OPS's return to AIADMK

CHENNAI: AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami (EPS) on Thursday ruled out the return of former Chief Minister O Panneerselvam (OPS), saying he had been removed from the party's primary membership through a General Council resolution.

Speaking to reporters in Salem, EPS also said alliance talks with other parties were under way and that seat-sharing would be finalised after discussions.

Earlier in the day, OPS called for the reunification of the AIADMK ahead of the Assembly elections after holding consultations with supporters in Kailasapatti in Theni district.

List action on protestors, asks Supreme Court

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday sought the return of former Chief Minister O Panneerselvam (OPS), saying he had been removed from the party's primary membership through a General Council resolution.

The SC was hearing a petition filed by advocate GS Mani alleging that ruling DMK-supported parties, including communist parties, along with certain individuals and lawyers, conducted illegal protests not only in public places but also within the premises of the Madras High Court at Chennai and Madurai, making highly contemptuous remarks against Justice Swaminathan. It alleged that the "caste and reli-

gion-based defamatory remarks" were made with the intention of disturbing social harmony and provoking law and order and communal unrest.

The plea sought directions to the State and police to initiate strict legal action, including criminal proceedings, against those responsible for such acts. On December 1, Justice Swaminathan allowed writ petitions that sought a direction for appropriate arrangements to light the Karthigai Deepam at the 'Deepathoom' on the Tiruparkundram hill-



As per the guidance of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, under the flagship 'Ulagam Ungal Kaiyil' initiative, free laptops were distributed to 1,627 students from four colleges in Chennai. The Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare distributed the free laptops and delivered the special address at the function

Childhood trauma increases risk of chronic pain in adulthood

Physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, or neglect, either alone or combined with other types of childhood trauma, increases the risk of chronic pain and related disability in adulthood, according to a new research.

The new findings underscore the urgency of addressing adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) – potentially traumatic events that occur before 18 years of age – and taking steps to mitigate their long-term impact on people's health.

ACEs may affect a child or teenager directly through physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, or neglect – or indirectly through exposure to environmental factors like domestic violence, living with substance abuse or parental loss.

Chronic pain is one of the



leading causes of disability worldwide. Long-term painful conditions such as low back pain, arthritis, headache and migraine, can affect a person's daily functioning to the point they can't work, eat properly, or participate in physical activities.

For the study, published in the European Journal of Psychotraumatology, the team conducted a systematic

review that included 85 studies. Of those, results from 57 studies could be pooled in meta-analyses.

They found that individuals exposed to a direct ACE, whether physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, or neglect, were 45 per cent more likely to report chronic pain in adulthood compared to those not exposed.

Childhood physical abuse was associated with a higher likelihood of reporting both chronic pain and pain-related disability.

The odds of reporting chronic pain or pain-related disability in adulthood increased with exposure to any direct ACE, either alone or combined with indirect ACEs.

The risk of reporting chronic pain in adulthood significantly increased from exposure to one ACE to four

or more ACEs. "These results underscore the urgency of addressing ACEs, particularly in light of their prevalence and health repercussions," said Prof Jan Hartvigsen, from the University of Southern Denmark.

"A more nuanced understanding of the precise relationship between ACEs and chronic pain will empower healthcare professionals and policymakers to devise targeted strategies to help diminish the long-term impact of early-life adversity on adult health."

The researchers proposed that future research should delve into the biological mechanisms through which ACEs affect health across the lifespan, aiming to deepen understanding and develop ways to mitigate their impact.

Guv Ravi unveils Kambar statue at Lok Bhavan

CHENNAI: Governor RN Ravi unveiled a full-length statue of 'Kavichakravarthi' Kambar at the Lok Bhavan campus here on Thursday, paying homage to the medieval poet whose Kamba Ramayana remains a cornerstone of Tamil literary heritage.

Unveiling the statue at Kambar Vanam and offering floral tributes, the Governor said Kambar's work reflected the civilisational depth of Tamil and its enduring human values. Lok Bhavan said the installation symbolised the Governor's personal commitment to celebrating clas-



sical Tamil scholarship. Representatives of Kambar Kazhagam from across the

State, Tamil scholars, Kamba Ramayana commentators, representatives

of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, and students attended the event.

Fragile state of women's safety, BJP blasts DMK government on Nandanam incident

CHENNAI: Following the alleged gang rape of a young woman on the campus of Government Arts and Science College in Nandanam, the BJP on Thursday launched a sharp attack on the DMK government.

The saffron party noted that the incident was yet another grim marker of "breakdown of law and order and women's safety" in Tamil Nadu.

In a statement, BJP state president Nainar Nagenthiran said Tamil Nadu was witnessing a disturbing pattern of sexual crimes under the DMK regime. Referring to a recent crime involving the wife of a migrant worker in Taramani, he said that before the



wounds of that brutal incident could heal, reports emerged of a young woman employed as a canteen helper being sexually assaulted within a college campus.

"Such a crime allegedly occurring inside an educational institution is shocking and deeply distressing," the BJP leader

down on crimes against women, sexual violence in the State had risen to unprecedented levels.

Senior BJP leader Tamilisai Soundararajan linked the surge in violent crimes to the growing menace of narcotics. "While the Chief Minister speaks of struggle, the reality is that everyday life itself has become a struggle for the people. This is not a political comment, but an expression of shock," she said.

BJP general council member K Annamalai said the reported assault of a 22-year-old woman working in the college canteen had exposed the fragile state of women's safety even within educational institutions.

Special trains for Thai Poosam

CHENNAI: Special trains will be operated between Chennai Egmore – Tirunelveli, and also Tambaram – Thoothukudi to clear extra rush of passengers during Thai Poosam (February 1), said a Southern Railway press release.

Train 06001 Chennai Egmore – Tirunelveli superfast will leave Egmore at 11.45 pm on January 30 (Friday) and reach Tirunelveli at 11.15 am the next day (one service). Train 06002 Tirunelveli – Tambaram superfast special will leave Tirunelveli at 10.35 pm on



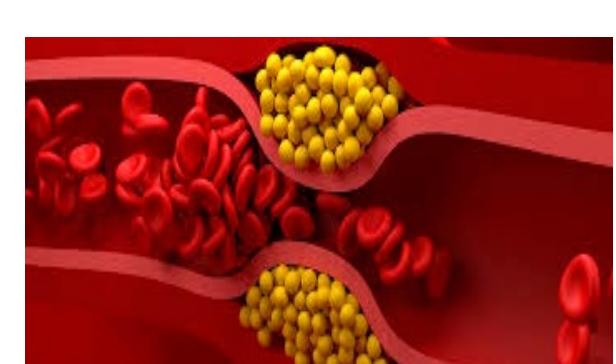
February 1 (Sunday) and reach Tambaram at 09.30 am the next day (one service). Coach composition will be of 18 AC three-tier

Tambaram at 11.50 pm on January 31 (Saturday) and reach Thoothukudi at 11 am the next day (one service). Train 06004 Thoothukudi – Chennai Beach superfast special will leave Thoothukudi at 11.55 pm on February 1 (Sunday) and reach Chennai Beach at 11.30 am the next day (one service). Coach composition will be of two AC chair car coaches, 12 sitting chair car coaches, four general second class coaches and two second class coaches (Disabled friendly). Advance reservation for these trains is open.

New low-cost vax to lower cholesterol a 'game-changer': Study

New York: Researchers have developed a new vaccine that could be a game-changer, providing an inexpensive method to lower "bad" LDL cholesterol, which creates dangerous plaques that can block blood vessels. High cholesterol contributes to a higher risk of cardiovascular diseases, such as heart disease and stroke. Worldwide cardiovascular diseases claim nearly 18 million lives every year, according to the World Health Organization.

