



NATION | NEWS

Shashi Tharoor, Priyank Kharge slam BCCI, BJP over release of Bangladeshi cricketer Mustafizur Rahman from IPL 2026



WORLD | NEWS

Helicopter crashes in Arizona mountains, killing 4 people aboard

SPORTS | NEWS

Siraj makes ODI comeback for New Zealand series, Iyer's participation subject to fitness



INBRIEF

ECI details 91.46 lakh logical discrepancy cases in Bengal SIR

Kolkata, January 3: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has released a detailed breakup of 91.46 lakh "logical discrepancy" cases identified during progeny mapping in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal. Voters classified under "logical discrepancy" are those whose records showed unusual or inconsistent family-tree data during the verification process. Initially, at the end of the enumeration phase—the first of the three stages of SIR—the ECI had identified about 1.36 crore such cases. After detailed scrutiny, the number has been reduced to 91.46 lakh. These cases are in addition to 58.20 lakh "excluded voters" and 30 lakh "unmapped voters," who could not establish linkage with the 2002 electoral roll either through self-mapping or progeny mapping. The Commission is currently hearing cases related to unmapped voters, after which the logical discrepancy cases will be taken up.

According to sources in the Chief Electoral Officer's office, the largest category among the discrepancy cases relates to name mismatches with the 2002 voters' list, accounting for around 51 lakh cases.

Drugs worth Rs 33.18 crore seized in Mizoram

Aizawl, Jan 2: Assam Rifles have highly addictive methamphetamine tablets valued at over Rs 33.18 crore by arresting a drug peddler on Friday, officials said. A defence spokesman said that acting on credible intelligence inputs related to narcotics trafficking near India-Myanmar border, Assam Rifles conducted joint operation with Mizoram Police at Kaifang areas of Saitual district in Mizoram on Friday. During the operation, unusual movement was detected near the suspected location, he said. A swift and thorough search resulted in recovery of 11,062 kg of Methamphetamine tablets, a psychotropic substance with an estimated international market value of Rs 33,186 crore. The seized contraband and a vehicle were handed over to Mizoram Police for detailed investigation and further legal action. The drug peddler, identified as Hasan Ali, resident of Badarpur district in southern Assam was also apprehended in the operation and he was also handed over to Mizoram police for taking legal action under the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act 1985.

Expected KCR to attend House, offer suggestions: Revanth



Hyderabad (TSIT):

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday said he had expected former Chief Minister and BRS chief K. Chandrashekhar Rao (KCR) to attend the Assembly and offer constructive suggestions on river water issues after raising the matter publicly.

Participating in a short-duration discussion on "Water-Facts" in the Legislative Assembly, the Chief Minister said the government had initiated a detailed debate on river water issues immediately after KCR spoke about them, but the former Chief Minister did not attend the session.

Revanth Reddy said the public needed to know the truth about Krishna river projects and pointed out that the undivided Mahabubnagar district had suffered injustice both during the united Andhra Pradesh period and over the last ten years. He said this was why he expected

KCR, as a senior and experienced leader, to come to the House and share his advice.

Stressing the importance of legislative debate, the Chief Minister said statements made in the Assembly carried more weight than those made at public meetings or offices. He expressed regret that the opposition leader had not attended the Assembly for the past two years.

Recalling past instances, Revanth Reddy said Congress leaders continued to attend the Assembly and raise issues even when they were criticised by BRS leaders. He warned that when opposition leaders fail to speak in the House, it is the people who ultimately suffer.

He added that while KCR had brought the issue of Krishna waters into public discussion, his absence from the legislature reflected a disregard for the Assembly, which he termed unfortunate.

Indians lose over Rs 52,976 crore to cyber frauds over 6 years

New Delhi (TSIT): Indians lost over Rs 52,976 crore to various frauds and cheating cases over the past six years, with Maharashtra recording the highest monetary losses in such offences, according to reports. Losses of about Rs 19,813 crore and 2,177,524 cheating-related complaints were recorded in 2025, according to data from Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (ICCC) that compiled information from National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal.

VENEZUELA-US CONFLICT

Captured Prez Maduro, his wife aboard US warship; to face prosecution



know where the president and his wife are after U.S. forces captured them.

"We do not know the whereabouts of President Nicolás Maduro and First Lady Cilia Flores," Delcy Rodriguez said. "We demand proof of life."

Venezuela's vice president has appeared on state TV to say that the government doesn't

know where the president and his wife are after U.S. forces captured them.

"We do not know the whereabouts of President Nicolás Maduro and First Lady Cilia Flores," Delcy Rodriguez said. "We demand proof of life."

The Venezuelan government accused the United States of attacking civilian and military

installations in multiple states. "The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela rejects, repudiates, and denounces before the international community the extremely serious military aggression perpetrated by the current Government of the United States of America against the Venezuelan territory," the government said. The statement added that President Maduro had "ordered all national defence plans to be implemented" and declared "a state of external disturbance."

Additionally, Defence Minister Vladimir Padrino said that Venezuela will resist the presence of foreign troops in a video after the attack.

14 Maoists neutralised in Chhattisgarh

Raipur/Sukma/Bijapur, Jan 3: In one of the largest "anti-Naxal" operations this year, security forces have neutralised more than 14 Maoists in two separate fierce encounters in Sukma and Bijapur districts of Chhattisgarh's South Bastar region.

The primary gunbattle erupted in the dense forests of the Kistaram area under the Sukma district, where joint teams of security personnel were conducting an intensive search operation based on intelligence inputs. The forces came under heavy fire from Maoists, leading to intense



exchanges that lasted several hours.

According to Sukma and Bijapur police officials, several Maoists were killed in the encounter, with initial reports pegging the toll at over 14 in Sukma and Bijapur. Police officials indicate that most of the slain Maoists belonged to the Dabba Valley Committee (DVC) cadre, a key Maoist formation. Notably, the Naxal commander allegedly involved in the killing of Additional SP Akash Giripunje of Konta was among those neutralised, dealing a significant blow to the outfit.

AP CM thanks investors for placing confidence in govt's vision



Vijayawada, Jan 3 (UNI) Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has thanked investors for placing confidence in his government's vision and coming forward to invest in the State.

On social media 'X' on Saturday, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu tagged a Bank of Baroda report which says Andhra Pradesh has firmly established itself as India's leading investment destination, capturing a remarkable 25.3% of all proposed

investments in the first nine months of FY26, stating that is a welcome news for the people of Andhra Pradesh and a strong start to the year.

"It reflects the impact

of our forward-looking policy reforms, particularly the Speed of Doing Business initiatives, including introducing the concept of an escrow-based mechanism for timely and transparent incentive distribution, as well as the introduction of clear, sector-specific policies," the Chief Minister acknowledged.

Naidu said: "I thank the investors who have chosen Andhra Pradesh as their destination for growth and for the confidence they have placed in our vision."

Colombia on high alert, calls for an urgent UN meeting on Venezuela



Bogota, Jan 3: Expressing deep concern over the US attacks on Venezuela, Colombian President Gustavo Petro on Saturday called for an urgent UN meeting, calling for prohibition of the use or threat of force and peaceful settlement of international disputes. In a post on X late Saturday afternoon, India time, Petro also said that Colombia is deploying forces at the border considering the tense situation in the

region. "We just finished the national security council meeting that started at 3 a.m. Public forces are being

Russia, Iran and Cuba condemn US 'armed aggression' against Venezuela

Moscow, Jan 3: Several countries across the globe, including Russia, Iran and Cuba, on Saturday severely criticised the US military attack on Venezuela, calling it a "flagrant violation" of the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Modi govt weakened village power: CM Siddaramaiah



Bengaluru (TSIT): Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday strongly criticised the Modi-led BJP government at the Centre, alleging that it has systematically weakened village-level governance and harmed the rural economy by diluting the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

Addressing a press conference at his Home Office Krishna, Siddaramaiah said the Centre introduced a new law by effectively withdrawing key provisions of the MGNREGS without consulting state governments, calling it a "dictatorial approach."

He alleged that the legislation was introduced in Parliament on December 17 and passed the very next day without adequate discussion.

The Chief Minister said the UPA government had empowered citizens through landmark legislations such as the Right to Employment, Right to NREGA, including 6.21 crore women. In

Karnataka alone, there are over 71 lakh NREGA workers, more than half of them women.

Siddaramaiah alleged that the new law removes the guarantee of 100 days of employment, restricts work to notified areas, weakens the role of gram panchayats, and shifts the funding pattern to a 60:40 Centre-State ratio, placing a heavy burden on states. He warned that these changes would increase unem-

TN to assure 50% of last-drawn pay as pension under new scheme: Chief Minister Stalin



Under the new scheme, State government employees will be provided with an assured pension equal to 50% of their last-drawn basic pay. To ensure this, the Tamil Nadu government will bear the entire additional funds required for the pension fund, along with the 10% contribution made by employees.

10% contribution made by employees. As part of TAPS, pensioners receiving the assured 50% pension will also be granted dearness allowance (DA) hikes every six months, in line with

those given to serving government employees. In the event of the pensioner's death, 60% of the pension will be paid as family pension to the nominated family members. The scheme also provides for

the payment of gratuity not exceeding Rs 25 lakh to government employees who retire or die during service, based on their length of service. In addition, a minimum pension will be paid to officers who retire without completing the qualifying service period required for pension. Further, a special compassionate pension will be extended to employees who joined service under the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) and retired without pension during the interim period before the implementation of TAPS.

CM Siddaramaiah accused the Centre of weakening MGNREGS through a "dictatorial" law, warning it will hurt rural livelihoods, women workers, and panchayat self-governance.

to Education, while the present government was dismantling people laws to favour corporate interests. Highlighting the scale of impact, he said around 12.16 crore workers across the country depend on MGNREGA, including 6.21 crore women. In

employment, reduce women's workforce participation, and undermine rural livelihoods. He said he has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking repeal of the new law, restoration of the country depend on MGNREGA Act, and protection of panchayat self-governance.

Congress workers must stay committed till Rahul Gandhi becomes PM: Nirmala

Hyderabad: Chairperson of the Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGIIC), Nirmala Jagga Reddy, on Saturday called upon Congress workers to work with dedication and discipline until Rahul Gandhi becomes the Prime Minister of India. She was addressing the Telangana Adivasi Congress Basic Workers Convention held at PSR Garden in Sangareddy



town. The three-day training programme for Adivasi Congress workers from the erstwhile Medak district was organised under the leadership of Bellayya Naik, Chairman of the Telangana Tribal Welfare Corporation and Vice-Chairman of the National Adivasi Congress. Participating as the chief guest on the first day, Nirmala Jagga Reddy stressed the importance of women's participation in party activities.

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

DEMAND NOTICE

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

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

Name of the Borrowers(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantors	NPA DATE:	Date Of Demand Notice:
(1) Nalla Ganesh, S/o: Nalla Vasudev, Age: 53 Years, Occ: Self Employee, R/o: Address-I: H.No. 2-54-47, Road No: 2, Narasimha Colony, Nagole, Peerzadiguda, Hyderabad-500039, Address-II: # 6-69/3, Dwaraka Nagar, Ghateswar Mandal, Boduppal, Rangareddy-500092, B/o: Proprietor of 'Kartikay Engineering Enterprises', A# 7-4-228, Geeta Nagar, Feruguda, Feruguda, Balanagar, Medchal-Malkajgiri, 9003733469	31.01.2020	03.12.2025
(2) Nalla Annappurna, W/o: N Ganesh, Age: 50 Years, Occ: House Wife, R/o: Address-I: H.No. 2-5-447, Road No: 2, Narasimha Colony, Nagole, Peerzadiguda, Hyderabad-500039, Address-II: # 6-69/3, Dwaraka Nagar, Ghateswar Mandal, Boduppal, Rangareddy-500092, 6300567470, (3) Shaga Harish, S/o: Shaga Ramulu, Age: 33 Years, Occ: Self Employee, R/o: H.No. 6-80/1, QilaShapur Village, Near Anganwadi School, RaghuNahari Mandal, Aswaraopalli, Warangal-506244, B/o: Proprietor of 'Shrawya Diagnostic Center', At Habsiguda, Hyderabad, 7207489223	Rs. 61,91,558/-	Rs. 15,00,000/-

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

BSRGTFT1904300017 - DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: All that the Open Plot No. 247, in Survey No. 81/85, Admeasuring 167.00 Yards or Equivalent to 139.61 Sq.Mtrs, Situated at Laxminarayana Colony, Nagole Old Village, Uppal Revenue Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District Telangana State And Bounded as Follows: Towards East: Plot No.189, Towards West: 30' Wide Road, Towards North: Plot No. 248, Towards South: Plot No. 246.

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

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

Dated: 03.01.2026

Place: HYDERABAD & WARANGAL

Commissioner inspects development works in Warangal

Warangal, January 3: Commissioner Chahat Bajpai on Saturday inspected development works in the 3rd Division of the Baldia range, focusing on proposed and ongoing CC road and drain construction works.

The Commissioner conducted field-level inspections after engineering officers prepared estimates for the works based on requests from local residents. During her visit, she examined the proposed plans and reviewed the areas where construction has already been completed, stressing the



need for quality execution and timely completion.

In-charge City Planner Ravinder Radekar, DE Satish, TPS Naveen and other officials participated in the inspection programme and briefed the Commissioner on the status of the development proposals and implementation.

Correct errors in voter list: BRS city president



Karimnagar, January 3: The recently published voter list for 66 divisions under the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation is riddled with errors, alleged BRS city president Challa Harishankar on Friday.

He submitted a petition to Municipal Commissioner Prapul Desai, urging immediate correction of the discrepancies in the draft voter list. Speaking on the occasion, Harishankar said the errors could create confusion among candidates as well as the general public during elections.

He pointed out that voters belonging to the same house number should be registered at a single location, but currently, details of family members living in the same house have been entered in different places. He

also alleged that voters from other wards have been wrongly included in the lists of newly formed wards, which goes against the delimitation boundaries and creates problems in identifying the correct ward of voters. Harishankar further said that the inclusion of voters' names without house numbers makes it difficult to determine their residential area, raising serious doubts about the accuracy of the final voter list.

Referring to G.O. Ms. No. 144 of the Municipal Administration Department dated June 21, 2025, he said ward boundaries and house numbers were clearly defined during the delimitation process, but several voters falling under those boundaries are missing in the current draft list.

He pointed out that voters belonging to the same house number should be registered at a single location, but currently, details of family members living in the same house have been entered in different places. He

Awareness rally for students



Karimnagar, January 3, TSIT : 150 students of Sri Chaitanya School organized a rally under the auspices of the District Transport Department, Karimnagar, to create awareness for two-wheeler drivers.

Before this rally, the Deputy Transport Commissioner of Karimnagar Transport Department P. Purushottama addressed the students in the conference hall of Juvwadi Chokka Rao Traffic Park Training Center most of

the road accidents in the country and the state are caused by motorcycle drivers dying. The reasons for their deaths were not wearing helmets and other reasons were explained to the students by the PPT.