The new vaccines, detailed in a paper published in the journal *npj Vaccines*, lowered LDL cholesterol almost as effectively as an expensive class of drugs known as PCSK9 inhibitors. "We are interested in trying to develop another approach that would be less expensive and more broadly applicable, not just in the US, but also in places that don't have the resources to afford these



very, very expensive therapies," said Bryce Chackerman, Professor in the Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology, at The University of New Mexico (UNM). The PCSK9 monoclonal shot targets the PCSK9 protein. Basically, the more PCSK9 the body makes, the higher the LDL cholesterol will be.

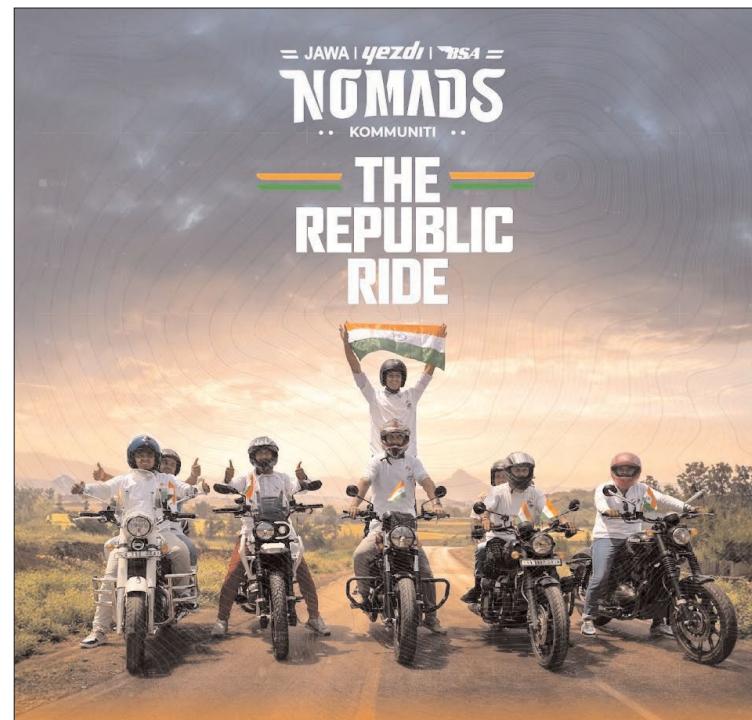
Cardiologist Abinash Achrekar, vice chair and professor in the UNM Department of Internal Medicine said the twice

against all sorts of different things." In this case, Chackerman said he stuck tiny pieces of the PCSK9 protein to the surface of these virus particles. "So, your immune system makes a really strong antibody response against this protein that's involved in controlling cholesterol levels," he said. "In the animals that we vaccinated, we see strong reductions in cholesterol levels – up to 30 per cent – and that is going to be correlated with reduced risk of heart disease."

Over the past 10 years, the vaccine has been tested on mice and monkeys with promising results. Chackerman said the next step is to find funding to move into vaccine manufacturing and clinical trials with humans. That process can take years and several million dollars, but it is worth it to develop a vaccine that is pure, safe and affordable.

Classic Legends unites Jawa, Yezdi and BSA riders under 'Nomads', the unified riding collective, this Republic Day

Pune, January 29, 2026: Riders of Jawa, Yezdi and BSA rode out across India on 26 January 2026, with the shared belief that motorcycling, like the Republic itself, thrives on unity drawn from diversity. Classic Legends, the makers of the modern performance classics, celebrated with them by going live with its community page, titled 'Nomads: Ride as One, Ride the Legacy', on its official website. The new page is designed to take riders closer to their local riding community (Jawa-Yezdi-BSA rider clubs) by making discovery and connecting just a click away. The Republic Day rides, Nomads for Unity in Diversity, stretched across regions and cultures, from Jammu to Tamil Nadu, Gujarat to Manipur, reflecting India's vast geography united by a single passion for performance classics from Jawa, Yezdi and BSA. The love for these motorcycles brought together more than 2,000 riders, representing over 20 independent riding communities and more than 150 dealership-led riding groups, spanning different age groups, professions, and riding styles. In a rolling expression of continuity, seasoned riders rode alongside first-time tourers, and legacy machines flanked modern-day performance classics from brands Jawa, Yezdi and BSA. The independent communities and dealership-led riding groups will now be further



unified by Classic Legends' riding collective called 'Nomads', consolidating all the brands' riding groups on the brands' common website. Spanning riding communities across Jawa, Yezdi, and BSA, Nomads is designed to be their shared identity that cuts across the brands, regions, and choice of ride. Built by riders, and not by campaigns, Nomads epitomises the inclusiveness, independence, and

joy of riding with one's tribe. It made Republic Day a fitting celebration to launch the Nomads website nationally. The page will make finding the riding club closest to the rider easy and facilitate riding out with their tribe more often. Anupam Thareja, co-founder, Classic Legends, said, "At the heart of motorcycling lies the urge to seek out your own brand of freedom. Our performance classics are designed

for that quest. But there is a deeper longing that defines motorcycling across generations, especially in these alienating times of digital overload - the urge to belong. While some days are about riding for yourself, Republic Day is about riding together. The annual rides of Jawa, Yezdi and BSA on this day unites different riders to ride out as a close-knit tribe. This year, we are celebrating them by doing more than sharing their stories. We are going live with our community page, Nomads, which lets each of our riders, old and new, find a riding community near them. The name for our riding collective recognises the urge to test boundaries and yet, belong together for a shared purpose, which could simply be the love of motorcycling." In addition to the Nomads page launch, rider stories from across the country were shared in real-time on the Jawa Yezdi and BSA Motorcycle social media handles throughout the day, saluting the spirit of riding with fellow Nomads. The Republic Day rides are an annual tradition for Nomads, the Jawa, Yezdi and BSA riding communities. This year marks a larger, more unified Nomads presence, deeper collaboration with independent communities, and the launch of the Nomads platform, built to sustain that momentum well beyond community rides throughout the year.

Shri. Hardeep Singh Puri launches Jio-bp's Engine-Cleaning ACTIVE Technology Petrol with Up To 100 km Extra Drive per annum at No Extra Cost

Goa, India, January 29, 2026: Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri today launched the path-breaking ACTIVE technology petrol at Jio-bp (the operating brand of Reliance BP Mobility Limited (RBML), a joint venture of Reliance Industries and bp) at India Energy Week 2026 in Goa. Petrol at Jio-bp with ACTIVE technology is designed to clean critical engine parts, deliver strong clean-up capability, restoring and protecting engine performance, and helping motorists go up to 100 km* further every year compared to regular petrol. And all this comes at no extra cost.

Benefits for Consumers: Petrol with ACTIVE technology at Jio-bp is built around what everyday drivers care about most: smoother rides and more km from every filled-up tank, all at no extra cost, as well as protecting and maintaining a clean

engine.

Key differentiators

- Cleans existing deposits stuck on critical engine parts, helping engines perform better and run smoother
- Delivers strong clean-up performance and - when used regularly, helping engines stay cleaner and more reliable for longer
- Can translate into up to 100 km* extra driving distance per year for typical Indian two- and four-wheeler users, at no extra cost
- Aligning with India's evolving dynamic fuel standards

• Reduces maintenance. Built on over 100 years of bp's global fuel research leadership, high performance petrol with ACTIVE technology at Jio-bp has undergone extensive development and validation using both industry standard tests and customized methods aligned to India's engine landscape. To prove its clean up effectiveness in real

world conditions, Jio-bp ran a motorcycle for more than 4,000 km at the Coimbatore test track, an impressive demonstration brought to life for audiences at India Energy Week. The removal of deposits helps reverse their adverse impact on vehicle performance, reliability and smooth operation, enabling tangible benefits to be associated with the use of petrol with ACTIVE technology at Jio-bp. Based on the average annual mileage of Indian two-wheeler and four-wheeler users, this improvement can translate into gains of up to 100 km* per annum. Talking about this revolutionary product, Jio-bp Chairman, Sarthak Behuria, said: "Indian motorists value simple, real-world benefits—engines that run smoother, are more reliable, have reduced maintenance and deliver more kilometers for the same fuel spend. With Jio-bp ACTIVE Technology, we offer petrol that actively

cleans the engine as you drive, helping reverse the effects of harmful deposits. Our aim is to democratize advanced fuel technology by making high-performance engine clean-up a standard offering, ensuring customers across India benefit from it every day." Adding to this, Jio-bp CEO, Akshay Wadhwa, said: "Today at India Energy Week 2026 in Goa, we have two motorcycles displayed side by side—one that has run on ACTIVE technology petrol and the other on regular petrol. Using advanced borescope imaging, the clean-up capability of ACTIVE technology petrol is explicitly visible. Backed by five years of tireless work in fuel chemistry, this petrol not only enhances fuel economy but also reduces maintenance. The motorcycle with ACTIVE technology petrol was run for 4,000 km at the Coimbatore testing track and the improvements translate into gains of up to 100 km* per annum.

PI Industries Unveils New Logo, Reflecting its Evolution into a Global Life Sciences Company

January 29th, 2026: PI Industries Ltd (PI) unveiled its new corporate logo, marking a significant milestone in its journey from a strong agri-sciences foundation to a globally integrated life sciences organisation. The Company's name remains unchanged, with the PI brand name continuing to anchor the corporate identity. Rooted in PI's scientific DNA and future-ready ambition, the refreshed identity reflects the Company's expanding role across agri-sciences, biologicals, pharmaceuticals, and complex chemistry-driven solutions. The signature blue represents innovation, reliability, and trust built over decades of global partnerships, while the vibrant yellow symbolizes energy, optimism, and the power of science



to create positive change. Structural elements inspired by the DNA helix and interconnected systems represent PI's cross-domain scientific capabilities, while the Devanagari-inspired typography reflects pride in PI's Indian roots and its global outlook. With an 80-year legacy of science-led execution, PI combines deep chemistry expertise, advanced technologies, and human ingenuity to deliver precision, quality,

and speed at scale. Today, the Company partners with leading global innovators across regulated markets, delivering specialised molecules, platforms, and solutions that meet the highest standards of quality, safety, and sustainability. Commenting on the new identity, Mr. Mayank Singh, Vice Chairman & Managing Director, said: "PI today operates at the intersection of chemistry, biology, and technology. Our new identity reflects the scale, sophistication, and global relevance of the organisation we have become - future-ready, science-led, and purpose-driven - while remaining anchored to the values and scientific discipline that have defined us for eight decades."

Coca-Cola India Enables Hydration Access and Retail Empowerment at Asia's Largest Tribal Festival

29 January 2026: As communities and visitors come together for Medaram Jatara 2026 - Asia's largest tribal congregation, Coca-Cola India, along with its bottling partner - Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Pvt. Ltd., is strengthening its commitment to local ecosystems through large-scale hydration access, retailer enablement, and community-led interventions. Anchored in its 'Locally Yours' initiative, the company is working closely with neighborhood retailers, vendors, and workers to support local livelihoods and create economic opportunities while delivering refreshment at scale. Across Medaram and nearby towns, local outlets and vendors have been supported with cooling infrastructure and on-ground assistance, helping them set up quickly and serve pilgrims efficiently. Mobile hydration carts, temporary stalls at high-footfall locations, and shaded rest areas have been set up to offer moments of relief to



visitors navigating long walks and queues. Vinay Nair, Chief Commercial Officer, Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Pvt. Ltd. said, "Our bottling operations are built to serve moments that matter, and few gatherings match the scale and cultural significance of Medaram Jatara. Working alongside thousands of local retailers, we're ensuring that whether someone stops at a roadside

stall or picks up a chilled bottle from their neighborhood store, refreshment is within reach. This is what our supply chain and partnerships are designed to deliver." Karan Achpal, Vice President - Franchise Operations, Developing Markets, Coca-Cola India and Southwest Asia said, "Medaram Jatara is both a cultural landmark and a significant economic driver for the region. The support

from the Telangana government has enabled us to mobilize our retail ecosystem to serve millions efficiently. Through our bottling partners and strong local relationships, we're ensuring seamless beverage availability while creating economic opportunities. This model is driving local employment, strengthening retail businesses, and contributing to socio-economic growth that extends well beyond the festival."

Gopal Snacks launches new national campaign for gathiya: "Chhoti Bhookh Ka Bada Solution"

Gopal Snacks, one of India's leading companies in the organized traditional snacks sector, has launched a new national campaign for its flagship product, Gathiya, under the tagline "Chhoti Bhookh Ka Bada Solution." The campaign marks the first-ever large-scale promotion of gathiya, highlighting its place as one of India's most loved snacks. Gopal Snacks is the world's largest manufacturer of gathiya. The new campaign positions Gopal gathiya as more than just an "anytime" snack, positioning it as an "every-lifestyle" snack, a part of everyday life across diverse consumer groups and situations. The campaign features three films depicting relatable scenarios among youth, working professionals, and home-makers. Each film captures different moods and moments but is united by a common musical thread of the same lyrical song reimagined with unique arrangements and tempos for each setting. The approach reflects Gopal Snacks' aim to make the brand's communication simple, inclusive, and emotionally resonant. Speaking about the campaign, Raj Hadvani, CEO of Gopal Snacks, said, "This cam-



paign is a landmark moment for us. We began as a gathiya manufacturer, and it has been an integral part of our success story. We felt it was time to give gathiya the spotlight it truly deserves. We wanted to create something that feels relatable, universal, and deeply rooted in everyday moments of joy and connection. The 'Chhoti Bhookh Ka Bada Solution' campaign perfectly shows gathiya is a simple product that genuinely connects across all generations and fits into every lifestyle." The campaign was launched during the recent 70th Filmfare Awards, where Gopal Snacks served as the official Snacks Partner, providing a high-visibility platform for the launch. Gopal Snacks is now rolling out an extensive, high-frequency media plan covering nation-

al and regional television, print, outdoor, radio, cinema, and digital platforms. The films are designed for both linear and digital formats, with shorter edits aimed at engaging audiences with shorter attention spans across multiple touchpoints. Early response to the campaign from consumers and trade partners has been strongly positive, with particular appreciation for its emotional connect and relatability. The campaign positions gathiya from a regional favourite to a product with pan-India appeal. The campaign sets a new benchmark for Gopal Snacks' future marketing efforts. Gathiya remains its flagship product even as it continues to expand its presence and strengthen its portfolio of over 85 products and 320 SKUs.