DTO Srikanth Chakraborty, MVIS Ravi Kumar, Nagalakshmi, Kavitha, AMVIS Haritha, Sravanti, Suresh, Transport staff, R&B DE Kiran, Rakshasan Road Safety Foundation Coordinator Dr. Neelam Sampath participated.

Teachers must help eliminate social evils: Dist. Collector

District Collector C. Narayana Reddy on Saturday said that teachers should play a crucial role not only in imparting education but also in eliminating social evils from society. He was speaking as the chief guest at the Women



District Offices (IDO) Complex. The event was held on the occasion of the birth anniversary of social reformer Savitribai Phule, which has been declared as Women Teachers' Day by the Telangana government.

FEDBANK FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD. POSSESSION NOTICE

Registered office : Unit No: 1101, 11th Floor, Cignus, Plot No. 71, Powai, Paspoli, Mumbai - 400087

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Fedbank Financial Services Ltd. under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice mentioned hereunder calling upon the following borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being also mentioned hereunder within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The following borrowers having failed to repay the amount notice is hereby given to the following borrowers and the and the public in general that undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

LAN / Borrower(s) / Co - Borrower (s) / Guarantor (s)

1	Loan Account No. FEDHYCLAP0546505; & FEDHYCLAP0546019; (1) M/s. 1994 production House (Borrower); (2) Mr. Bachala Dinesh,S/o, Ravi Bachala (Co - Borrower); (3) Mr. Bachala Sai Kumar,S/o, Ravi Bachala (Co - Borrower); (4) Mr. Bachala Pramela,D/o, Komtham Venkataiah Demand Notice Date & Amount : 22-10-2024, Rs. 72,45,077/- (Rupees Seventy Two Lacs Forty Five Thousand and Seventy Seven Only) as on 22/10/2025 against Loan Account No. FEDHYCLAP0546505; & Rs. 50,59,613/- (Rupees Fifty Lacs Fifty Nine Thousand Six Hundred and Thirteen Only) as on 22/10/2025 against Loan Account No. FEDHYCLAP0546019; I Date & Type of Possession : 02/01/2026 & Symbolic possession i DESCRIPTION OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY : ITEM NO. 1, All that the part and Parcel of Residential MIG House No.93, and Municipal House No.5-80, (PTIN No. 1183006075) of R.C.C. Plinth area 455, Sq. Feet and Total Area 266.39 Sq.Yards or 222.72 Sq. Meters (Housing Board Colony), is situated at MUTRAJAPALLY Village, Gajwel-Pragnapur Municipality, Gajwel Mandal, Siddipet District, Telangana State, Registration Sub-District Gajwel,Registration District Siddipet at Sangareddy, Gajwel Pragnapur Municipality. M.P.P. Gajwel, Z.P.P. Siddipet. And bounded by: East: by H.No.MIG-92, West: by H.No..94 MIG, North: by H.No. MIG-78, South: by 40' wide Road. ITEM NO. 2 - All that the part and parcel of Residential House bearing No.72 LIG, Phase I, Municipal No.5-69/A/1, (PTIN No. 1183010895) of R.C.C. Plinth area 252.11 Sq. Feet and Total Area 170.56 Sq.Yards or 142.69 Sq. Meters, (Housing Board Colony, Phase I), is situated at MUTRAJAPALLY Village, Gajwel-Pragnapur Municipality, Gajwel Mandal, Siddipet District, Telangana State, Registration Sub-District Gajwel,Registration District Siddipet at Sangareddy, Gajwel Pragnapur Municipality. M.P.P. Gajwel, Z.P.P. Siddipet. And bounded by: East:by 33" wide Road, West: by H.No.71, LIG, North: by 40' Wide Road, South: by H.No.73.LIG
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The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the Charge of Fedbank Financial Services Limited for an amount mentioned herein above and interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Place: Telangana

Date: 02-01-2026

sd/- (Authorized Officer) -
Fedbank Financial Services Ltd

Ref: 2752/RICHTEX/MOVABLES SN/2025-26/ SALE NOTICE Date: 03-01-2026
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of movable Properties under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) and 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described movables property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Canara Bank, Somajiguda Branch, Hyderabad, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 13-01-2026 for recovery of Rs. 1,93,24,417.29 (Rupees One Crore Ninety Three Lakh Twenty Four Thousand Four Hundred Seventeen and Paisa Nine Only) as on 31-12-2025 due to the ARM Branch, Hyderabad (Trd. from Somajiguda Branch) from M/s. RICHTEX INDUSTRIES (BORROWER), Registered Address: H.NO. 5-9-285/8, PLOT NO. 63, F1 & F2, Rajiv Gandhi Nagar, Prashanth Nagar, Kukatpally, Balanagar Mandal, Rangareddy District, Hyderabad, Telangana-500072. Mr. Krishna Chaitanya (BORROWER), H. No. 625, Vasanthagaram, KPHB, Hyderabad-500072. Mr. Krishna Chaitanya (BORROWER), Flat No. 403, JVK Residency, Beside Cheru Super Market, 6th Phase KPHB, Hyderabad-500072.

Date & Time of e - Auction : 13-01-2026 11.30 AM TO 12.30 PM (With unlimited extension of 5 minutes duration each till the conclusion of the sale)

The earnest money deposit shall be deposited on or before 12-01-2026 by 5:00 pm (portal https://baanknet.com)

Description of Movables
Elastic Machine(Tacking 1404 PM), Kamney Machine, double needle machine (Jack JK3568), Feed of ARM (Jack 9270), Wdgw cutter (Jack 5200), Flat Lock (Inter lock-Jack 8569), Bartech (Jack), Single needle (Jack 9100), Brother Machine, running pattern (Brother), Overlock, Straight knife 627X, Steen Iron (Sunrise)

Reserve Price: Rs. 51,000/-, EMD : Rs. 5,100/- Bid Multiples : Rs. 1,000/-
The property can be inspected, with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer, on 09-01-2026 between 11.30 A.M. to 1.00 P.M.

*No Known Encumbrances to the Knowledge of the Bank. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries / due diligence regarding the encumbrances, ownership of equipment put on auction and claims / rights / dues affecting the equipment, prior to submitting their bid. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com), e-mail id: cb2752@canarabank.com or may contact Chief Manager, ARM Branch, Hyderabad, Ph.No.040-2772529

Date & Time of Auction : Online Electronic Bidding.

Details of Auction Service Provider : M/s PSB Alliance Pvt.Ltd (baanknet) Contact Numbers : 8291220220, E-mail:support.baanknet@psbaliiance.com,Website:https://baank

Governor to inaugurate third Niri9 International Film Festival in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, January 3: The third edition of the Niri9 International Film Festival will be held in Hyderabad on January 10 and 11, 2025, showcasing socially relevant and internationally acclaimed cinema. Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma will inaugurate the festival.

The event will witness the presence of noted personalities including Bollywood actor Seema Biswas, singer Lou Majaw, international singer Carlyta Mouhini and former Guwahati High Court judge Justice Ajit Borthakur.

The festival has announced the critically acclaimed supernatural thriller Dahini – The Witch as its opening film. Directed by Rajesh Touchriver,



the 2022 film stars Tannishtha Chatterjee, J.D. Chakravarthy and Sruthy Jayan. The film has received international recognition, winning Best Feature Film at the Titan International Film Festival and Best International Feature Film at the Pacific Beach International Festival, besides earning a nomination at the Swedish International Film Festival.

Niri9 has also announced special screenings of the hard-hitting Indian film Kooki and the internationally lauded The Voice of Hind Rajab. Kooki, directed by Pranab J. Deka, explores sexual violence and the failures of the justice system through the story of a teenage survivor, drawing attention to voices often ignored by society.

RS. 35.19CR ALLOCATED BY TTD BOARD TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT WORKS AT KONDAGATTU - TTD CHAIRMAN

Tirumala: The TTD board has allocated Rs.35.19cr towards the development works at the Sri Anjaneya Swamy Temple in Kondagattu, Karimnagar district, Telangana State upon the request of the Deputy Chief Minister of AP Sri Pawan Kalyan said TTD Chairman Sri BR Naidu.

Earlier along with the Deputy CM, the TTD Trust Board Chief laid the foundation stone for the temple development works at Kondagattu on Saturday. Speaking on the occasion, the TTD Chairman Sri BR Naidu said the request of Deputy CM was brought to the attention of the Honourable Chief Minister of AP Sri N Chandrababu Naidu, the TTD board sanctioned Rs. 35.19 crores towards the temple development works which includes a guesthouse with 96 rooms, along with several other development works, undertaken with TTD funds for the convenience of the devotees. The Deputy Chief of AP Sri Pawan Kalyan expressed his gratitude to TTD Chairman and the board members for their kind gesture.



Naidu, the TTD board sanctioned Rs. 35.19 crores towards the temple development works which includes a guesthouse with 96 rooms, along with several other development works, undertaken with TTD funds for the convenience of the devotees. The Deputy Chief of AP Sri Pawan Kalyan expressed his gratitude to TTD Chairman and the board members for their kind gesture.

SPMVV approves promotions for 23 faculty members

Tirupati: Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam (S P M V V), Tirupati, has approved the promotion of 23 teaching faculty members under the Career Advancement Scheme (CAS).

The promotion orders were issued by Vice-Chancellor Prof. V. Uma and Registrar Prof. N. Rajani following approval at the recent meeting of the University's Executive Council (EC).

The promotions span multiple academic stages,



including Stage 1 to Stage 2, Stage 2 to Stage 3, Stage 3 to Stage 4, and Stage 4 to Stage 5, in accordance with University Grants Commission (UGC) norms and university regulations. The advancements recognise the faculty mem-

bers' academic performance, teaching excellence, research contributions and service to the institution.

Congratulating the promoted faculty, the Vice-Chancellor and Registrar appreciated their dedica-

tion and commitment to higher education and women's empowerment through quality teaching and research. They expressed confidence that the faculty members would continue to play a key role in strengthening the university's academic standards, research culture and overall development. The promoted faculty members expressed their gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor and Registrar for their efforts in implementing the CAS process.

Andhra Dy CM lays foundation for TTD-funded works at Kondagattu temple

Jagital (Telangana), Jan 3 (TSIT): Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party chief Pawan Kalyan offered special prayers at the Kondagattu Anjaneyaswamy temple here on Saturday. He presented new garments to the deity and fulfilled vows made during his earlier visit.

In line with his commitment to the temple's development, Pawan Kalyan, along with Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) chairman BR Naidu laid the foundation stone for the construction of a Deeksha Viramana Mandapam and a 96-room choultry (resting place for pilgrims).

Students told to excel in social service taking Savitribai Phule as an example

Nalgonda, Jan 3 (TSIT): "Savitribai Phule and Jyothiba Phule devoted themselves to addressing the social injustices of their time through the Satya Shodhaka Samaj. Thanks to their relentless efforts, women today enjoy equal



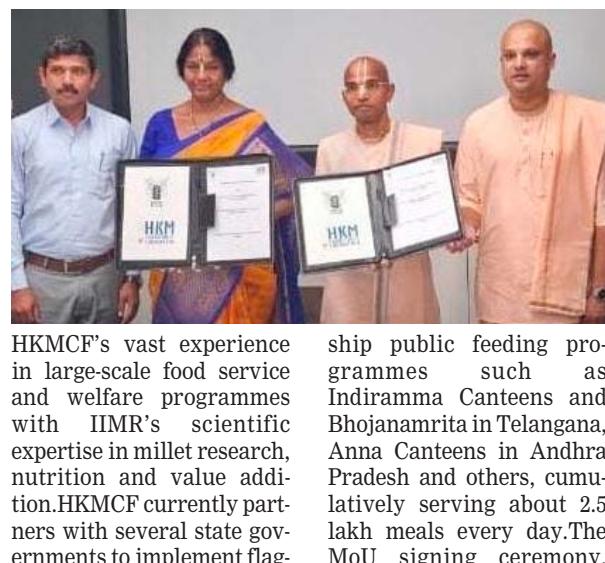
opportunities across various fields and actively contribute to societal development," stated Registrar of Mahatma Gandhi University (MGU) Prof Aluvala Ravi. He was the chief guest at a programme jointly organized by the National Service Scheme (NSS) Units of the College of Arts & Science Social Sciences (UCA & SS) and the University College of Commerce and Business Management (UCC & BM), where they paid floral tribute to Savitribai Phule's

portrait on her birth anniversary on Saturday. Alongside Fatima Sheikh, Savitribai championed education as the key to women's success and established numerous girls' schools to promote social change. Prof Ravi encouraged university students to join the NSS and actively participate in the fight against societal ills. He expressed hope that students would be inspired by reformers like Savitribai Phule to achieve excellence in their endeavours. During the event, NSS Programme Coordinator Dr. Venkataramana Reddy emphasized that the NSS at the university offers equal opportunities to all students, urging them to develop social awareness alongside their academic pursuits. The event was presided over by the Principal of UC & BM, Dr. Sridevi. Later, several women faculty members were honored for their contributions. NSS Programme Officers Dr. Mathari Anand, Dr. Mohammed Sharif, Dr. Ramesh Naik, and various faculty and students from different departments participated.

HKMCF signs MoU with ICAR-IIMR to promote millet nutrition

Hyderabad, January 3, 2026: In a major step towards strengthening nutritional security and promoting sustainable food systems, the Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation (HKMCF) on Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), Hyderabad.

The collaboration aims to promote millet-based nutrition initiatives through knowledge sharing, recipe development, training and awareness programmes. The partnership combines



HKMCF's vast experience in large-scale food service and welfare programmes with IIMR's scientific expertise in millet research, nutrition and value addition. HKMCF currently partners with several state governments to implement flag-

ship public feeding programmes such as Indiramma Canteens and Bhojanamrita in Telangana, Anna Canteens in Andhra Pradesh and others, cumulatively serving about 2.5 lakh meals every day. The MoU signing ceremony,

held at HKMCF, Kokapet, was presided over by His Grace Sri Satya Gaura Chandra Dasa Prabhuji, President, HKMCF and Regional President, Akshaya Patra Foundation (Telangana and AP), in the presence of Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director, ICAR-IIMR. Senior officials from both organisations also attended the event.

As per the agreement, the two institutions will collaborate on developing and standardising millet-based recipes for large kitchens, conducting training and awareness programmes, sharing best practices on millet processing and nutrition, and promoting millets as climate-resilient and sustainable food options.

Speaking on the occasion, HKMCF President Sri Satya Gaura Chandra Dasa Prabhuji said the partnership would help integrate millets into public feeding programmes to address health, sustainability and food security challenges. Dr. Tara Satyavathi said the collaboration would help translate millet research into large-scale societal impact, while also benefiting millet farmers by connecting them directly with large kitchens.

National level Rheumatology Conference in KIMS Hospital

Hyderabad, 3rd January 2026: The chairman of KIMS Hospitals, Dr. Bollineni Bhaskara Rao said that there are many new types of treatment methods coming up around the world for rheumatology problems such as arthritis, osteoarthritis, lupus, autoimmune diseases, etc. He asked rheumatologists to constantly monitor

- Clinical Rheumatology Conference 2026 on Saturday and Sunday
- More than 400 rheumatologists from across the country attend
- The biannual event was a great success
- World's first of its kind "case-based" conference in the world

ics such as Rheumatoid Arthritis, Lupus, Ankylosing Spondylitis, Psoriatic arthritis, Gout, Vasculitis, Childhood arthritis, and rare rheumatic conditions. The conference also featured a Rheumatology quiz for trainees, providing an engaging platform for young rheumatologists to test their knowledge.

One of the highlights



and be aware of and try to soothe patients with the newest methods of treatment. He spoke at the conclusion session of the two-day Clinical Rheumatology Conference 2026 (CRC2026) that took place on the 3rd and 4th of January at KIMS Hospitals, Secunderabad. More than 400 rheumatologists from around the country have attended this conference. The conference, a biannual event, focused on case-based discussions of the most challenging cases treated by experienced rheumatologists, making it a unique and enriching experience for all attendees. After a case-by-case discussion on how experienced rheumatologists have treated the most complex cases, all the participants were briefed on

the conference on how to treat such cases.

The inauguration of the conference was graced by esteemed guests including Dr. B. Bhaskar Rao (CMD, KIMS Hospitals), Dr. Sambit Sahu, Medical Director (KIMS Hospitals, Sec-Bad), Dr. B. Srinivas, Deputy Director General of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt of India, Dr. Vinod President Elect, IRA, Dr. Sarath Chandra Mouli (Clinical Director, Rheumatology department, KIMS Hospitals, Secunderabad), and Dr. D. Rajkiran (Director, Hyderabad Rheumatology Centre).

Dr. Sarath Chandra Mouli Veeravalli, the organizing secretary, and Dr. Vinod Ravindran, the Scientific Chair for CRC2026, led the conference with a focus on discussing top-

of CRC2026 was the newly included image competition, which received an overwhelming response from participants and added a creative dimension to the conference. Additionally, 269 case abstracts were submitted from across India, with the top Impartent cases in each category being discussed during the conference sessions.

"We are thrilled with the success of CRC2026 and the enthusiastic participation of rheumatologists from across the country," said Dr. Sarath Chandra Mouli Veeravalli.

"The conference has provided a valuable opportunity for us to exchange knowledge, discuss challenging cases, and further our understanding of rheumatic and musculoskeletal, Lupus diseases."

Rare Tumor in the Frontal Part of the Brain

* SYMPTOMS INCLUDED VOMITING, SEIZURES, AND MEMORY LOSS

* EMERGENCY ENDOSCOPIC SURGERY PERFORMED

* KIMS DOCTORS IN KURNool SAVE YOUNG MAN'S LIFE

Kurnool, 03rd January, 2026: Brain tumors are rarely life-threatening. Usually, such tumors grow over a period of two to three weeks, and symptoms appear gradually thereafter. However, in rare instances, certain tumors can develop suddenly and become life-threatening within a short time. In one such uncommon case, doctors at KIMS Hospital, Kurnool, saved the life of a young man by performing an advanced endoscopic brain surgery. The details of the case were shared by Dr. N. Sumanth Kumar, Consultant Neurosurgeon at KIMS Hospital.

A 24-year-old man named Balaram, a resident of Kurnool, was perfectly normal until the previous night and had even attended a family function with his relatives. Suddenly, about six hours before being brought to the hospital, he developed progressive symptoms including vomiting, seizures, severe headache, memory loss, and partial loss of consciousness. His family immediately rushed him to the



Emergency Department of KIMS Hospital, Kurnool.

Upon evaluation, doctors performed investigations including a CT scan of the brain, which revealed a tumor located in the anterior region of the third ventricle. Due to this tumor, the patient developed hydrocephalus, leading to obstruction of normal cerebrospinal fluid circulation and increased pressure within the brain. Normally, the human brain contains four ven-

tricles, which hold cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) that protects the brain and spinal cord. This fluid continuously flows through narrow connecting channels. Among the four ventricles, the third ventricle is very narrow. Unfortunately, in this young man, a tumor developed precisely at the junction of the frontal and the third ventricle. As a result, CSF accumulated rapidly, causing acute hydrocephalus. This sudden rise

in intracranial pressure can lead to seizures, drowsiness, and, in severe cases, even death. Fortunately, the patient was brought to the hospital within a very short time after the onset of symptoms.

"We performed an emergency minimally invasive endoscopic surgery using the most advanced techniques, through a very small opening in the skull. Such complex procedures are usually performed only in major metropolitan cities. However, due to the availability of advanced infrastructure and experienced specialists at KIMS Hospital, we were able to successfully save the patient's life here in Kurnool," said Dr. N. Sumanth Kumar. The surgical team first created a small opening of about one inch in the skull. Through this opening, the brain layers were carefully accessed using an endoscope, and the surgeons reached the tumor site. The entire tumor was meticulously removed without causing damage to the surrounding brain tissue. Following removal, the normal flow of cerebrospinal fluid was restored.

The patient recovered rapidly after surgery, and due to his stable condition and good recovery, he was discharged on the third postoperative day, Dr. Sumanth Kumar added.

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Mumbai's next mayor will be 'Hindu-Marathi' and from ruling Mahayuti: Devendra Fadnavis

MUMBAI: As political campaigning heats up for the city's top civic post, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Friday that the next Mayor of Mumbai will come from the ruling alliance and will be "both Hindu and Marathi."

His comments come as the push for the important Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) elections builds, with polling set for January 15 and results to be announced on January 16.

"The Mumbai mayor will be from the Mahayuti (BJP-led ruling alliance). The Mumbai mayor will be a Hindu and a Marathi person," Fadnavis said, responding to a question.

The issue had snowballed after Mumbai BJP president Ameet Satam recently remarked that his party would not allow any "Khan" to become the city's mayor, triggering sharp reactions from the Shiv Sena (UBT) and the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS).

After uniting with Sena (UBT) chief and his cousin Uddhav Thackeray recently, MNS president Raj Thackeray had declared that "Mumbai's mayor will be Marathi, and he will be ours."

Fadnavis has now sharpened his party BJP's pitch by stating that Mumbai will have a Hindu and Marathi mayor, further intensifying the political sparring as campaigning for elec-



tions to the 227-member municipal corporation, India's biggest and richest civic body, gathers pace.

The BJP Chief Minister made the remarks while speaking to 'Mumbai Tak' news channel during an interaction, titled 'Mahachavadi', as he travelled on the city's underground Metro line and answered questions on a

range of political issues.

About a query concerning former state minister and his party colleague Kripashankar Singh's reported comments about a north Indian becoming the mayor, the CM said, "Singh had not made the remark in the context of Mumbai. He is not even an official party spokesperson." Singh said on

Wednesday that efforts would be made to ensure the election of a "north Indian and Hindi-speaking" mayor in the Mira Bhayandar Municipal Corporation in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR).

Elections to 29 municipal corporations in the state, including the BMC, will be held on January 15.

CAQM revokes GRAP-3 curbs in Delhi-NCR as air quality improves

NEW DELHI: The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in NCR and Adjoining Areas on Friday revoked curbs imposed under GRAP-3 following improvement in air quality, officials said. "The AQI of Delhi, which was recorded as 380 on Thursday, has significantly improved and recorded 236 at 4 pm on Friday, exhibiting a trend. Keeping in view the prevailing trend of air quality, the CAQM Sub-Committee on GRAP decides to revoke all actions as envisaged under Stage-3 of the extant GRAP, with immediate effect, in the entire NCR," an official said.

"All actions under Stages 1 and 2 of extant GRAP to remain in force in NCR," the official added. Non-essential construction and demolition activities are now allowed to restart across Delhi-NCR. Works such as earthwork, piling, open trenching, welding, painting, plastering, tiling and flooring can also resume, along with the operation of stone crushers, brick kilns and mining activities, subject to compliance with pollution control norms, an official statement said.

The transport of construction materials, including cement, sand and fly ash, has also been permitted again, it said.

Restrictions on vehicles imposed during Stage 3 have been lifted as well. BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel four-wheelers can return to the roads, while the ban on non-essential diesel-run medium goods vehicles has been withdrawn, the statement said.

INDORE: In a narrow, quiet lane of Marathi Mohalla, the silence is heavy in the Sahu family with grief that no amount of money can compensate, as they mourn their six-month-old baby, born after ten years of fervent prayers, medical treatments and sacred vows.

According to the family, Ayan died on December 29.

Talking to PTI on Friday, Ayan's grandmother, Krishna Sahu, said, "We have not taken any compensation from the state government so far. Our child is gone. Will the compensation bring him back to life? Money is not greater than a child."

Residents have claimed that 15 people died due to the vomiting-diarrhoea outbreak caused by contaminated drinking water in Bhagirathpura over the last few days. The health department, however, has not confirmed this claim and said only four deaths have occurred.

The government has announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh each to the families of the deceased persons.

"The entire family prayed for Ayan's birth and made a sacred vow at Hussain Tekri Dargah. My prayers were answered, but I never imagined that the baby would leave us so soon," she said in tears.

Anita Sen, a neighbour, said, "I have a month-old girl, a four-year-old and a 10-year-old in my house. Now the government should ensure that no mother is robbed of her child due to contaminated water."

Residents have claimed that 15 people died due to the vomiting-diarrhoea outbreak caused by contaminated drinking water in Bhagirathpura over the last few days. The health department, however, has not confirmed this claim and said only four deaths have occurred.

Due to insufficient breast milk, the infant was fed packaged milk and milk powder mixed with water from the municipal tap, she said.

Sahu alleged that the water was contaminated and proved fatal for the child.

Chaitanya was arrested based on the statement of one Pappu Bansal, who is an absconder.

I have been saying this from the beginning that the central and the state governments have been leaving no stone unturned to harass us, he alleged.

The agencies, such as the ED, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the EOW were being used to harass opposition leaders, he claimed.

He alleged that the people have now understood that the BJP-led central government targets oppo-

sition parties through investigative agencies.

"Those who get scared, join their party or compromise, while those who do not are sent to jail. Our ancestors went to jail during the fight for Independence. If they did not fear the Britishers, why should we fear them (BJP) today?" Bhupesh Baghel said.

The ED arrested Chaitanya Baghel on July 18 last year in connection with its money laundering probe in the alleged scam, while the ACB/EOW placed him under arrest while he was in jail, on September 24 in its case linked to the corruption probe.

The liquor "scam" in the state, according to the ED, was orchestrated between 2019 and 2022 when Chhattisgarh was governed by the Bhupesh Baghel-led Congress government.

The alleged scam resulted in a "massive loss" to the state exchequer and filled the pockets of the beneficiaries of a liquor syndicate, it said.

As per the ED, Chaitanya Baghel was at the helm of the syndicate behind the alleged liquor scam and personally handled nearly Rs 1,000 crore generated from the scandal.

The ACB/EOW has claimed Chaitanya Baghel, along with managing the proceeds of crime at a higher level, received around Rs 200-250 crore as his share. The proceeds of crime linked to the scam could exceed Rs 3,500 crore, the state agency had claimed.

Tusker tramples 3 persons to death in J'khand

CHAIBASA: Three persons were trampled to death by a tusker in separate villages under Chaibasa Forest Division in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district late Thursday night, officials said.

Chaitanya was arrested based on the statement of one Pappu Bansal, who is an absconder.

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The agencies, such as the ED, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the EOW were being used to harass opposition leaders, he claimed.

He alleged that the people have now understood that the BJP-led central government targets oppo-

Indore water contamination: Infant born after 10-year wait dies; family rejects govt compensation

Indians travelling to Saudi Arabia need clearance for carrying restricted drugs: NCB

NEW DELHI: Indians travelling to Saudi Arabia should obtain prior permission for carrying certain "restricted" medicines in and out of the country, as the Kingdom has introduced a mandatory online clearance system, the NCB said on Friday.

The federal anti-narcotics agency, in a statement, said the General Directorate of Narcotics Control, India Country Office, Saudi Arabia, has formally communicated to it that certain medicines that are legally available in India or other countries may be prohibited or subject to restrictions in the Kingdom.

"It has also been informed that carrying medicines in excess of prescribed limits may also attract regulatory action," the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) said.

The West Asian country

has launched an electronic service platform -- with the web address <https://cds.sfdia.gov.sa> -- for submission of applications and related details. Permission can be sought online for the medicines intended to be carried for personal use.

As per the advisory, the NCB said, applications are required to be submitted by those who are travelling or their authorised representatives through the platform.

Travellers are also advised to consult the official list of restricted and prohibited medicines issued by the Saudi authorities prior to undertaking travel," it said.

The NCB added that Indian travellers are advised to verify the permissibility of medicines they intend to carry and to obtain the requisite approvals, wherever applicable, before travel.

New Year stabbings rock Delhi, leave 3 dead

NEW DELHI: The New Year evening was streaked with blood with three almost back-to-back stabbings leaving an equal number of people dead in Delhi.

Bihari Lal, 50, was allegedly stabbed in an attack by a group of juveniles when he asked them to stop shouting and playing loud music in northwest Delhi's Lal Bagh area.

A tailor by profession, Bihari Lal had just returned home Thursday evening from his job in Shastri Nagar, when he was faced with a raucous mob of revellers, whom he chastised for making noise.

"This led to a heated exchange, during which one of the juveniles stabbed Lal," a police officer said, adding that one of the boys kicked the victim several times during the fight.

Bihari Lal was rushed to Babu Jagivan Ram Memorial Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Police apprehended a juvenile in connection with the killing and seized the weapon of the crime. A hunt for the rest involved in the fight is on.

An FIR was registered at the Adarsh Nagar Police Station, and investigators are examining eyewitness accounts and CCTV footage from the area.

Bihari Lal's family and neighbours alleged that the group was notorious for creating disturbance in the area.

"He had just returned from duty and was parking his cycle when they came and started abusing everyone, throwing buckets, boxes and people's belongings. Bihari Lal only told them not to use abusive language and shout, as there were women and children around. That was all he said," Dimple, a neighbour, recounted.

Pushpa, a relative, alleged that the group had been terrorising residents for some time. "They keep throwing bottles, stones and sticks, and nobody does anything. We complained earlier, but no action was taken. The police never did anything," she said.

Pushpa said four boys were involved in the attack and "they stabbed him three times."

Hours later, in outer Delhi's Mangolpuri, an e-rickshaw driver, Vikas, was stabbed in a fight.

According to police, Vikas and his friend Sandeep, a daily-wage labourer, both aged 20, were sitting together when a group of youths started a fight with them.

"During the altercation, one of the accused stabbed Vikas, causing fatal injuries. Sandeep also suffered a minor lacerated wound," an officer said.

UP Congress forms committee in each district for scrutiny of deleted names in draft electoral roll

LUCKNOW: The Uttar Pradesh Congress has formed a committee of senior party leaders in each district for the scrutiny of the draft electoral roll scheduled to be published on January 6.

Provisional data suggest that the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls could lead to the deletion of nearly 2.89 crore names, or 18.70 per cent of the electorate, from the pre-SIR voter list.