ASI Telangana partners with Medtronic in India to train postgraduate students and young surgeons in advanced open and laparoscopic surgical techniques

Hyderabad, 29th January 2026: Medtronic, a global leader in medical technology has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in India with the Telangana State Chapter of the Association of Surgeons of India (ASI) to train residents, post-graduates, and early career surgeons in open and laparoscopy procedures using new-age technologies via collaborative skill-building training programs. The collaboration aims to strengthen surgical capabilities by providing focused training in minimally invasive surgery, combining Medtronic's technological expertise with ASI Telangana's academic and clinical leadership. It will follow a blended learning format with interactive academic sessions and hands-on endo-trainer workshops to help participants gain practical exposure to laparoscopic techniques. The programme will be led by experienced surgical faculty from ASI



and participating medical institutions, ensuring high-quality, structured learning tailored to the needs of early career surgeons. Commenting on the collaboration, Abhishek Bhargava, Senior Director, Medical Surgical, Medtronic India said, "Advancing surgical education is integral to improving patient outcomes. Our collaboration with ASI Telangana is a focused effort to build strong laparoscopic capabilities among the next generation through structured, hands-on training. By enabling access to the right skills and technologies early in their careers, the initiative supports surgical practices and contributes to a more resilient healthcare system. This partnership also reflects our commitment to meaningful public-private collaboration and reinforces Medtronic's mission to alleviate pain, restore health, and extend life." Dr. B. Ramesh, Honorary Secretary, ASI Telangana Chapter said, "We are excited to collaborate with

Medtronic in India to further strengthen our training efforts and extend our reach to more postgraduate students and young surgeons. This program helps bridge the gap between theoretical learning and real-world application by offering a structured environment to practice laparoscopic techniques and build essential hand-eye coordination. By combining our academic and clinical guidance with Medtronic's expertise in surgical care and technology, this collaboration adds meaningful value and better prepares participants for independent surgical practice." This collaboration underscores a shared commitment to supporting the next generation of surgeons and strengthening surgical education in Telangana. Through continued joint efforts, Medtronic India and ASI Telangana aim to contribute positively to the state's evolving healthcare landscape.

UK citizens to be able to travel to China visa-free, Starmer announces in Beijing



ment announced several agreements, including: The ability for UK citizens to travel visa-free to China for trips under 30 days, bringing Britain in line with countries such as France, Australia and Japan. Halved import tax on whisky sold from the UK to China, and an agreement to work towards a deal on services between the UK and China. Co-operation on transnational organised crime and illegal immigration, among a list of 10 agreements promoted by Downing Street. Pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca also announced it will invest \$15bn (£10.9bn) in China until 2030. Starmer said today's agreements would make it easier for British businesses to grow their footprints in China, which he described as "one of the world's economic powerhouses".

WHAT COULD HAPPEN IF THE US STRIKES IRAN?

The US appears poised to strike Iran within days. While the potential targets are largely predictable, the outcome is not. So, if no last-minute deal can be reached with Tehran and President Donald Trump decides to order US forces to attack, then what are the possible outcomes? Targeted, surgical strikes, minimal civilian casualties, a transition to democracy US air and naval forces conduct limited, precision strikes targeting military bases of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) and the Basij unit - a paramilitary force under the control of the IRGC. ballistic missile launch and storage sites as well as Iran's nuclear programme. An already weakened regime is toppled, transitioning eventually to a genuine democracy where Iran can rejoin the rest of the world. This is a highly opti-



mistic scenario. Western military intervention in both Iraq and Libya did not bring a smooth transition to democracy. Although it ended brutal dictatorships in both cases, it ushered in years of chaos and bloodshed. Syria, which conducted its own revolution, overthrowing

President Bashar Al-Assad without Western military support in 2024, has so far fared better. This could broadly be called the "Venezuelan model" whereby swift, powerful US action leaves the regime intact but with its policies moderated. In Iran's case, this would

mean the Islamic Republic survived, which won't satisfy large numbers of Iranians, but is forced to curtail its support for violent militias across the Middle East, cease or curtail its domestic nuclear and ballistic missile programmes as well as easing up on its suppression of protests. Again,

this is at the more unlikely end of the scale. The Islamic Republic leadership has remained defiant and resistant to change for 47 years. It is appears incapable of changing course now."

Many think this is the most likely possible outcome. While the regime is clearly unpopular with many, and each successive wave of protests over the years weakens it further, there remains a huge and pervasive security deep state with a vested interest in the status quo. The principal reasons why the protests have so far failed to overthrow the regime is because there have been no significant defections to their side, while those in control are prepared to use unlimited force and brutality to remain in power. In the confusion of the aftermath of any US strikes it is conceivable that Iran ends up being ruled by a strong, mili-

tary government composed largely of IRGC figures. Iran has vowed to retaliate against any US attack, saying that "its finger is on the trigger". It is clearly no match for the might of the US Navy and Air Force but it could still lash out with its arsenal of ballistic missiles and drones, many concealed in caves, underground or in remote mountainsides. There are US bases and facilities dotted along the Arabian side of the Gulf, notably in Bahrain and Qatar, but Iran could also, if it chose, target some of the critical infrastructure of any nation it considered was complicit in a US attack, such as Jordan or Israel. The devastating missile and drone attack on Saudi Aramco's petrochemical facilities in 2019, attributed to an Iranian-backed militia in Iraq, showed the Saudis just how vulnerable they were to Iranian missiles.

Nicki Minaj calls herself Trump's 'number one fan' and shows off gold card visa



US SENATOR AMY KLOBUCHAR ANNOUNCES BID FOR MINNESOTA GOVERNOR



Democratic US Senator Amy Klobuchar has said she is running for governor in her home state of Minnesota amid the tumult of an ongoing immigration crackdown. In a video released on Thursday, she called for unity across all parties, billing herself as someone who could heal political divisions and was "willing to find common ground". Her candidacy comes after

the incumbent governor, Tim Walz, announced he would end his re-election campaign early amid criticism of his handling of a fraud scandal in the state. Klobuchar, a four-term senator, reportedly delayed her announcement after federal agents fatally shot Alex Pretti on Saturday, two weeks after they also killed another US citizen, Renee Good. These killings and other altercations have put the tactics and use of force by federal agents under intense scrutiny. The operation has become controversial due to these and other violent episodes which have been filmed and shared widely on social media. US President Donald Trump recently pledged to "de-escalate" the operation.

Samsung Unveils the Galaxy A07 5G: A Photography and Battery Powerhouse

GURUGRAM, India - January 29, 2025 - Samsung, India's leading consumer electronics brand, will launch the Galaxy A07 5G in the first week of February. This addition to the A Series is engineered for India's digital natives who seek a device for online entertainment, visual storytelling through social media, and all-day battery at an affordable price. The Galaxy A07 5G features an Iconic Track Camera Deco with a hi-res dual-camera setup, comprising a 50MP autofocus camera for high-quality images and a 2MP camera for depth perception. The main camera's F1.8 aperture—aided by its 2MP



depth camera—creates stunning bokeh effect portraits by focusing on subjects and blurring the background. The wide-angle setup is fine-tuned for vibrant colours and crisp detail, ideal for photographing sunsets, street scenes, or candid moments. Its 8MP front camera delivers sharp

selfies and videos with minimal noise. To allow consumers to fully enjoy the experience of capturing, editing, and sharing photos, the Galaxy A07 5G comes with a 6.7-inch HD+ display with a 120Hz refresh rate, ensuring smooth transitions and scrolling for videos and web browsing. The dis-

play's high-brightness mode (HBM) reaches 800 nits to provide clear legibility even in sunlight. For added durability, the screen is protected by a 2-step tempered glass. The Galaxy A07 5G is powered by a 6000mAh battery that is 20% larger than its predecessor. This robust battery—with 25W fast charging—supports day-long use, whether streaming videos on YouTube or browsing social media. The Galaxy A07 5G's optimised power management ensures uninterrupted performance for both work and entertainment. Stay tuned for more information on the Galaxy A07 5G's launch date, pricing, and exclusive offers.