According to the Congress, the committee will physically verify the deleted names and ensure that no legitimate voter is removed and no fraudulent

names are added," the party said in a statement. The Constitution has given the common man the most powerful weapon -- the right to vote, the statement quoted Ajay Rai as saying. "Recently, our leader Rahul Gandhi proved with data that vote theft occurred in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Haryana due to the unholy alliance

between the BJP and the Election Commission. "Given this situation, every Congress worker in Uttar Pradesh must help protect the votes of the poor, SCs, backward classes and minorities, because the BJP knows that these groups are largely not their voters and are suffering from its anti-poor policies," Rai said.

Rai said that the party will not be

Will double rural job from 100 days to 200 if voted to power in Bengal: BJP's Suvendu Adhikari

CHANCHAL: Amid a sharply rising political heat in poll-bound West Bengal, the state's Leader of Opposition, Suvendu Adhikari, on Friday said the Narendra Modi government at the Centre will double the guaranteed 100-day rural employment scheme to 200 days if the BJP is voted to power in the upcoming elections.

Addressing a public meeting at Chanchal in Malda district, Adhikari urged people to preserve their job cards, claiming that the BJP would expand the rural employment guarantee scheme beyond its current scope.

"Keep your job cards well preserved. Once you elect the BJP to power, we will double the 100 days of rural job guarantee to 200 days," Adhikari said.

In December 2025, the BJP-led Centre passed the new Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB G RAM G) Bill, replacing the erstwhile MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act). The new law guarantees 125 days of work



instead of 100, integrates employment with infrastructure, and shifts 40 per cent funding responsibilities to the states, sparking wide-spread debate within the Parliament and outside over its impact and funding structure. Claiming that the TMC was making false allegations against the central government about blocking funds to the state for housing and rural job guarantee schemes, Adhikari alleged that money given for these was looted by unauthorised beneficiaries backed by the ruling dispensation of the state.

"BJP will give Rs 3 lakh for each house to the beneficiaries if it comes to power in the state," he said, maintaining that Rs 1.20 lakh earmarked by the Mamata Banerjee government to build a house under the state's own housing scheme wasn't sufficient in the wake of rising material costs.

Lashing out at the TMC government for putting up administrative obstacles before all programmes he planned, Adhikari alleged he has had to knock the doors of the Calcutta High Court

104 times since the 2021 assembly polls to secure permissions for his rallies and political events, the current one at Chanchal included.

"Why? Because the tyrannical TMC regime and their puppet police force keep denying permissions without a shred of justification, purely to stifle opposition voices and crush democratic rights," he said. "Time and again the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court has repeatedly slapped down these arbitrary denials and granted permissions, exposing the blatant abuse of power by Mamata Banerjee's Administration. This isn't governance; it's dictatorship in disguise," he added in a post on X. Adhikari asserted that the ongoing SIR process is an indicator of what is likely to happen in the upcoming polls.

"The difference between the votes obtained by TMC and BJP in the state in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections was only 40 lakh. Already 58 lakh names have been deleted in the published draft voter list," he said. Echoing the words of Union Home

Minister Amit Shah during his visit to Kolkata earlier this week, Adhikari said, "Trinamool Congress will sit in the opposition benches of West Bengal assembly after the polls in April."

The BJP leader designated West Bengal as "the homeland for Bengali Hindus" and referred to the attack on Malda Uttar BJP MP Khagen Murmu in Jhalpaiguri in October last year to state that the party cannot allow such spilling of blood to continue on the soil of the state.

"Badla chaili badal korun (To exact revenge, bring about change first)," Adhikari said, tweaking the TMC's "Badla Noy, Badal Chai (no revenge, only change)" slogan of 2011 state polls where it toppled the Left Front government in Bengal.

Addressing the meeting, titled 'Parivartan Sankalp Sabha', Adhikari referred to attacks on Hindus during the anti-Waqf Amendment Act violence in Mursidabad in early 2025, stating that the "need of the hour" was to "unite the Hindus statewide".

EDITORIAL

Can Innovation Happen Only with Science and Engineering?

Sometimes received wisdom prevents us from appreciating a larger reality. What if everything we've heard about the importance of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) graduates for the needs of economic growth and for fuelling innovation is only partially correct? The mantra is insistent: every country is exhorted to produce more graduates in STEM fields, citing their critical, even exclusive importance for economic growth, innovation, and competitiveness. In every country, from India to the United States, alarms are being raised about the number of STEM graduates produced by China and their role in promoting the meteoric rise of new growth centres in the economy. It is strongly implied that unless very large numbers of STEM graduates are churned out, it will sound the death knell of prospects for growth, and everything that goes with it, both domestically and globally. There is no disputing the critical role scientists and engineers play in the development of technology, nor the contribution of many technology intensive sectors to economic growth. However, STEM is not the whole story.

The STEM narrative comes at the expense of graduates in arts, humanities, and even social sciences. At least some of the latter, above all, economics, are more easily defended in this narrative. Also, sociology, political science, psychology and history are understood to have a direct bearing on the evolution, efficacy and development of institutions of governance, society and economy. Since economics is prone to ever encroaching disciplinary imperialism, its methodology and data also nudge a significant part of the research in other social sciences towards the economic dimension.

The traditional approach to education in the arts and humanities has been to stress one of two following broad streams: First, there are those who enter the arts and humanities streams to pursue careers in those fields. They contribute uniquely to society, not just by creating movies, music, literature, all of which are an integral part of being human. It should also be noted that this cultural vibrancy by itself has positive economic consequences. Second, instruction in the arts and humanities provides a broad liberal arts education for a well-rounded, comprehensively educated citizenry. And indeed, this is valuable for a democratic, and socially and economically vibrant future. But there is a possible third stream: we could liberate the arts and humanities from their assigned place for balanced, harmonious development of society and unleash them onto other reaches of the economy, not just in kindred fields of advertising and marketing, but also in product development, and, dare we say it, the process of innovation itself. The broad challenge is to combine the numeracy, systematic data collection, analysis, experimentation, and logic of the hard sciences with the free-flowing yet focused creativity of the arts – the magical prism through which they view the world – in the service of technological innovation. Of course, there may well be many in those fields who may look down upon these humdrum, earthly and practical concerns! An assumption about arts and humanities is that they are soft subjects, without the rigour and rules demanded by the hard sciences. But whether it be music, or painting, or poetry, these are disciplines with structures, systems, and organisation. The rules and structures are often subtle, not overt or obvious to those not in the field. Creativity in those fields is enabled by rules and organisation, and is not about giving free reign to whimsical arbitrariness, a charge often levied by the STEM folk at the arts and humanities practitioners. The arts and humanities could enable a different sensibility, a creative leap, especially in the conception and design of new goods and conveniences. In a deep sense, everything is connected to everything else and people trained in what appears to the uninitiated to be the “unstructured” world of arts and humanities can display sensitivity to the most distant.

Edit

HYDERABAD
SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026

6

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BEYOND THE FARM:

How Bihar's Women are Reimagining Livelihoods From the Margins



Every day, thousands of government and non-government employees enter the Bihar secretariat in Patna. A large number of them use the public canteen, run entirely by a group of women popularly known as Jeevika Didis. From cooking and serving food to managing daily accounts and deciding the menu, every aspect of the enterprise is handled by women. This canteen has emerged as a symbol of women-led enterprise in Bihar. This model has become a compelling example of women's entrepreneurship. More importantly, the public discourse around women-led enterprises in Bihar is no longer confined to the corridors of power. It has begun to expand into villages, kasbas, and semi-urban spaces across the state. The reason for this shift is both simple and significant. Recently, the Bihar government announced the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana, which proposes a base grant of Rs 10,000 for women from rural households, with additional assistance of up to Rs 2 lakh linked to enterprise performance. The scheme aims to lower entry barriers and improve the long-term viability of women-led enterprises. Jeevika and the architecture of collective enterprise The backbone of the scheme is around a leading social institution of the government of Bihar which is known as Jeevika. Jeevika has mobilised more than 12 million women across Bihar into Self-Help Groups (SHGs), creating one of the largest women's collectives in the world. These groups pool savings, access bank credit, and crucially, provide social and institutional support to women who would otherwise remain excluded from formal economic systems. The enterprises themselves reflect a pragmatic adaptation to local constraints. With limited access to capital, infrastructure or formal training, women have gravitated towards activities that require low initial investment and build on existing skills and social networks. These include poultry and small livestock rearing, food processing, handi-

crafts, catering services and small-scale hospitality ventures. Traditional crafts such as Madhubani painting and block printing, once confined to domestic spaces, are increasingly being organised into collective production units. Similarly, food processing units producing pickles, snacks and regional staples operate with basic machinery and local inputs. Community kitchens, popularly known as Didi Ki Rasoi, now supply meals to hospitals, offices and public institutions in several districts, simultaneously addressing nutrition needs and income generation. Backyard poultry and goat-rearing initiatives under Jeevika reach over two lakh families, providing both dietary protein and modest but steady cash flows. In some areas, women-run tea stalls, catering units and homestays are also emerging, linked tentatively to local tourism and service demand. Linking micro to macro The crucial question now is how to design and implement strategies that effectively link micro-level initiatives to macro-level outcomes. This question reveals multiple layers of constraints and barriers to scaling women-led enterprises in Bihar. Among the most critical challenges is ensuring genuine ownership of enterprises by women, while also addressing structural economic

barriers in the state. In a positive light, one key element for fostering ownership has been articulated by Nikhil Raj, who argues that grants should follow a matching model. Under this approach, women would contribute at least 25% equity, thereby promoting ownership, responsibility and long-term commitment rather than dependence on state support. Markets: The missing link Despite their promise, these enterprises face a fundamental challenge from markets. Bihar's low per capita income translates into weak local purchasing power, limiting demand for value-added goods in rural areas. Many women-led enterprises struggle to sell beyond their immediate geographies, making access to urban markets essential for sustainability. However, market linkage remains fragile. Limited digital literacy, patchy internet access and unfamiliarity with e-commerce platforms constrain women's ability to reach wider consumers. Sales often depend on periodic government-sponsored fairs or exhibitions in places like Bodh Gaya and Patna, providing visibility but little continuity. Scaling beyond such episodic opportunities has proven difficult. Research by Gurpreet Singh, Praveen Jha and Nivedita Sharma on rural non-farm employment in

Bihar highlights how fragmented markets and weak value chains limit growth, particularly for micro-enterprises lacking brand recognition, quality certification or logistical support. These challenges are not unique to Bihar, but they are magnified in a state where infrastructure gaps and low consumer demand intersect. The deeper constraint becomes visible when per capita income is considered. Bihar's per capita GSDP remains roughly one-third of the national average, reflecting a large population base, continued dependence on agriculture, limited industrialisation and a narrow services sector. As economist Alakh Narayan Sharma of the Institute for Human Development notes, this structural fragility is compounded by migration. He points out that remittances sent by migrant workers account for an estimated 28% of total village income in Bihar, making out-migration a central pillar of household survival rather than a supplementary strategy. It is within this constrained economic landscape that a quieter transformation is unfolding – one that is led largely by women, and largely outside agriculture. Possibility from the margins Women-led non-farm enterprises in Bihar represent neither a miracle solution nor a marginal footnote.

Usman Khawaja's Retirement Presser Shows Sportspersons the Moral Compass



The acronym GOAT has been in currency for a few decades, often to describe athletes whose on-field achievements have transcended generations. If there was a category for retirement speeches that go beyond the sport and offer a mirror to society, Australian cricketer Usman Khawaja would be a strong contender to top the list. Historically, retirement speeches and press conferences have always been feel-good, emotional, and sometimes heart-breaking. Players get nostalgic and express gratitude, while hard-nosed journalists asking softball questions. Everyone moves on in a few days. But some speeches linger. For fans earnestly invested in a sport, such speeches invariably bring heartache, even grief. The great American baseball player Lou Gehrig announced he has ALS (now known as Lou Gehrig's Disease). It was a cultural turning point when Magic Johnson stunned the world by announcing he was retiring immediately after testing positive for HIV. Kobe Bryant broke the mould by announcing his retirement through a poem titled 'Dear Basketball'. More recently, Roger Federer's retirement became internet-famous not just for his words, but for the visuals of him and his greatest rival, Rafael Nadal, sitting on the bench crying together. And closer home, Sachin

Tendulkar's meticulously written retirement speech, scribbled on a piece of paper, brought a one-sport nation to tears. In terms of skills, Khawaja doesn't belong to this league of elite sportspersons, but his retirement press conference is arguably the most searing sociological critique. It included polarising keywords like Gaza, Islamophobia, and right-wing politics. He was openly critical of the media, former players, and – even if indirectly – the people of his adopted country, Australia. It's important to understand why. Khawaja was born in Islamabad, before moving to Australia at the age of five. In 2011, he became the first Muslim and first Pakistani-born player to wear the much-romanticised Baggy Green (a term

to describe the hat the Australian Test team wears). He has had a distinguished career, punctuated by the most stunning comebacks. He has courted controversy, and repeatedly coped with it for speaking up. While his importance stems from being a first in multiple categories, his legacy has been built on his refusal to simply fit in – something he tried in his younger days. It's worth watching the press conference to understand the many moments he felt let down. Culturally, everything Khawaja said felt out of place given the moment he chose, and definitely given how we, as an audience, are conditioned. He makes deliberate references to Allah, speaks of their hardship as a family, how he couldn't find social accept-

ance growing up, how he would hang out late to fit in with his teammates while they drank (and he didn't), and how white players who drink and get injured were lads, while he was lazy. "If you want to talk about integration, I've got a white wife who I love and cherish, and I've got half-Australian, half-Pakistani kids." Listening to him is both disturbing and refreshing. Yet, in saying what he did, and even invoking Indian-origin cricket journalist Bharat Sundaresan, who has faced discrimination and been asked for his ID at cricket grounds while white colleagues weren't, Khawaja has set the bar for what free expression can look like. Over the years Sundaresan has spoken openly about the micro-aggressions he has experienced as a reporter, and found support from many Australian cricketers including Khawaja. It's not hard to find old social media posts from India's most prominent sportspersons complaining about administrative matters. But for over a decade they have stayed famously quiet on topics that could be perceived to be critical of the administration, and hurt their personal interests in any way. Though they've been happy puppets, forming a cross-sport hashtag team to condemn Rihanna for bringing up the farmer protest. When Mohammed Shami was targeted for his religious identity.