Talks ramp up to avert US government shutdown after Minneapolis shooting



Talks to avert a US government shutdown have intensified in Washington DC, with officials reportedly moving towards an agreement in negotiations over the Trump administration's immigration enforcement operation. Democrats have been pushing to remove funding for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) from a \$1.2tn (£870bn) government spending package following the fatal shooting of 37-year-old Alex Pretti in Minneapolis on Saturday. US media report that the White House and Senate Democratic leadership are nearing an agreement which would meet Democratic demands to introduce new restrictions

on federal immigration agents. It would mean five of the six spending bills could be passed before the Friday deadline, while the DHS one would get a short-term extension to allow time for more discussion on the proposed new restrictions, like around

the use of masks by agents. If no deal is struck, the second shutdown within months will begin at one minute after midnight on Friday 30 January." How likely is a government shutdown? The spending bill has already passed in the House of Representatives, but needs 60 Senate votes to advance. Among the changes Democrats are seeking are requirements that federal agents obtain warrants before making arrests and clearer rules governing how they identify themselves, according to US media reports. There are only 53 Republican senators in the 100-member body, meaning that passing the bill will require at least some support from Democratic members. Earlier this week, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said: "I will vote no on any legislation that funds ICE until it is reined in and overhauled, and Senate Democrats are overwhelmingly united on this issue."

Heavy gunfire and blasts heard near airport in Niger's capital



Sustained heavy gunfire and loud explosions have been heard in Niger near the international airport outside the capital, Niamey. Multiple eyewitness accounts and videos showed air defence systems apparently engaging unidentified projectiles in the early hours of Thursday. The situation later calmed down, reports say, with an official reportedly saying the situation was now under control, without elaborating. It is not clear what caused the blasts, or if there were any casualties. There has been no official statement from the military government. The gunfire and blasts began shortly after midnight, according to residents of a neighbourhood near the Diori Hamani International Airport, the AFP news agency reports. They said calm returned after two hours. The airport houses an air force base and is located about 10km (six miles) from the presidential palace. One local resident told the BBC that shots had been fired from outside the airport, targeting planes. Others described their fear as they heard the gunshots and explosions. "We didn't sleep last night," said one resident. "Our room and the whole house was shaking from the gunshots and explosions," she said. "Yesterday was the first time I have ever heard gunfire," another woman said. "We were so scared." Several unconfirmed reports said unknown assailants had thrown explosive devices towards the airport area before exchanging fire with security forces. According to the FlightRadar24 website, several flights bound for Niamey have been diverted. AFP reports there was a heavy security deployment around the airport on Thursday morning. Niger is led by Abdourahmane Tiani who seized power in a 2023 coup that ousted the country's elected civilian president. Like its neighbours Burkina Faso and Mali, the country has been fighting jihadists who have carried out deadly attacks across the region. Early on Thursday morning, supporters of the military government took to the streets of Niamey to show their support for the authorities. The country is a major producer of uranium.

TRUMP'S BORDER TSAR SUGGESTS POSSIBLE DRAW-DOWN IN MINNEAPOLIS IF OFFICIALS 'CO-OPERATE'



Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has "ended its enhanced activities in the state of Maine", according to US Senator Susan Collins. A few days ago, the Republican senator wrote to US Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem asking her to pause ICE operations in Maine and Minnesota after the death of protester Alex Pretti. Now, writing on social media, she says an end to activities in Maine has been confirmed by Noem. "There are currently no ongoing or planned large-scale ICE operations here," Collins says. "I appreciate the Secretary's willingness to listen to and consider my recommendations and her personal attention to the situation in Maine." In addition to the shootings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti, ICE has been facing criticism for detaining five-year-old Liam Ramos and his father Adrian Alexander Conejo Arias. The pair were detained in Minnesota last week, and are currently being held in a Texan detention centre. Writing on X, Congressman Joaquin Castro says that "Liam did not look well" when he visited him yesterday. Castro says that he has put in a request to visit the five-year-old again, adding that "my staff and I are very concerned about him". The congressman was one of several lawmakers that visited the facility on Wednesday, speaking out against the father and son's detention, and urging the Trump

administration to release them. The Department of Homeland Security has said the pair entered the US illegally, while a lawyer for the family said they followed proper protocols to seek asylum. After taking over the immigration operation in Minnesota three days ago, White House border tsar Tom Homan now says he is working with local leaders and law enforcement to mitigate problems the state has had in recent weeks. "We didn't agree on everything, we didn't expect to agree on everything," he has said, but added: "I came here to seek solutions." Some in Washington are likely to hear Homan's remarks as a subtle repudiation of the aggressive tactics that characterised Greg Bovino's tenure in Minneapolis - and more broadly that of Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem. The "targeted" operations he was referring to are direct ones, aimed at specific individuals, rather than mass sweeps aimed at nobody in particular. That isn't to say that Homan is a moderate. He is, however, seen by people close to the Trump administration as a steady, experienced hand coming to solve both a law enforcement issue and a public relations one. In the last hour, Donald Trump's border tsar Tom Homan hosted his first press conference since taking over immigration enforcement operations in Minneapolis.



They Said "I Am Meeting A Girl During Match Time": Yuvraj Singh Lifts Lid On Old Controversy

Former India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh dealt with several linkup rumours during his playing days. As one of the most flamboyant cricketers of his generation, Yuvraj's dating life was always a hot topic of discussion. As one of the most flamboyant cricketers of his generation, Yuvraj Singh's dating life was always a hot topic of discussion. Speaking on tennis great Sania Mirza's YouTube talk show, "Serving It Up With Sania", Yuvraj recalled an incident where the media unnecessarily fueled a rumour. The 44-year-old revealed that he had casually hugged his manager, but it was portrayed as if he was meeting a girl mid-match. "I had an agent, somebody whom I had just started working with. I had given her a hug. Just when you meet someone, you give them a hug, and

they kind of turned it around that I'm meeting a girl during match time," Yuvraj said. While he admitted that linkup rumours are common for cricketers and celebrities, Yuvraj slammed the media for fueling controversies simply to boost readership.

"It's part of the life we live. If the media doesn't make controversial or negative comments, they feel people are not going to read. I feel there's much more negativity out there than positivity. I feel there should be more positive stories," he added. Yuvraj made his international debut in 2000 and called it quits from the sport in 2019. He represented India in 398 matches across formats and had over 11,000 runs to show for it. Over the course of his one-and-a-half-decade career, he has accumulated a number of records

under his name. The 38-year-old was also phenomenal in India's World Cup triumph in 2011 as he became the first all-rounder to score over 300 runs and scalp 15 wickets in a single World Cup. The feat included four Man of the Match awards and Man of the Tournament for 362 runs and 15 wickets. In 2019, Yuvraj had announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. With a career spanning over 304 ODIs, 58 T20Is, and 40 Tests, Yuvraj cemented his place as a player who could win matches for his side either through his electric fielding, fierce batting, or smart bowling. As one of the most flamboyant cricketers of his generation, Yuvraj Singh's dating life was always a hot topic of discussion.



SRM Institute Of Science And Technology Races To National Victory With Team Camber Racing At Formula Bharat 2026

SRM Institute of Science and Technology celebrated a landmark victory as its student team, Team Camber Racing, races to the National Championship at Formula Bharat 2026. At the competition, Team Camber Racing delivered a dominant performance, taking first place across all major dynamic and static categories, including Endurance, Skidpad, Autocross, Acceleration, Engineering Design, Fuel Economy, and Sustainability & Best Practices. The team also received the Best Driver Award of the event, showcasing complete technical excellence and teamwork. The students were mentored jointly by the Dean of Faculty of Engineering and Technology, Dr Leenus Martin and Dr. K.