How Mamata Banerjee Is Banking On 'Bengali Hinduism' To Counter BJP



At every rally and public event, Mamata Banerjee states that she does not practise appeasement of any particular religion and that her politics is secular. A few days ago, however, the West Bengal government announced it would build a Durga temple in New Town, Kolkata, where Mamata laid the foundation stone for the project. The project is called 'Durga Angan', and the invitation card for the inauguration ceremony was issued on behalf of the state government. The letter noted that West Bengal's traditional Durga Puja was recognised by UNESCO in 2021 as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, and that the Durga Angan project was meant to preserve that tradition. During the ceremony, Mamata placed a red sari and a white dhoti at the site. The explanation offered was symbolic: Durga is where Shiva is, and Shiva is where Durga is – the merger of 'Gauri' and 'Hara'. Mamata also announced plans to build a Mahakal Shiva temple in North Bengal. The BJP leadership views these actions as a response to political pressure and to ease the perception that the Trinamool Congress engages in Muslim appeasement. Union Home Minister Amit Shah says that while building a Durga temple is not a problem and is, in fact, a good thing, Mamata's actions have come too late and may be seen as inauthentic. But what's behind this shift in Mamata's politics? It is undeniable that Hindutva has been central to the BJP's politics. With the BJP in power in most states, it has been able to spread its Hindutva agenda nationwide. To counter this, parties have had to take their own respective routes. Images of Rahul Gandhi wearing the sacred thread and taking a dip in the Ganga aren't a surprise anymore. Earlier, Rajiv Gandhi had sent Buta Singh to Ayodhya. Kejriwal, too, frequently visits temples before elections. However, the fact is that often, when opposition parties adopt Hindutva to counter the BJP, they often end up appearing like its B-

team. Mamata's case, however, is shaped by the distinct nature of Bengali Hinduism. For instance, Bengali Hindus are largely non-vegetarian, with fish considered auspicious in their culture. In several temples, fish offerings are still common. Shakta traditions are deeply influential. Bengalis are culturally pluralistic, shaped by both Aryan and non-Aryan influences. The Hinduism of Ramakrishna Paramahansa and Swami Vivekananda reflects this difference. Mamata Banerjee's composite cultural identity is also rooted in this Bengali tradition. Mamata never really foregrounded her religious identity in the past. Yet, like many Bengali Hindu women, she has always been personally devout. What has changed now is the public display of her religiosity. This approach helped her against the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. What will happen in 2026 remains to be seen. Mamata has also built a political narrative positioning Modi and Amit Shah as outsiders from Delhi, framing their presence as an attempt by an 'external' power to take control of Bengal. By saying "they are not Bengalis", Mamata isn't referring only to ethnic Bengalis but also Gujaratis, Marwaris, Maharashtrians and Hindi-speaking residents. Linguist Suniti Kumar Chattopadhyay explained extensively how the Bengali identity is rooted in language. It is this collective Bengali identity that Mamata is trying to tap to take on Delhi. As an opposition leader, Mamata is also positioning the election as a direct contest between herself and Modi, rather than between the West Bengal BJP and the Trinamool Congress. While the BJP relies on Modi's brand, Mamata is banking on her radical anti-Centre politics. There is no single axis to this election. The BJP, meanwhile, is looking towards new political formations to split the Muslim vote. It hopes that Humayun Kabir's party will make gains in North Bengal and that the ISF will weaken Mamata in the South. With Murshidabad's 21 seats and Malda's 10, these districts are key targets. Owaisi, too, is attempting to dent Mamata's Muslim support. In any case, many Muslim leaders have begun feeling that Mamata is over-performing Hindu religiosity and neglecting Muslim concerns. Mamata, however, counters this by warning Muslims that such fragmentation will only help the BJP.

Nature at the Core: Chief Commissioner Directs Eco-Friendly Boating and Flood Control

Bengaluru : The Chief Commissioner, Maheshwar Rao, has directed all concerned departments and 5 city corporations to place nature-based and eco-friendly principles at the core of all developmental activities. Speaking at a meeting with officials held today at the GBA head office, he stressed that priority should be given to environmentally sensitive developmental works, and effective flood mitigation measures.

Eco-Friendly Boating in Lakes:

The Chief Commissioner instructed the concerned officers to coordinate with the Tourism Department to develop lakes as public attractions while preserving their ecological balance. It was clearly directed that diesel or fuel-based boats shall not be permitted in any lake. Only non-polluting alternatives shall be introduced, and the boating system shall be designed to ensure zero pollution and minimal disturbance to aquatic life.

Feasibility of Introducing Ducks in Lakes:

The Chief Commissioner directed officers to examine the feasibility of introducing ducks in lakes as ducks are natural aerators and contribute to the improvement of water quality. The entire responsibility of duck rearing and maintenance shall be entrusted through tendering for accountability and legality purpose.

Flood Mitigation and Preparedness:

In view of recurring urban flooding, the Chief Commissioner directed that flood-prone locations be identified and valley-wise appropriate nature-based flood mitigation solutions be prepared. Immediate precautionary measures, including desilting of storm water drains, removal of blockages, and restoration of natural drainage systems, shall be taken up on priority.

INNOVISTA 2026 platform for students to showcase innovative solutions to real-world problems.



Bengaluru : Sir M. Visvesvaraya Institute of Technology (Sir MVIT), Bengaluru, organised INNOVISTA-2026, a final-year students' Projects, Prototypes and Innovation Demonstration Competition, under the aegis of the Institution's Innovation Council (IIC), providing a platform for students to showcase innovative solutions to real-world problems. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from final-year students across all engineering branches, who exhibited a wide range of projects and prototypes demonstrating technical expertise, creativity, and social relevance. Many of the showcased projects were aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), reflecting a strong focus on sustainability and societal impact. Mr. Mallik Prasad, Lead Security Architect, Ericsson Telecommunications Inc., New York, USA, and a distinguished alumnus of Sir MVIT, attended the programme as the Guest of Honour. Addressing the gathering, he stressed the importance of student-led innovation in realising the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, and called upon students to develop indigenous, scalable, and sustainable technological solutions. K. V. Sekhar Raju, Founder Trustee of Sri KET and Chairman of the Academic Committee, congratulated the students and encouraged them to pursue entrepreneurship and research-oriented careers. He emphasised the need for institutions to support innovation-driven learning ecosystems. Dr. M. N. Thippeswamy, Principal of Sir MVIT, outlined the objectives of INNOVISTA-2026 and highlighted the role of such events in fostering collaboration between academia, industry, and alumni. Dr. Bharathi Ganesh, Vice-Principal, along with Heads of Departments, faculty members, and students, were present.

Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar Presents "Inspirational Entrepreneur of the Year" Award to Purushotham Reddy



Bengaluru : Bengaluru-based entrepreneur Purushotham Reddy was honoured with the "Inspirational Entrepreneur of the Year" award by the Governor of Kerala, Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, at the annual day celebrations held at Saraswati Vidyalaya, Vattiyoorkavu, Thiruvananthapuram. The award, instituted by Saraswati Vidyalaya under the title "Inspiring Entrepreneur of the Year," was conferred in recognition of Purushotham Reddy's outstanding achievements in the business sector. According to Saraswati Vidyalaya, Purushotham Reddy was selected for the honour for his exceptional entrepreneurial success, contributions to society, and generous support for social service initiatives. His commitment to socially responsible business practices and philanthropic activities has made him a source of inspiration for aspiring entrepreneurs. The award ceremony was part of the institution's annual celebrations and was attended by dignitaries, faculty members, students, and guests.

M'luru: Govt complies with vehicle scrapping policy, pvt vehicles continue to roam roads unchecked

Mangaluru, Jan 3: Despite the central government introducing the vehicle scrapping policy to curb pollution and promote road safety, many vehicle owners are turning a blind eye, leaving hundreds of ageing cars and motorcycles active on district roads.

According to the transport department, 6,617 two-wheelers and 5,767 cars are being driven without renewed fitness certificates — all of them privately owned.

"While government vehicles strictly follow the scrapping rules, private vehicle owners continue to flout the norms," an official from the transport department said.

Currently, the district has 90,933 two-wheelers and 18,395 cars whose fitness certificates have expired. Of these, 6,067 two-wheelers and 11,008 cars are off the roads, but authorities have no clarity on whether these vehicles



have been scrapped.

Under the scrapping policy, private diesel vehicles older than 15 years and petrol vehicles older than 20 years must undergo a fitness test. Vehicles that pass the test can continue operating, while those that fail must be sent for

deputy commissioner's office. Since 2024, the process has been streamlined: government offices can directly register vehicles for scrapping via the VA-SAMP web portal. In the district, 183 government vehicles are eligible for scrapping. Official records show that 19 vehicles from the health department, one each from the fisheries department and DC office, three from the excise department, two each from the mines and geology department and the animal husbandry department, and one from the Karnataka Rural Road Development Agency have been officially sent for scrapping.

Vehicles sent for scrapping receive a certificate of deposit, and after completion of the scrapping process, a certificate of scrapping is issued. Departments then receive replacement vehicles. At present, the state operates registered vehicle scrapping cen-

tres at Devanahalli, Bengaluru, and Koratagere, Tumakuru.

For government vehicles over 15 years old, scrapping is mandatory, with no fitness-based extension. For private vehicles over 15 years, a fitness test is required; passing the test allows a five-year licence extension, while failing results in mandatory scrapping.

"At the scrapping centres, the RTO first cancels the vehicle registration, after which the vehicle is disposed of in an environmentally safe manner," a transport official explained. "The certificate of deposit confirms the transfer, and the vehicle scrapping certificate completes the process." Officials warn that while government departments strictly adhere to the rules, the continued operation of private vehicles beyond the prescribed age raises serious concerns about road safety, air pollution, and regulatory compliance.

KKR releasing Bangladeshi player from IPL 2026 squad draws mixed reactions from political leaders

New Delhi, Jan 3 : The Kolkata Knight Riders' (KKR) decision to release Bangladeshi pacer Mustafizur Rahman from their Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 squad, following instructions from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), has triggered mixed reactions from political leaders across party lines. While some leaders welcomed the move, citing national sentiment and security concerns, others criticised the decision, arguing that politics should not interfere with sports. Earlier on Saturday, BCCI Secretary

Devajit Saikia confirmed that the board had directed the three-time IPL champions to release the Bangladeshi fast bowler and permitted the franchise to name a replacement player. "The BCCI has instructed KKR to release

Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman from their squad, while also allowing the franchise to appoint a replacement," Saikia told IANS. The decision reportedly followed concerns over violence against members of

the Hindu community in Bangladesh in December, as well as criticism from certain quarters opposing Rahman's participation in the IPL. The move has since sparked a wider political debate over nationalism, religion, and the separation of sports and politics. Reacting to the development, Karnataka Minister Priyank Kharge questioned the rationale behind the decision and the timing of the rule enforcement. "The BCCI and franchise owners framed this rule. Now the BCCI is not explaining anything, and the matter has been left unresolved.

Ballari violence: DKS says Cong stands with MLA Bharat Reddy, guilty will be punished



Bengaluru, Jan 3 : Commenting on the incidents of violence in Ballari over banner installation that ended with the death of a Congress worker, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Saturday said that the Congress would stand by party MLA Bharat Reddy. Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, Shivakumar said: "Until BJP MLA Bharat Reddy came to Ballari, there was not even a single disturbance. There was no untoward incident, not even a minor FIR. Violence broke out only after his arrival. Therefore, he has no moral right to speak on this issue. The Congress party will stand firmly behind our MLA Bharat Reddy. We have lost our party worker. Who is responsible for this will emerge through the investigation. The law will take its course, and those who are guilty will be punished," Shivakumar said.

Asked about the suspension of the SP of Ballari, he said, "I spoke to the SP immediately after the incident and I know what stage the SP was in. I know what he answered me. I spoke to other leaders too. Sriramulu also called me. Politics is not important, we want peace in Ballari." Janardhan Reddy is a drama master

Asked about Janardhan Reddy's statement that there was a conspiracy to kill him, he said, "He is a drama master. He is movie producer after all and it is natural for him to act. Who will try to kill a man who has a built a fort and has hundreds of security staff. In fact, the people of Ballari are worried. Reddy family is not able to digest the defeat in Ballari and hence they are making these accusations."

Asked about firing, he said, "We are investigating who has fired. Law will take its course. The guilty will be punished."

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Police duties begin the moment appointment orders are issued, says CM Stalin

Referring to media reports on police personnel, the Chief Minister said any news, whether positive or negative, about an individual policeman reflects on the entire force.

CHENNAI: Ordering newly appointed police personnel to handle cases involving women and children with sensitivity and care, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Saturday said their responsibilities begin the moment they receive their appointment orders.

Addressing the new recruits, he said people are able to move freely in society because they feel secure due to the police. He noted that Tamil Nadu has emerged as an investor friendly State because of its strong law and order situation, and stressed that the new personnel must uphold public confidence so that investors continue to feel secure.

Referring to media reports on police personnel, the Chief Minister said any news, whether positive or negative, about an individual policeman reflects on the entire force. He urged officers to con-



duct themselves with dignity and responsibility at all times. Emphasising humane policing, he said the police should not adopt harsh methods while dealing with the public. Officers were instructed to handle grievances politely, maintain a respectful

approach and interact with people with a smile. He also stressed the need for extra care and sensitivity in cases involving women and children.

Highlighting welfare schemes for police personnel, the Chief Minister said the government

Polytechnic teachers to get skill training

CHENNAI: With the introduction of the new employability skills course for diploma students under the Naan Mudhalvan Scheme, a training programme with financial assistance would be provided to the faculty members in polytechnic colleges across the State. According to the Directorate of Technical Education (DoTE), the implementation of Naan Mudhalvan add-on courses for the even semester of the academic year 2025-2026 is under way.

As part of the implementation process, before the official launch of the courses to the students, the teachers

would undergo mandatory skill development programmes, according to the DoTE. It has proposed a comprehensive faculty development programme on 'employability skills' from January 5, 2026, to January 10 for this academic year.

The faculty attendance is mandatory for all days of the training, and upon the successful completion of the post assessment, the teachers will receive the Faculty Development Programme certificates.

The financial assistance of Rs 250 per day (subject to attendance) would be provided to the participants.

CHENNAI: Special trains will be operated to clear extra rush of passengers during Pongal, said a Southern Railway statement. Train No 06012 Nagercoil - Tambaram Superfast Special will leave Nagercoil at 11.00 pm on January 11 and 18 (Sunday) and reach Tambaram at 10.15 am, the next day (two services). Train No 06011 Tambaram - Kanniakumari Superfast Special will leave Tambaram at 03.30 pm on January 12 and 19 (Monday) and reach Kanniakumari at 03.30 am, the next day (two services). Train

No 06054 Kanniakumari - Tambaram Express Special will leave Kanniakumari at 08.30 pm on January 13 and 20 (Tuesday) and reach Tambaram at 10.15 am, the next day (two services). Train No 06053 Tambaram - Nagercoil Express

Southern Railway to operate Pongal special trains



Global economy must adapt to avoid tumult this year

The global economy faced many hurdles in 2025. The US government upended longstanding economic wisdom in a manner many economists feared would harm both the American economy and those of other countries. International institutions were sidelined, tariffs levied, the independence of the Federal Reserve questioned — all while debt continued to rise.

Add that to geopolitical crises throughout the world and the nonchalant manner with which capital markets financed artificial intelligence, and there were many opportunities for market failures and recession. Yet the American and global economies recorded strong growth, and stock markets soared.

It's far from assured that we will be as lucky in 2026. To continue our run of economic and financial successes, there must be adjustments involving both the public and private sectors. Both must make smarter choices, focusing on structural reforms, rather than simply throwing money at problems and imposing tariffs on trading partners. Even though the Trump administration boycotted the Group of 20 summit, blanketed the globe in tariffs and dismantled the Washington consensus on liberalisation and free markets that US governments had repeatedly advocated to others, the American economy managed to accelerate real GDP growth to 4.3 per cent in the third quarter and avoid major trade retaliation from most countries. The global economy grew at a respectable 3 per cent; the Chinese economy demonstrated remarkable agility against America's protectionist measures, making up its roughly 30 per cent drop in exports to the United States by shipping more to Europe and Southeast Asia. China's trade surplus, for the



first time, exceeded \$1 trillion — a staggering feat.