Kamalakannan, Head, Department of Automobile Engineering, SRMIST. The winning team was led by Himanshu Kumar, Captain and final-year student from the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering. Supporting him were Vice Captain Aryan Sampath Nair

(Mechatronics Engineering), Technical Director Shashank Reddy (Automobile Engineering), Project Manager Rohit Ramesh (Automobile Engineering), and Chief Race Driver TM Sakthiprasad (Automobile Engineering). Their combined effort reflects the multidisciplinary approach at SRMIST, inte-

grating mechanical, electrical, electronics, and computing expertise. Commenting on the achievement, Dr. C. Muthamizhchelvan, Vice Chancellor, SRMIST, said, "Seeing our students push boundaries, innovate on the track, and achieve this national win is truly inspiring. Team Camber Racing embodies the energy, creativity, and dedication that SRMIST encourages in every student and this victory shows what can happen when passion meets hands-on learning." The Faculty Advisor of Team Camber Racing Dr. Jerome Stanley added, "This outcome reflects the students' consistency, technical discipline, and ability to tackle complex engineering challenges as a team."

"Career Had Become A Burden": Yuvraj Singh Makes Shocking Revelation



Yuvraj Singh is a legendary India all-rounder. He has won two World Cups with the national cricket team. He played a key role in India's World Cup-winning campaigns in 2007 and 2011. While Yuvraj's world record of six sixes in one over and his 12-ball fifty against England lit up T20 World Cup 2007, his all-round show took centre stage during the Cricket World Cup 2011. Yuvraj scored 362 runs and picked 15 wickets, and was adjudged the Player of the Tournament. Even the best in the business have to deal with tough times, and so was the case with this great India all-rounder. Around a year after the Cricket World Cup, a seasoned campaigner Yuvraj stayed in and out of the national team till he last played for India in 2017, and called time on his career two years later. During this phase, Yuvraj also battled cancer that

took a big toll on his game. The former India all-rounder also revealed that he even lost motivation to play for the national team at one point. Yuvraj opened up on his struggles on Sania Mirza's YouTube show, "Serving It Up With Sania".

"I got to that space where my career had become a burden. So, I was not enjoying my game. It's a very thin line. I had a feeling that 'why am I playing cricket when I'm not enjoying it?' I was not feeling supported. I was not feeling respected. And I feel 'Why do I need to do this when I don't have it?'" Yuvraj said. "When the game has given me so much, I've given my best. So why am I lingering on to something that I'm not enjoying? Why do I need to play? To prove what? I can't do more than this, mentally or physically. It was hurting me, so I decided to stop. The day I decided to stop, I was myself again," he added.



Australian Open Prize Money: Winners To Get Bumper Reward After Big Change

The 2026 Australian Open prize money has increased by 16% from last year, with the organizers of the season's first Grand Slam announcing their largest prize pool ever earlier this month. The total for 2026 is set at 111.5 million Australian dollars (\$75 million), as compared to 96.5 million Australian dollars (\$68.3 million) from last year. Meanwhile, the women's and men's singles champions will bag 4.15 million Australian dollars (\$2.8 million), a 19% jump from the previous edition.

Speaking on the record hike in the prize pool, tournament director Craig Tiley said it reflected Tennis Australia's commitment to supporting tennis

careers at every level, from rising stars to Grand Slam champions. "From boosting qualifying prize money by 55 percent since 2023 to enhancing player benefits, we're ensuring professional tennis is sustainable for all competitors," he said. "By supporting players at all levels, we're building

deeper talent pools and more compelling storylines for fans." It was also announced earlier this month that players beaten in the opening round would bag 150,000 Australian dollars (\$100,750), while even those knocked out in the first round of qualifying will

walk away with 40,500

Australian dollars (\$27,200). The lineup for this year's men's and women's singles is confirmed. World No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz will take on third seed Alexander Zverev in the first semi-final, while second seed Jannik Sinner will square off against record 10-time winner Novak Djokovic. In the women's singles, top seed Aryna Sabalenka is set to face off with 12th seed Elina Svitolina. In the other clash, sixth seed Jessica Pegula eyes a place in the final against fifth seed Elena Rybakina. Sinner, the two-time defending champion, is aiming for a hat-trick this year in Melbourne.

Why Are India Struggling In Tests? Rahul Dravid Gives Blunt Reply: "Not Easy"



The Indian cricket team's performances in Test cricket have experienced a drastic slip in quality, with home defeats against New Zealand and South Africa in the past year. While the side has dominated the T20I format without a single series loss under head coach Gautam Gambhir, their Test form has led to criticism from fans and experts alike. Former India head coach Rahul Dravid opened up about the challenges that modern batters face in Test cricket, explaining how switching between formats hampers their preparation. "One of the things I understood as a coach, especially for the guys that play all three formats, is that they

keep moving from one format to the other," Dravid said at the launch of the book *The Rise of the Hitman: The Rohit Sharma Story* in Bengaluru. "There were times when we would get to a Test match three to four days before the game. When we started practicing for the Test match and looked back

at the last time some of these guys had actually hit a red ball, it might have been four or five months ago." "That's become a real challenge-how do you find the time to develop those difficult skills? To play on turning tracks or seaming wickets for hours in a Test match is not easy. It requires skill. In my genera-

ICELAND CRICKET'S HILARIOUS OFFER TO REPLACE PAKISTAN IN T20 WORLD CUP GOES VIRAL

Iceland Cricket took a fresh dig at the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) amid speculation over a possible boycott of the T20 World Cup, which starts on February 7. Pakistan is expected to confirm its stance on either Friday or Monday, following PCB chief Mohsin Naqvi's meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Last week, the International Cricket Council (ICC) removed Bangladesh from the tournament and replaced them with Scotland. The decision was made after Bangladesh reiterated its stance of not touring India for the T20 World Cup, citing security issues. Reacting to the uncertainty surrounding the PCB's position, Iceland Cricket joked in a post on X. To drive the point home, the account also shared a screenshot of travel plans from Keflavik to Colombo, leaning into the logistical absurdity of a last-minute call-up. PCB chairman Naqvi, after a meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, had con-



veyed that all options were on the table the decision will be taken by either Friday or next Monday. Pakistan has been protesting ICC's decision to replace Bangladesh with Scotland after the Bangladesh Cricket Board and interim government insisted they will not play T20 World Cup matches in India over security concerns. Pakistan, meanwhile, announced their squad for the 20-team tournament which is, with one exception, the same which will face off against Australia.

Babar Azam Trolled Brutally After Another Flop Show Ahead Of T20 World Cup



Pakistan cricket team star batter Babar Azam was trolled brutally after he failed to score big during the first T20I match against Australia on Thursday. Babar looked uncomfortable against the Australian bowlers and could manage to score just 24 off 20 balls before he was dismissed by Adam Zampa. During the 14th over of the match, Babar went for a reverse sweep against a googly from Zampa and ended up missing the ball completely. It crashed into his stumps and a smart review from Travis Head ended Babar's nervy stay at the crease. Babar was already under the scanner following disappointing performances in the Big Bash League (BBL) and his

inclusion in the T20 World Cup 2026 squad was criti-

cised heavily by some experts and a section of the

Pakistan cricket team sup-

porters. Fans on social

media were not happy with

Babar's performance and

the star batter was trolled

heavily for yet another flop

show. Babar did take three

catches during Australia's

run chase as Pakistan regis-

tered a significant 22-run

victory to take a 1-0 lead in the

three-match series. Babar endures a rough time in this edition of the Big

Bash League scoring just 202 runs in 11 matches with

just two half-centuries. His

strike-rate was a poor 103

and averaged a mere 22. Babar's appearance in the

PALACE WANT £50M STRAND LARSEN AS FOREST CHASE MATETA



Crystal Palace have agreed a deal in principle worth in the region of £50m to sign Wolves striker Jorgen Strand Larsen, as Nottingham Forest prepare an improved offer for Jean-Philippe Mateta. Sources have told BBC Sport that Palace's interest in the 25-year-old striker has intensified in the past 24 hours and a formal bid is now set to be submitted. Palace broke their club record with a £35m move for Wales forward Brennan Johnson earlier this month but Strand Larsen's arrival would surpass that deal. Wolves are open to selling the Norway international this month provided they get a fee close to the £55m they rejected from Newcastle for the striker during the summer transfer window. Leeds have already seen an offer of £40m rejected by Wolves, and as things stand the Elland Road club are reluctant to go much higher. Mateta wants to leave Palace and has informed the club's hierarchy of his wishes, with Forest set to return after failing with an initial £35m offer. Juventus and AC Milan are among the clubs to have shown a concrete interest in the France international. Mateta is under-

stood to want to play Champions League football, but a move to Forest is understood to be a financially lucrative option for the 28-year-old and sources are indicating that Forest intend to accelerate their interest. The two clubs face each other in the Premier League on Sunday and no agreement is expected before then. Meanwhile, Forest have bid £20m for Brighton midfielder Yasin Ayari, though the offer is expected to be rejected. Palace are also close to the loan signing of Aston Villa forward Evann Guessand. The Eagles, who looked at signing the 24-year-old last summer, are set to take Guessand until the end of the season in a deal that will give them an option to buy. Guessand has scored twice in 26 Villa appearances - both in the Europa League - having struggled to establish himself in his favoured central striker position. The £18.25m arrival of Tammy Abraham from Besiktas this week also leaves him as likely third choice behind Abraham and Ollie Watkins. And although the Ivory Coast international has been happy to fight for his place at Villa Park, he is expected to leave.

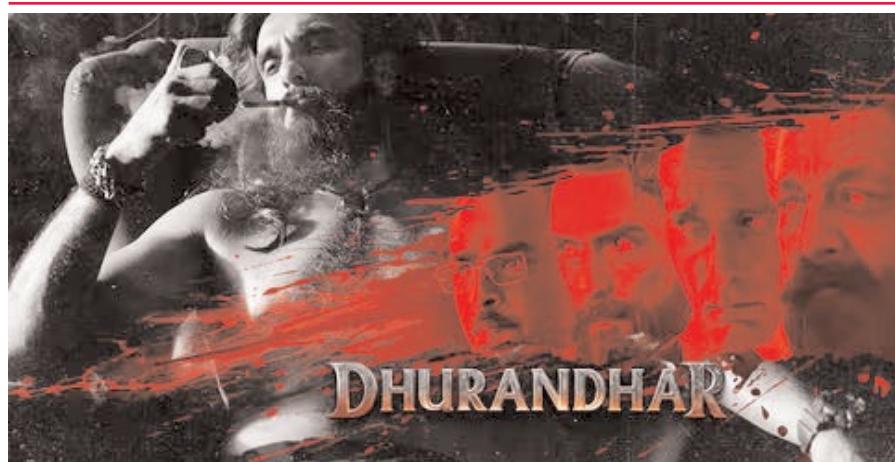
Rebel Star Prabhas, Creative Director Hanu Raghavapudi, Mythri Movie Makers' most awaited Pan India project 'Fauji' to be grandly released for Dussehra

Rebel Star Prabhas and creative filmmaker Hanu Raghavapudi are directing the most awaited pan-India project 'Fauji'. Produced by the successful pan-India banner Mythri Movie Makers, T-Series is presented by Gulshan Kumar and Bhushan Kumar. The first look has already been released and has received a tremendous response. 'Fauji' is set to have a grand release during the Dussehra festival. The shooting schedule will continue without any break

until the completion of the shoot. This film is shaping up to be very grand. 'Fauji' is going to be a visual wonder. Director Hanu Raghavapudi, known for his emotion and grandeur, is going to show Prabhas in a powerful avatar that has never been seen before. Imanvi is playing the female lead opposite Prabhas. Anupam Kher, Mithun Chakraborty, Jayaprada, and Bhanu Chander will be seen in key roles. This film is being produced by Naveen

Erneni and Y. Ravi Shankar under the banner of Mythri Movie Makers with world-class production values. The film has a top technical team working on it. Cinematography is handled by Sudeep Chatterjee (ISC), while music is composed by Vishal Chandrasekhar. Anil Vilas Jadhav is the production designer and Kotagiri Venkateswara Rao is the editor. The film will be released in Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam and Bengali languages.

DHURANDHAR BECOMES FIRST SINGLE-LANGUAGE FILM TO HIT RS 1,000 CRORE MARK



Hyderabad: Aditya Dhar's period spy thriller, Dhurandhar, starring Ranveer Singh and Sara Arjun, has become a historic success at the Indian box office. After completing eight full weeks in theatres, the film crossed the Rs. 1000 crore gross mark in India, making it the first Bollywood movie to achieve this milestone. Despite facing strong competition from Sunny Deol's Border 2, which had a massive Rs. 193 crore extended opening weekend, Dhurandhar continued its impressive run. The film faced a small dip in collections on day 50, earning around Rs. 55 lakh, but bounced back quickly. By day 53, it had crossed Rs. 1000 crore gross in India, making it only the fourth Indian film to do so.

A UNIQUE ACHIEVEMENT

What makes Dhurandhar's success even more remarkable is that it is the only single-language Indian film to cross Rs. 1000 crore. The previous films in this list were released in multiple languages, making

Dhurandhar's achievement stand out. With a strong and engaging narrative, the film proved that a single-language film can achieve massive success.

■ OTHER MOVIES THAT CROSSED RS. 1000 CRORE IN INDIA

Baahubali 2: The Conclusion : Rs. 1417 crore

KGF: Chapter 2 : Rs. 1001 crore

Pushpa 2: The Rule : Rs. 1471.10 crore

The makers of Dhurandhar are already preparing for the sequel, Dhurandhar 2, which is set to release on March 19, 2026. The film will feature Arjun Rampal reprising his role as Major Iqbal, the antagonist. The digital premiere of Dhurandhar will be on Netflix India on January 30, 2026, further increasing its reach before the sequel's release.