Then there were AI leaders and the capital markets that enabled them. Valuations soared, driving a 21 per cent gain in the Nasdaq and 17 per cent in the S&P 500 stock market indexes. Nvidia became the world's first \$5 trillion company. OpenAI announced a \$1 billion deal with Disney. It often seemed that financing had no limits for AI companies — even those with less-than-robust revenue and business models and, even worse, those that simply plastered an AI label on existing activities. We also saw the resurgence of self-financing, including when Nvidia essentially gave OpenAI money to buy Nvidia's products.

The same capital markets continued to fund enormous debts and deficits in the advanced world. Yet the much-anticipated general increase in borrowing costs did not materialise. In fact, interest rates ended the year lower. And while there were jitters over some fiscally weaker countries like France and Britain, these were limited and ultimately did little harm as both governments acted to calm mar-

kets, at least in the short term.

These achievements were all impressive. But they are essentially first-round wins. The new year will most likely bring risks to economic and financial well-being. There is no coasting on past successes, especially as the warning signs for stability are already mounting.

Lower-income consumer resilience can't be counted on. Trade retaliation might increase. Fiscal and monetary policies are loosening. The labour market is cooling, widening the decoupling of employment from economic growth. China's redirection of trade could cause reprisals from other countries. Add to that a growing divergence in performance among economies, and a picture emerges of a fragile global order. Meanwhile, some of the very narrowly focused AI companies will probably struggle to significantly raise revenues, failing to keep pace with the huge investments made in them.

To come through 2026 in a strong position, governments need to enact sustainable productivity improvements, rather than stimulate the economy via spending and lower interest rates. We

need coherent AI adoption policies — ones that attempt to maximise output gains while limiting labour market shocks — designed and carried out in collaboration with leading companies. And investors must make fewer reckless choices if we want to avoid market instability. Pouring money indiscriminately into AI should give way to backing a smaller group of winners in a more disciplined manner.

American foreign trade and investment policies must become more strategic. The United States needs to work with partners to avoid a fragmentation of the global order that threatens the dollar and risks a spiral in which zero-sum thinking causes countries to act against each other, ultimately making everyone worse off. China, on its side, needs to accelerate its economic restructuring that unleashes domestic consumption rather than redirecting exports around the world; otherwise, it risks becoming a catalyst for protectionism not just from America, but also European and other Asian countries. Political and social pressures around affordability are likely to mount in a US election year. Policymakers must address the so-called K-shaped economy, in which the wealthy see their incomes and assets grow while the less fortunate are hit hard by high prices, heavy debt burdens and decreasing buying power.

History is littered with those who celebrated too early — in sports, in war, and in economics and finance. In 2025, the American and global economy, led by AI and capital markets, skated through a series of obstacles. But the next round is just beginning. No number of successes in the last round will guarantee success in the next.

Salem leads TN in dog bite cases with 4 rabies deaths in 2025

CHENNAI:

Amid a steady rise in dog bite incidents across Tamil Nadu in 2025, Salem district has emerged as the most affected district, topping the State in both reported dog bite cases and rabies-related deaths, according to Health Department data.

Official records show that 45,102 dog bite cases were reported in Salem district between January and November 2025, the highest figure among all districts in Tamil Nadu. Health officials said the final tally is expected to rise further once December data is consolidated.

Preliminary assessments indicate that around 3,500 additional cases may have been recorded during December 2025 as well. The spike was most pronounced in November, when 5,624 dog bite cases were reported in a single month, making it the worst month of the year for the district. In terms of fatalities, Salem recorded four rabies-related deaths during the same period, the highest in the State. Statewide Health



Official records show that 45,102 dog bite cases were reported in Salem district between January and November 2025, the highest figure among all districts in Tamil Nadu.

Department data show that Tiruvannamalai district also reported four rabies deaths in 2025. Health officials attribute Salem's high numbers largely to its geographical size and population distribution. The district has a combination of dense urban centres and expansive rural areas, which contributes to a higher incidence of dog bites as there are no close knit communities to care for, vaccinate and feed the stray dogs, leading to aggression. On average, at least two dog bite cases are recorded daily in each of the 106 Primary Health Centres across the district. In addition, cases treated at private hospitals and medical colleges further add to the total count.

Officials point out that the growing stray dog population remains a major concern. They stress that long-term population control can only be achieved through sustained Animal Birth Control sterilisation programmes, carried out with coordinated efforts involving municipal bodies.

A few dragging Congress to decline: Jothimani



CHENNAI: Factional feud within the Congress has once again come into the open with Karur MP S. Jothimani alleging she was prevented from submitting a booth agents list to the Election Commission of India ahead of the State Assembly elections. The party's State president K. Selvaperunthagai later acknowledged organisational issues in the Karur district. In a strongly worded social media post on Friday, Jothimani said the party was increasingly making headlines for internal disputes rather than for raising people's issues. "Instead of advancing ideological politics and addressing public concerns, the party is engaging in political calculations for the benefit of a few individuals, pushing the Tamil Nadu Congress towards gradual decline," she alleged.

Tamil Nadu: Bus on fire, narrow escape for workers

COIMBATORE: As many as 23 workers escaped unhurt after a company-owned bus they were travelling caught fire following a mishap in Krishnagiri on Friday.

Police said the bus driven by Maheswaran (51) from Kallavai was bound for a shoe manufacturing firm at SIPCOT in Pochampalli in Krishnagiri with workers when the incident happened. A two-wheeler rider also survived without injuries. On receiving information, the fire and rescue personnel rushed to the spot and doused the fire. Due to the mishap, traffic was diverted on the road stretch.

beneath, causing its petrol tank to explode. Eventually, both the bus and the two-wheeler caught fire. The panicked passengers rushed out, while the two-wheeler rider also survived without injuries. On receiving information, the fire and rescue personnel rushed to the spot and doused the fire. Due to the mishap, traffic was diverted on the road stretch.

Gmail to let users change their addresses while keeping data



For more than 20 years, Gmail, the world's largest email account provider, has made it easy for users to change the sender name on their email accounts. But if a user wanted to keep all their data and services — like YouTube or Google Drive — connected to their @gmail account, the email address itself always had to stay the same.

Some users — like

those who have been

holding onto the same

account names since

they were teenagers, or

people who have

changed their names —

wished that they were

not locked into a state of

permanence.

In recent days, though,

Google has quietly started

to roll out a way for

users to change their

Gmail addresses ending

with @gmail.com, and

keep all their emails —

no matter how old their

account. The change

appears to have been

first noticed in a "Google

Pixel Hub" Telegram

group. So far, the new

feature is reflected only

on the Hindi-language

version of Google's sup-

port page but it looks like it will be coming to other languages and regions. "The ability to change your Google Account email address is gradually rolling out to all users, so this option may not be available to you right now," according to an English translation of Gmail's support Hindi language support page. The same message was on Google's help centre in other languages.

There also appears to be limitations, according to the Hindi-language version. Users can change their address only once every 12 months. Additionally, users will be able to create only up to three new email addresses for their account, for a lifetime total of four Gmail addresses. And they won't be allowed to delete their new email address either. Still, the changes ought to be welcomed by users who have clammed up for a change. It appears that any changes would apply only to @gmail.com addresses, and not to Google accounts obtained through employers, schools or other groups. Of course, users would still have to find a name that is not attached to another Gmail account in order for their requested change to be accepted.

of the day

Social media should be responsible for the content they publish. Intervention is required.

ASHWINI VAISHNAW | UNION MINISTER

A high degree of localisation has enabled us to achieve such scale while maintaining world-class quality, highlighting the strength and global competitiveness of India's automotive manufacturing ecosystem.

HISASHI TAKEUCHI | MD AND CEO, MARUTI SUZUKI INDIA

We look forward to 2026 with confidence. We will be collaborative, agile, and bold... working as one team to live our purpose and achieve our potential. Think big. Do less. Execute flawlessly. And, most importantly, enjoy the journey.

ANISH SHAH | CEO AND MD, MAHINDRA GROUP

Govt accelerates electronics mfg

Foxconn, Dixon, Samsung among 22 projs cleared for electronics components manufacturing scheme

Agency

New Delhi, Jan 2: Foxconn, Dixon, Tata Electronics and Samsung are among the 22 new proposals approved by the government under the ambitious Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS), with projected investment of Rs 41,863 crore and production worth Rs 2,58,152 crore.

The approvals - third set of clearances under the scheme - are expected to generate 33,791 new jobs, reduce India's import dependence for critical electronic components, and accelerate the build-out of high-value manufacturing capabilities in the country.

Taken together with previous ECMS tranches and ongoing semiconductor initiatives, the latest clearances underline India's firm resolve to emerge as a major hub in global electronics supply chains.

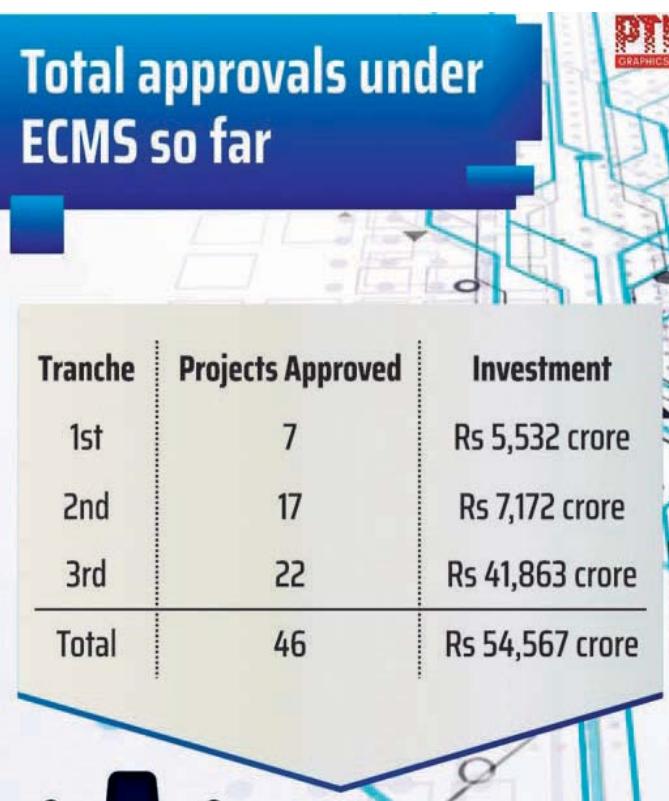
According to sources, a large chunk of investments and employment will come from Apple's new vendors, who are now joining its global supply chain. Some of them will be exporting to Apple's international locations.

Notably, Motherson Electronic Components, Tata Electronics, ATL Battery Technology India, Foxconn (Yuzhan Tech India's), and Hindalco Industries are five vendors from Apple's ecosystem.

The approved projects are spread across eight states, including Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, and reflect the government's focus on geographically balanced industrial growth and expansion of electronics manufacturing across the country, according to the IT Ministry.

At a briefing announcing the new set of investment proposals approved by the government, Motherson Electronic Components, Tata Electronics, ATL Battery Technology India, Foxconn (Yuzhan Tech India's), and Hindalco Industries are five vendors from Apple's ecosystem.

Nine projects fall in the PCB space (commonly used in con-



“ The approval of the third tranche under the ECMS sets a powerful new trajectory for India's electronics manufacturing journey

PANKAJ MOHINDROO | CHAIRMAN OF INDIA CELLULAR AND ELECTRONICS ASSOCIATION

sumer electronics, industrial controls, and automotive systems, among others) and would involve an investment of Rs 7,377 crore, while Rs 2,922 crore investment would go into a lithium-ion cell project.

Li-ion cells are rechargeable energy storage components used to power portable consumer electronics, including smartphones, notebooks, tablets, power banks, and audio accessories.

Of 11 products, 5 are bare components, such as PCBs, capacitors, connectors, enclosures, and Li-ion cells; 3 pertain to sub-assemblies, such as camera modules, display modules, and optical transceivers; and 3 are supply chain items like aluminium extrusion, anode material, and laminate.

As per a background note circulated by the ministry on the new tranche of approvals, the nod includes the manufacturing of 11 target segment products that have cross-sectoral applications, such as mobile manufacturing, telecom, consumer electronics, strategic electronics, automotive, and IT hardware.

OHPC signs MoU with ALIMCO to empower Divyangjans, sr citizens

Agency

Bhubaneswar, Jan 2: Odisha Hydro Power Corporation Ltd. (OHPC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), Bhubaneswar, to distribute aids and assistive devices to around 400 Divyangjans and senior citizens across Odisha under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative.

Fully funded by OHPC, the programme aims to enhance mobility, independence, and quality of life for persons with disabilities and eligible elderly citizens. As per the MoU, ALIMCO will supply and distribute a wide range of modern, need-based assistive devices. These include tricycles, motorised tricycles, wheelchairs (including joystick-operated models), rollators, walkers, CP chairs, hearing aids, crutches, Braille and smart canes, smartphones for the visually impaired, and ADL kits for leprosy patients.

Senior citizens will receive support equipment such as walking sticks, elbow and axilla crutches, walkers, wheelchairs with and without commode, commode chairs and stools, silicon foam cushions, knee braces, spinal and cervical supports, lumbar-sacral belts, rollators with brakes, walking sticks with seats, foot care kits, and other essential aids to ensure comfort and safety.

The MoU was signed by Anima Tripathy, Chief General Manager (HR), OHPC, and Vivek Dwivedi, General Manager (Marketing) I/c, ALIMCO, in the presence of OHPC Directors Sandeep Pathak (HR) and Amiya Kumar Mohanty (Operation) I/c, along with senior officials from both organisations.

The initiative underscores OHPC's commitment to social responsibility and inclusive development, reinforcing its focus on empowering vulnerable sections of society to lead lives of dignity and independence.



Nifty hits record intra-day peak

Rising for the third-straight session, the 50-share NSE Nifty went up by 182 points, or 0.70%, to 26,328.55. During the day, it surged 193.45 points, or 0.73%, to reach an all-time peak of 26,340.



Agency

Mumbai, Jan 2: Equity benchmark index Nifty hit its lifetime peak before closing 182 points higher Friday, and the BSE Sensex jumped 573 points, powered by strong buying in power, banking and metal stocks.

Unabated capital infusion by domestic institutional investors amid a sharp rally in Asian peers also supported the domestic stock market, traders said.

Charting out a firm trend, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 573.41 points or 0.67 per cent to settle at 85,762.01. During the day, it jumped 623.67 points, or 0.73 per cent, to 85,812.27.

A total of 2,772 stocks advanced, while 1,449 declined and 150 remained unchanged on the BSE.

Rising for the third-straight session, the 50-share NSE Nifty went up by 182 points, or 0.70 per cent, to 26,328.55. During the day, it surged 193.45 points, or 0.73 per cent, to reach an all-time peak of 26,340.