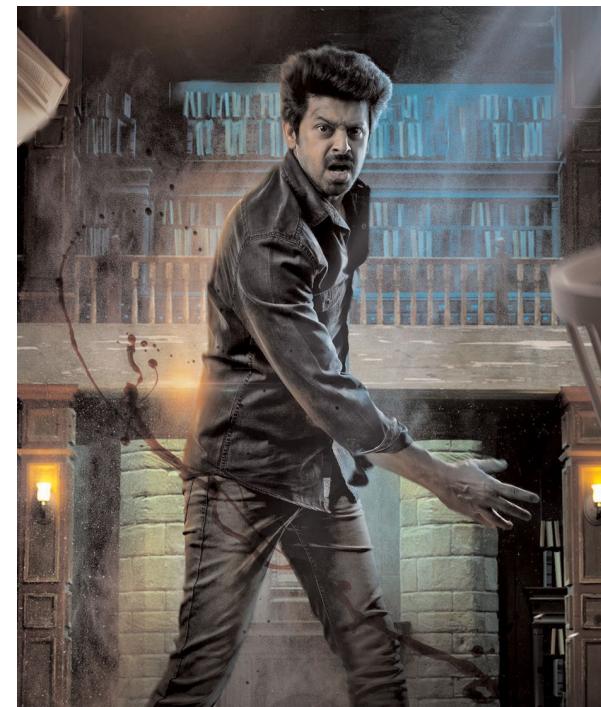
■ ABOUT DHURANDHAR AND DHURANDHAR PART 2

Based on true events, Ranveer Singh takes on four of Pakistan's deadliest terrorists. Speculation over the characters' identities has created buzz on social

media, but the makers haven't confirmed them yet. Ranveer Singh's character, thought to be inspired by Major Mohit Sharma, is a work of fiction, as confirmed by the Censor Board. Dhurandhar also dives deep into the socio-political dynamics of different ethnic groups in Pakistan. Dhurandhar marks the comeback of Uri: The Surgical Strike director Aditya Dhar, who scripted a new language of robust nationalism with his debut feature. It has emerged as the highest-grossing film in the Hindi language so far. Dhurandhar stars Ranveer Singh in the lead role and features an ensemble cast including Akshaye Khanna, Arjun Rampal, Sanjay Dutt, R. Madhavan, Sarita Arjun and Rakesh Bedi. New details about the title of the second part, teaser certification and duration are out. The second part will release just three months later, on March 19, 2026. The first installment had a runtime of 3 hours and 34 minutes, but fans will have to wait a little longer to know the duration of the upcoming sequel.



Sriram's 'The Maze' First Look & Title Glimpse Unveiled



Actor Sriram, widely known to Telugu audiences for his superhit films Aadavaru Maatalaku Arthale Verule and Okariki Okaru, is all set to captivate viewers once again with his upcoming Telugu film 'The Maze'. The makers have officially unveiled the film's first look and title glimpse on Thursday. Directed by Dr. Ravikiran Gadale, The Maze is a psychological thriller that explores the complex inner world of a man suffering from a mental disorder. The film delves deep into themes of memory, perception, identity, and blurs the line between reality and illusion, posing the thought-provoking question — "What is real?" Speaking about the film, director Dr. Ravikiran Gadale shared that the protagonist's real life and psychological state intertwine so deeply that he appears to be living in a dream-like world. The mysterious presence at the heart of the story remains an enigma till the end — whether it is a reflection of his subconscious, fear, guilt, past trauma, or an actual per-

son connected to his life forms the emotional and narrative core of the film. Starring Priyanka Sharma and Hrithika Srinivasan as the female leads, The Maze also features Ajay, Ravi Varma, and Ajay Ghosh in key roles. The film is jointly produced by Uday K. Reddy Palvai and K. Sridhar Reddy (KSR) under the banner Uday Reddy Creations, with KSR presenting. With striking visuals by DOP Y.S. Krishna, music composed by Shrawan Bharadwaj, and editing by Satya Giduturi and M.R. Varma, The Maze promises to be a gripping, emotionally intense, and thought-provoking cinematic experience for audiences who appreciate fresh and unconventional storytelling.

Jennifer Winget, Karan Wahi's wedding on cards: Industry buzz



time friend and co-star Karan Wahi. Jennifer and Karan Wahi share a strong friendship that dates back many years. The two first worked together in the popular show Dil Mil Gaye (2007), where Jennifer played Dr Riddhima Gupta while Karan Wahi was seen as Dr Siddhant Modi. Nearly 14 years later, they reunited on screen in 2024 in Sony LIV's web series Raisinghani vs Raisinghani, where their chemistry received a lot of appreciation from viewers. With wedding rumours now doing the rounds, fans are excited to see their favourite on-screen pair possibly turn into a real-life couple. However, neither Jennifer nor Karan has officially confirmed their relationship or wedding plans yet, and no wedding date has been announced so far. If the reports turn out to be true, this would be Karan Wahi's first marriage, while Jennifer Winget would be tying the knot for the second time. Jennifer was earlier married to actor Karan Singh Grover, but the couple separated within two years. The divorce was reportedly a difficult phase for the actress, though she later moved on with her life.

Mumbai: We already told you that 2026 could witness some of the biggest celebrity weddings, and the latest names making headlines with their rumoured wedding buzz are popular TV stars Jennifer Winget and Karan Wahi. Yes, you read that right! Tellyville is abuzz with reports suggesting that Jennifer and Karan might be ready to take their relationship to the next level and walk down the aisle soon.

A MELODIOUS, ROMANTIC TRACK PAYANAME FROM SEETHA PAYANAM, DIRECTED BY ACTION KING ARJUN, IS OUT NOW



Multi-talented actor-director Action King Arjun is directing Seetha Payanam, under the banner of Shree Raam Films International. The film marks the onscreen debut of his daughter Aishwarya Arjun as the female lead. Nirjan, Sathyaraj, Prakash Raj, and Kovai Sarala play key roles, while Arjun himself appears in a special role. His nephew, Action Prince Dhruva Sarja, also makes a special cameo. The film is slated for release on February 14th. As part of the promotions, the content and songs released so far have garnered a strong response. Continuing the momentum, the team has now unveiled the song Payanam. Penned by Kasara Shyam, the track features catchy music composed by Anup Rubens. The melodious, romantic number is sung by Anup Rubens and Satya Prakash. Adding to the surprise factor, Arjun and Anup Rubens make appearances in the song. The lyrical video also beautifully showcases the chemistry of the lead pair. The team has completed both filming and post-production.

With the film gearing up for a February 14 release, the makers have planned unique promotional strategies. Seetha Payanam will release on a grand scale in Telugu, Kannada, Tamil, Malayalam, and Hindi. G. Balamurugan handles cinematography, while Sai Madhav Burra provides the dialogues. Kick Ass Kali has choreographed the high-octane stunt sequences.

Shruti Haasan Joins Dulquer Salmaan's Aakasamlo Oka Tara in Powerful New Role

Introducing Shruti Haasan from the world of Dulquer Salmaan's Aakasamlo Oka Tara; Presented By Geetha Arts & Swapna Cinema, the project is produced by Sandeep Gunnam and Ramya Gunnam. Newcomer Satvika Veeravalli plays the female lead opposite Dulquer. The previously released promos have already heightened anticipation for this engaging drama. Meanwhile, the makers have sprung a pleasant surprise. Shruti Haasan, who has become highly selective of late, has come on board for a crucial role. Extending birthday wishes, the makers have

Presented by the prestigious Geetha Arts and Swapna Cinema, the project is produced by Sandeep Gunnam and Ramya Gunnam. Newcomer Satvika Veeravalli plays the female lead opposite Dulquer. The previously released promos have already heightened anticipation for this engaging drama. Shruti Haasan's character is going to play a decisive role in the film's narrative arc, with her entry steering the story into a new phase. Her mere appearance positions her as a force who brings sharp dimension and weight to the drama.

unveiled her first look. She sports an intense, unvarnished look, with glasses framing a steady, downward gaze that reflects quiet intensity. The cigarette at her lips and the drifting smoke add a gritty layer to her character, hinting at emotional depth and unspoken stories. The film promises strong technical quality, with GV Prakash Kumar scoring the music, Sujith Sarang handling cinematography and Shwetha Sabu Cyril overseeing production design. Currently in its final phase of production, Aakasamlo Oka Tara is slated for a Pan-India release in Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, and Malayalam in summer 2026.