"After the New Year holiday, the global markets initiated 2026 on a positive note, while strong domestic automobile sales

helped Indian equities to touch a fresh all-time high. Investor sentiment remains broadly constructive as attention turns to Q3 earnings, which are expected to guide near-term market direction," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

From the 30-Sensex firms, NTPC, Trent, Bajaj Finance, Power Grid, Maruti, State Bank of India, ICICI Bank and Bharat Electronics were among the biggest gainers.

In contrast, ITC, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Titan Company, Axis Bank and Bharti Airtel were the laggards.

Shares of cigarette and tobacco product makers ITC, Godfrey Phillips and VST Industries ended lower Friday, extending their previous day's decline, after the government imposed an additional excise duty on such products effective February 1.

ITC's stock ended 3.79 per cent lower at Rs 350.15 on the BSE. During the day, the stock tumbled 5.11 per cent to Rs 345.35 -- its 52-week low. ITC emerged as the biggest laggard among the BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty firms.

LIC launches spl campaign to revive lapsed policies

Agency

if eligible for revival, LIC said in a statement.

There is a 100 per cent waiver of late fee for micro insurance policies to facilitate affordable restoration of risk cover, it said. Policies which are in a lapsed condition during the premium-paying term and not completed policy term are eligible to be revived in this campaign, it said. There are no concessions on medical/health requirements, it said.

The campaign is launched for the benefit of policyholders who were not able to pay premiums on time due to any unfavourable circumstances, it said.

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Odisha to host Mining and Infrastructure International Expo

Agency

Bhubaneswar, Jan 2: Reinforcing its position as the 'Mineral Hub of India', Odisha will host the 4th Edition of the Odisha Mining and Infrastructure International Expo 2026 from January 8 to 11 at Baramunda Ground, Bhubaneswar.

The four-day international B2B trade show aims to position Odisha as India's mining powerhouse and a global hub for innovation, sustainable mining and advanced infrastructure solutions.

The expo seeks to create a robust ecosystem for environmentally responsible mining, cutting-edge technologies and global policy dialogue. Rec-

ognised as India's largest mining exhibition, the event will showcase advanced machinery, equipment and services while connecting entrepreneurs, start-ups and young professionals from Odisha with global industry leaders.

Announcing the event, Swami Prem Anveshi, Chair-

man, Futurex Trade Fair and Events Pvt Ltd, said, "Over the past three years, the expo has emerged as a catalyst for the future of mining in India and beyond. The 2026 edition will promote sustainable technologies and foster dialogue on policy, innovation and global best practices, helping shape a

unified roadmap for the Indian mining industry."

Tapan Kumar Chand, former CMD, NALCO and Chairman of the Expo Organising Committee, said the focus would be on sustainable and zero-net mining, global policy discussions and empowering start-ups. "The 4th edition will feature over 250 exhibitors from 10+ countries, spread across 30,000 sq. mtrs, with 20,000+ visitors and 150 live demonstrations," he added.

The expo will be inaugurated by Odisha Governor Hari Babu Kambampati and conclude with the valedictory ceremony graced by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi as chief guest.

KFC, Pizza Hut operators merge

The deal comes at a time when fast-food operators in India are grappling with slowing same-store sales and pressure on margins, as consumers cut back on eating out and ordering food amid rising living costs

Agency



As per the scheme of arrangement, SFIL will merge with DIL, an RJ Corp firm promoted by the Jaipuria family. The combined entity will have operations in markets such as India, Nigeria, Nepal, Thailand and Sri Lanka.

Besides Yum! Brands like

KFC, Pizza Hut, and Taco Bell, the combined entity will also hold licenses for other global QSR brands, including Costa Coffee, Tea Live, New York Fries, and Sanook Kitchen, in their respective markets.

Moreover, this strategic consolidation of the two Quick Service Restaurant (QSR) operators will also create a single unified Yum! India Franchisee for KFC and Pizza Hut.

The merger is happening at a time when Indian QSR chains are witnessing sluggish growth, lower margins, and almost flat demand growth.

According to the scheme

of arrangements, 177 equity shares of DIL will be issued for every 100 equity shares of SFIL.

Currently, SFIL Promoters owns 25.35 per cent stake in the company, of which Arctic International, a group company of DIL, will buy 18.5 per cent. "Balance to get swapped for DIL shares," said DIL.

The proposed merger is subject to receipt of all customary regulatory and statutory approvals. "The process of obtaining these approvals is expected to take approximately 12 to 15 months, following which the merger will become effective," according to a joint statement.

Union Bank celebrates 'Ethics & Compliances Week'

Bhubaneswar:

Union Bank of India has conducted walkathon for observing 'Ethics & Compliances Week' in Bhubaneswar. The walkathon started from Rupali Square, proceeded to Ram Mandir Square, and returned to the starting point. It was attended by Hare Krishna Das, Zonal Head, Bhubaneswar, D Venkatswarlu, Deputy Zonal Head, Bhubaneswar, Nirjan Barik, Regional Head, Bhubaneswar Region, Vinay Sharma, Deputy Regional Head, Bhubaneswar Region, Jeetendra Kumar Samal, Deputy Regional Head, Bhubaneswar Region, along with staff members from various offices and branches in and around Bhubaneswar. On this occasion, the officials of the bank encouraged for following Ethics, Sincerity, good practices in every sphere of life.



US launches strikes on Venezuela, captures President Maduro and charges him with drug offences

"We were going to do this four days ago but the weather was not perfect," Trump tells Fox News. "The weather has to be perfect... all of a sudden it opened up and we said go," he says. He adds that, when they captured Maduro, he was "in a house that was more like a fortress than a house" with "solid steel all around". Reiterating that he doesn't think any US soldiers were killed, Trump adds "a couple of guys were hit but they came back and they're supposed to be in pretty good shape". More from US President Donald Trump, who is speaking to Fox News. Trump says that the US is going to be "strongly involved" in Venezuela's oil industry moving forward. He adds that he spoke to Maduro "a week ago" and that he told him "you have to give up, you have to surrender". "We had to do something much more surgical, much more powerful", Trump says. Donald Trump is speaking to Fox News



right now. The US president says there were "a few injuries but no deaths on our side" during the strikes on Venezuela. "We'll bring you more on what he has to say in the next few moments. We've just heard from US Vice President JD Vance. He says in a post on X: "The president offered multiple off ramps, but was very clear throughout this process: the

drug trafficking must stop, and the stolen oil must be returned to the United States. "Maduro is the newest person to find out that President Trump means what he says. Kudos to our brave special operators who pulled off a truly impressive operation." In Caracas, there is apprehension in the streets. People barely speak out, but there are queues in

pharmacies and supermarkets. WhatsApp groups are bursting with messages and videos, while people in the streets of Eastern Caracas are mostly silent. "Do you know what happened?" a woman asks me in a low voice outside a plaza. She went out to get medicine for her nerves but found the 24-hour pharmacy closed. "Please don't record me,"

she asks. A strong smell, reminding me of tear gas - so familiar from the famous protests of 2017 - seeps through my window. I'm in a high-rise building, in the eastern part of the capital, Caracas. My mother notices it too. Earlier, on the balconies of nearby buildings, there was an outburst of euphoria minutes after a message began circulating on social media from President Donald Trump announcing the capture of Nicolás Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores. "But the shouts lasted only seconds. A supermarket that also operates 24-hours kept its shutters down for most of the morning, with a line of people waiting for it to open. Although it had been a possibility for months, what happened today has come as a shock to Venezuelans. For the opposition to Nicolás MaSince early this morning, BBC Verify have been working through a number of videos showing explosions, fire and smoke in various locations around Caracas to identify which sites have been targeted. So far, we have confirmed four locations. Generalissimo Francisco de Miranda Air Base aka La Carlota - footage filmed at a distance shows two plumes of smoke and an explosion close to this military airfield in Caracas Port La Guaira.

Caracas' main conduit to the Caribbean Sea, located in Miranda state. Footage filmed nearby shows several plumes of smoke rising into the air, and at least one fire burning Higuerote Airport - also located in Miranda state, just east of Caracas. Footage filmed from two angles shows fire and repeated flashes on the ground, a possible indication of secondary explosions Fuerte Tiuna. The Getty news agency has released images of fire burning in the direction and damage to vehicles at this key military facility in Caracas.

What we know about Maduro's capture



The US has captured Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro after a large scale strike on the South American country. US President Donald Trump has said. Trump said Venezuela's left-wing president and his wife were flown out of the country in a military operation in conjunction with US law enforcement. They have been charged with drug and weapons offences in New York. It comes after explosions were reported across the capital Caracas in the early hours of Saturday morning, including at military bases. The Venezuelan government has since demanded proof Maduro is alive. It has also deployed its armed forces and declared a national emergency. Maduro's capture comes after heightened tensions between the two countries, with Washington striking boats in the Caribbean it says are being used to carry drugs. The US has accused the Venezuelan president of being personally involved in drug-smuggling and being an illegitimate leader, while Maduro has accused the US of intimidation. Here is what we know so far. What do we know about the operation? There are few details about Maduro's capture. Trump did not disclose how the Venezuelan president was detained or where he has been taken.

More than 100 shelter overnight in Japan shrine due to heavy snow



More than 100 people have had to shelter in a shrine on a mountain top in Japan after heavy snowfall cut off access by road. Around 130 people were forced to spend the night in the halls and lobbies of the Mitsumine Shrine in the Saitama prefecture on Friday after the roads around it were closed due to safety concerns, public broadcaster NHK reports. The local authority confirmed the occupants of around 50 cars had stayed in the shrine building, and said no one had fallen ill. Japan is experiencing heavy snowfall at present, with up to 40cm forecast to fall in some parts on Saturday. Up to 80cm of snow has fallen in some parts of the country in the past 72 hours, data from the Japan Meteorological Agency shows, with more predicted to fall as a cold front persists. Several accidents around the Mitsumine Shrine including cars slipping had prompted the road closure, NHK reported, citing local police. Up to 4cm of snow has fallen in the region, while temperatures as low as -15C have made for icy conditions. Located 1,110m (3,640 ft) above sea level in the mountains near the city of Chichibu, the Mitsumine Shrine is a popular centre for Shinto worship and is dedicated to Izanami and Izanagi, the divine couple credited with creating the Japanese islands. The shrine is said to have been founded in the 1st Century by Prince Yamato Takeru no Mikoto, son of Emperor Keiko.

Craig the beer-ambassador elephant dies aged 54

A Kenyan elephant believed to have been one of Africa's largest male tuskers has died of old age. The pachyderm, fondly known as Craig, died of natural causes on Saturday morning at Amboseli National Park in southern Kenya, conservationists confirmed. "Craig had just turned 54 years old. He led a long life and no doubt fathered many calves," said the Amboseli Trust for Elephants in its farewell message. Famed for his long tusks, Craig the elephant was a major attraction at the park near the Tanzanian border. In 2021, he was named an ambassador for the popular Kenyan lager brand Tusker - a name also used for adult male elephants



with tusks. The Kenya Wildlife Service described Craig as an "icon" of successful conservation. "Craig was one of the last remaining super tuskers in Africa - a rare class of bull elephants whose two tusks weigh over 45kg (100lb) each. Fewer than a handful remain today, making him a living monument to Africa's natural heritage."

POLICE IDENTIFY FIRST FOUR VICTIMS OF SWISS SKI RESORT FIRE



Police have identified the first four bodies of people who were killed in a fire at a bar in a Swiss ski resort on New Year's Eve. The bodies of two Swiss women aged 21 and 16, and two Swiss men aged 18 and 16 have been returned to their families, police said. "Extensive" work from officers and the Institute of Forensic Medicine made the identifications possible, Valais cantonal police said in a statement, and work to identify the remaining victims continues. The blaze at Le Constellation in Crans-Montana killed 40 people and injured 119 others, officials have said. With many

of the injured identified, families now face an agonising wait for information about those still missing. The likely cause of the fire was sparklers on champagne bottles being carried too close to the ceiling, a preliminary investigation of how the fire began

Zelensky names spy chief to head presidential office after corruption row



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has named spy chief Kyrylo Budanov as his new chief of staff, just over a month after his previous top aide resigned in a corruption row. "At this time, Ukraine needs greater focus on security issues," Zelensky said in a social media post, alongside a photo of his meeting with Gen Budanov in Kyiv. The 39-year-old has until now led the Hur military intelligence, which has claimed a number of highly effective strikes against Russia. Zelensky also said he intended to replace his defence minister Denys Shmyhal, appointing his current minister of digital transformation Mykhaylo Fedorov to take up the post. Budanov's predecessor, Andriy Yermak, wielded

enormous political influence throughout Russia's full-scale invasion, which began in 2022. He also led Ukraine's negotiating team in crucial talks with the US aimed at ending the war. Zelensky wrote on Friday: "At this time, Ukraine needs greater focus on security issues, the development of the defence and security forces of Ukraine, as well as on the diplomatic track of

negotiations. "Kyrylo has specialist experience in these areas and sufficient strength to deliver results."

The president added that he had already instructed his new office chief to update and present key documents regarding "the strategic foundations" of Ukraine's defence. The chief of presidential staff in Ukraine is historically a very powerful position. There was a time

Missile attack on Kharkiv kills two including child, authorities say



Two people including a three-year-old child have been killed and around 28 others injured in a Russian strike on Kharkiv, Ukrainian officials have said. A multi-storey residential apartment block was almost completely destroyed in the dual missile attack on Friday afternoon, which Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called "heinous".

Russia's Defence Ministry denied reports of an attack, suggesting the blast had been caused by Ukrainian ammunition detonating. The strike comes ahead of crunch talks on a US-brokered peace plan in Kyiv on Saturday. Zelensky says around 15 countries are expected to attend the talks, along with representatives from the EU and Nato, with a US delegation joining the meeting via video link. Leaders of the so-called coalition of the willing are then set to meet in France on 6 January.

TRUMP WARNING OVER IRAN PROTESTS 'RECKLESS' SAYS FOREIGN MINISTER



and violently kills peaceful protesters, which is their custom, the United States of America will come to their rescue." The US president did not specify what action Washington might take. Previously, it has carried out strikes on Iran's nuclear sites, which elicited a retaliatory strike on a US base in Qatar. "Given President Trump's deployment of the National Guard within US borders, he of all people should know that criminal attacks on public property cannot be tolerated," Araghchi wrote on X. Iran would "forcefully reject any interference in their internal affairs", he added. Meanwhile, an Iranian police spokesman said offi-

cial city of Lordegan, according to the semi-official Fars news agency and the human rights group Hengaw, which said they were protesters, naming them as Ahmad Jalil and Sajjad Valamanesh. Three people were killed in Azna, while another died in Kouhdasht, all in the west of the country, Fars reported. It did not specify whether they were demonstrators or security forces personnel. One death was reported in Fuladshahr, central Iran, and another casualty in Marvdash, in the south. BBC has not been able to independently verify the deaths. The demonstrations have been the most widespread since an uprising in 2022 sparked by the death in

custody of Mahsa Amini, a young woman accused by morality police of not wearing her veil properly, but they have not been on the same scale. Iranian President Masoud Pashayi has said he will listen to the "legitimate demands" of the protesters. But the country's Prosecutor General Mohammad Movahedi-Azad warned that any attempt to create instability would be met with a "decisive response". This stance was echoed by Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who said it was "completely fair" that shopkeepers protest the economic situation, but that any "rioters must be put in their place".

Donald Trump's warning that the US will intervene if peaceful protesters are killed was "reckless and dangerous", Iran's foreign minister has said. Abbas Araghchi's comments came after the US president said Washington "will come to their rescue" of demonstrators taking part in protests over Iran's economy, writing in a brief social media post: "We are locked and loaded and ready to go." Araghchi indicated Iran's armed forces were on standby and "know exactly where to aim" in the event of an attack. At least eight people are reported to have died during the week-long protests, as of Saturday morning. Trump wrote on Friday: "If Iran shots [sic]



India May Give Bangladesh Cricket Pakistan-Like Treatment After Mustafizur Rahman's Release: Report

Amid mounting political tensions, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has reportedly decided to put the Indian team's tour of Bangladesh on hold. This comes after the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) announced it would host India for a three-match ODI as well as a T20I series to be played in September this year.

According to a report in The Indian Express, the BCCI will seek government approval before taking a final call on the Indian team's tour. "We didn't travel to Bangladesh last year too, BCB had issued their international calendar, but it looks doubtful, as we need Indian government approval to play in any other country. As far as the T20I World Cup is concerned, Bangladesh will play as per the scheduled games in India," the report quoted a top BCCI official as



saying. On Saturday, the BCCI also asked the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) to release Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman from their squad for IPL 2026-a-request with which the

Shah Rukh Khan co-owned franchise agreed to comply. Pressure had been mounting on the BCCI and KKR following the recent killing of a Hindu man in Bangladesh. KKR co-owner

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan was also targeted by various groups over the inclusion of Mustafizur in the squad. KKR had roped in Mustafizur for a whopping

Rs 9.20 crore, making the left-arm pacer the only player from Bangladesh to be picked at the IPL mini-auction. Following the BCCI's directive, KKR confirmed the release of the 30-year-old in a media statement: "Kolkata Knight Riders confirms that BCCI/IPL as the regulator of IPL has instructed it to release Mustafizur Rahman from the squad ahead of the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) season. The release has been carried out following due process and consultations, upon the instruction of the Board of Control of Cricket in India," KKR said in a statement. This development mirrors the long-standing policy where Pakistani players are excluded from the IPL due to cross-border tensions. India has also not toured Pakistan for a bilateral series since 2006 for similar reasons.

Big BCCI Move After Shah Rukh Khan Faces Fury Over KKR's Bangladeshi Pacer Mustafizur Rahman



In a significant move that highlights the intersection of sport and geopolitics, the BCCI has formally requested that Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) release Bangladeshi pace spearhead Mustafizur Rahman from their squad for the upcoming IPL 2026 season. The announcement was made by BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia, who confirmed the board's directive to the franchise following a period of intensifying public and political pressure. While the BCCI had initially maintained a "wait and watch" policy, Saikia noted that the decision was taken in light of "recent developments all across." This appears to be a direct reference to the deteriorating diplomatic situation and reported civil unrest in Bangladesh, which has sparked widespread protests within India. The pacer recently became a lightning rod for controversy after KKR secured him for a record Rs 9.20 crore at the December auction, making him the

most expensive Bangladeshi player in the league's history. "Due to the recent developments that are going on all across, BCCI has instructed the franchise KKR to release one of their players, Mustafizur Rahman of Bangladesh, from their squad," Saikia said in a chat with news agency ANI. BCCI has also said that if they ask for any replacement, KKR is going to allow that replacement." What BCCI's Directive Means For KKR The BCCI's directive to release Mustafizur represents a significant tactical and financial setback for Kolkata

Shubman Suffers Fresh Setback In Vijay Hazare Trophy Ahead Of Selection For NZ Series

India ODI skipper Shubman Gill did not feature in the Playing XI of Punjab in their Round 5 Vijay Hazare Trophy match against Sikkim on Saturday. Both Gill and star India pacer Arshdeep Singh were set to play for Punjab but only the latter found a place for himself in the domestic match. The fans were left heartbroken as they were excited to see Gill in action in Jaipur. Now, the reason for Gill's sudden snub has been revealed and it is related to the batter's health. According to a report by Sportstar, Gill had to sit out of the game due to food poisoning. If Gill had played the match, then it would have been his first appearance since his snub from India's T20 World Cup 2026 squad.



Apart from the T20 World Cup, Gill also missed out on the spot for the T20Is against

New Zealand. However, he is reportedly set to lead India in the ODIs against the

Kiwis, which will begin from January 11. Talking about the Vijay Hazare Trophy match, Punjab registered a dominating 10-wicket victory over Sikkim as they chased down the target of 76 in just 6.2 overs. Pacer Arshdeep Singh took a five-wicket haul. Meanwhile, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Devajit Saikia said that the Team India squad for the upcoming India vs New Zealand ODI series will be announced on Saturday. Speaking to ANI, the BCCI secretary confirmed that the Indian Cricket Selection Committee for the Senior Men's team will hold a meeting on Saturday and then announce the team for the India vs New Zealand three-match ODI series.

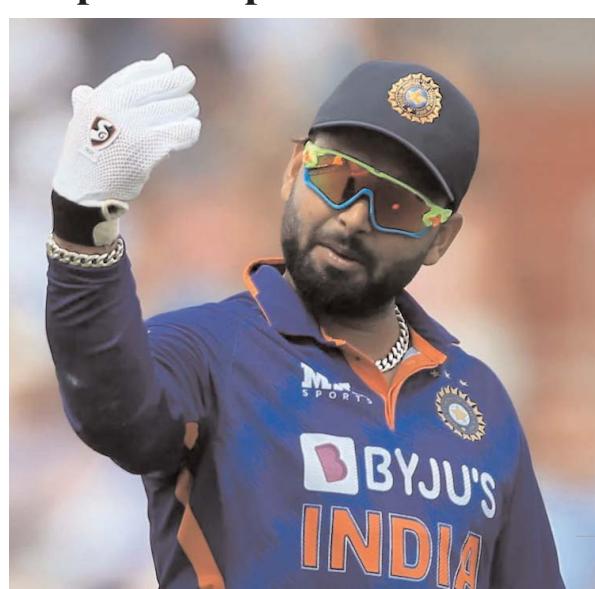
6,6,6,6,6,4: HARDIK PANDYA SLAMS 5 SIXES IN ONE OVER IN VHT, REGISTERS 133



their 50 overs. This milestone was a long time coming for the flamboyant cricketer, who chose the perfect moment to exhibit his finishing prowess and stabilise a crumbling innings. His ability to absorb pressure while maintaining a high strike rate provided a masterclass in modern limited-overs bat-

ting. In the 39th over, Pandya went after Vidarbha spinner Parth Rekhade to collect a total of 34 runs, which included five sixes and a four. The atmosphere at the ground was electric as Rekhade struggled to find a length that Pandya could not exploit. The first five balls of the left-arm spinner went fly-

Rishabh Pant's Batting Template Not Liked By Indian Team Management Member: Report's 'Open Secret' Claim



The Indian cricket team selection for the New Zealand ODI series will be a crucial one for Rishabh Pant. Several reports have predicted that the star wicketkeeper-batter will make way for Ishan Kishan for the three-ODI series against New Zealand, starting January 11.

Pant started his ODI career in October 2018. Since then, he has played 31 ODIs, with the last one coming against Sri Lanka in August 2024. Rishabh Pant's form in the ongoing Vijay Hazare Trophy has been patchy, with just one half-century in four matches. But if he is dropped for the upcoming New Zealand series without being given even one ODI game in the last 18 months, it could be deemed slightly harsh by the Ajit Agarkar-led committee. The BCCI selectors will announce the squad for the series against

"Save Indian Football": Sunil Chhetri, Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Other Stars Appeal To FIFA For Resolving Crisis



know," Jhingan added. "Players, staff, owners, and fans deserve clarity, protection, and, more importantly, a future," Chhetri said. "But more importantly, we are here to make a plea. The Indian football governing body is no longer able to fulfil its responsibilities. We are now staring at permanent paralysis. This is a last-

ditch effort to save what we can. So we are calling on FIFA to step in and do what it takes to save Indian football. We hope this message reaches the powers that be in Zurich. This call is not political; it is not driven by confrontation but by necessity. It might sound like a big word, but the truth is that we are facing a humani-

tarian, sporting, and economic crisis. And, of course, we need rescuing at the earliest. We just want to play football—please help us do it," other players said in the statement. The All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Thursday received letters from nearly all members of the Indian Super League (ISL) confirming they may be willing to participate in the upcoming 2025-26 season; however, participation will be contingent upon satisfactory financial and governance assurances provided by the AIFF. The member clubs of the ISL further stated that their continued participation is conditional upon the AIFF assuring them that there are no league administration fees associated with participation and that the AIFF will accept full financial responsibility for operational costs incurred due to reduced seasons.

On Usman Khawaja's 'Racial Stereotyping' Allegations, Australia Great Delivers Stunning Verdict



fans and experts. While Khawaja felt the criticism was "unfair," Gillespie said the questions were legitimate. "I respect Usman and

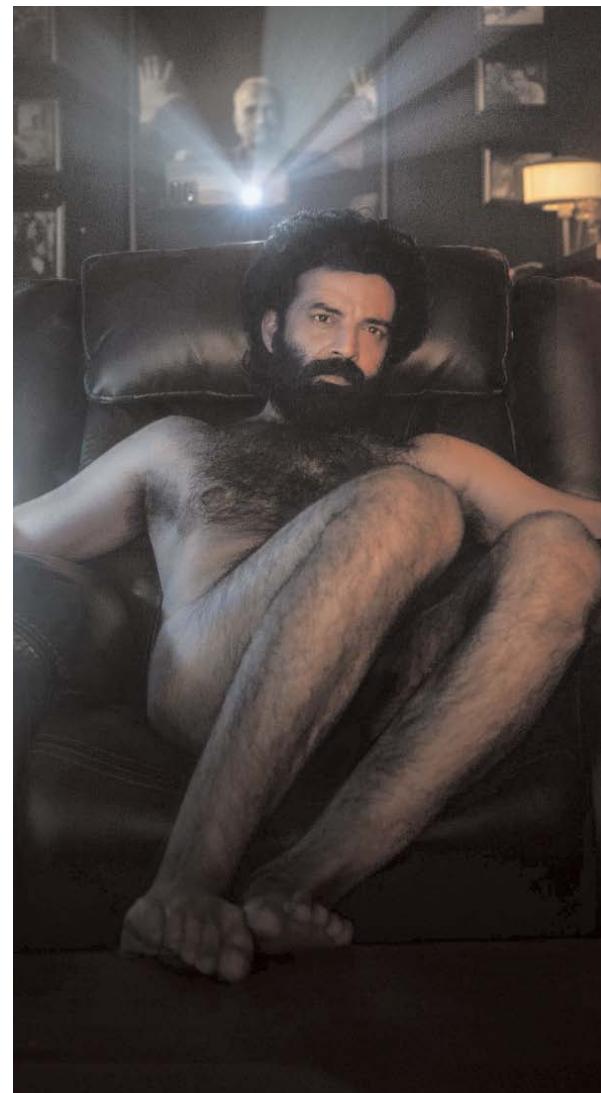
have really enjoyed his career; I love how he speaks his mind. I felt the questions regarding his preparation before Perth (where he

Shubman Gill Meets Manchester City Star Erling Haaland, Gets A Special Gift



shortest format, having been dropped from India's T20I set-up despite being the vice-captain earlier. Following a string of poor performances, he was also left out of India's squad for the T20 World Cup, marking a significant moment in his career. T20Is were his sole format of struggle, scoring just 291 runs in 15 innings with no fifty, at an average of just over 24. However, Gill's red-ball form in 2025 stood in stark contrast to his struggles in T20 cricket. The right-hander enjoyed a phenomenal year in Tests, especially during the tour of England, where he delivered one of the most dominant batting performances by an Indian in overseas conditions. Gill amassed a staggering 754 runs in five Tests at an average of 57.40, scoring four centuries and registering a career-best 269.

'Spirit' Director Sandeep Reddy Vanga Launches the Title and First-Look Poster of K. Kranthi Madhav's Dil Diya – A Naked Truth, a New Box-Office Grammar for Summer 2026



Dil Diya – A Naked Truth has formally stepped into the spotlight with the release of its title and first-look poster, marking the first public move for the upcoming feature. The reveal, carried out by Spirit director Sandeep Reddy Vanga, has sparked early interest across industry circles, setting the stage for the film's rollout. Produced by Poorna Naidu under the Sreeyas Chitra – A Poorna Naidu Production banner and written and directed by K. Kranthi Madhav, the film positions itself as a contemporary drama rooted in emotional conflict and personal relationships. For K. Kranthi Madhav, Dil Diya – A Naked Truth continues a body of work defined by emotional sensitivity and narrative restraint. Over the years, he has earned recognition for telling stories that engage deeply with human vulnerability rather than surface-level drama. Films such as Onamalu, Malli Malli Idi Rani Roju, and World Famous Lover reflected his interest in love, moral dilemmas, emotional breakdown, and

inner conflict. With Dil Diya – A Naked Truth, he returns to similar emotional terrain, this time through a more direct and contemporary lens shaped by obsession, failure, intimacy, and self-worth. The film stars Chaitanya Rao Madadi, Ira, Sakhee, and Jessy in the lead roles, supported by Mani Chandana, Pramodini, and Veera Shankar in key supporting parts. The casting reflects the film's grounded narrative approach, favouring performances that feel organic and lived-in. Rather than leaning on heightened drama, the storytelling allows emotion to emerge naturally through character interaction and consequence. The first-look poster offers a restrained but telling glimpse into the film's emotional world. Minimal in design and free from visual excess, the imagery hints at vulnerability, contradiction, and inner turbulence. Instead of spelling out its themes, the poster suggests an inward-looking narrative driven by personal truth. This visual language aligns closely with Kranthi

Madhav's filmmaking sensibility, where emotional clarity and honesty take precedence over stylised spectacle. Produced by Poorna Naidu with Srikanth V serving as co-producer, Dil Diya – A Naked Truth is backed by a strong and experienced technical team. P.G. Vinda handles cinematography, expected to bring an intimate yet cinematic visual texture. Music is composed by Phani Kalyan, while editing is by Ra-Sha (Ravi – Shashank). Chinna oversees production design, Dhani Aelai handles publicity designs, Star Circle manages digital marketing, and publicity is led by S.K. Naidu along with Phani Kandukuri (Beyond Media). Positioned as a youthful love story with emotional depth, Dil Diya – A Naked Truth aims to present an honest and unfiltered portrayal of modern relationships. Moving beyond idealised romance, the film engages directly with emotional complexity and personal consequence, seeking to redefine intimacy within contemporary Telugu Cinéma.

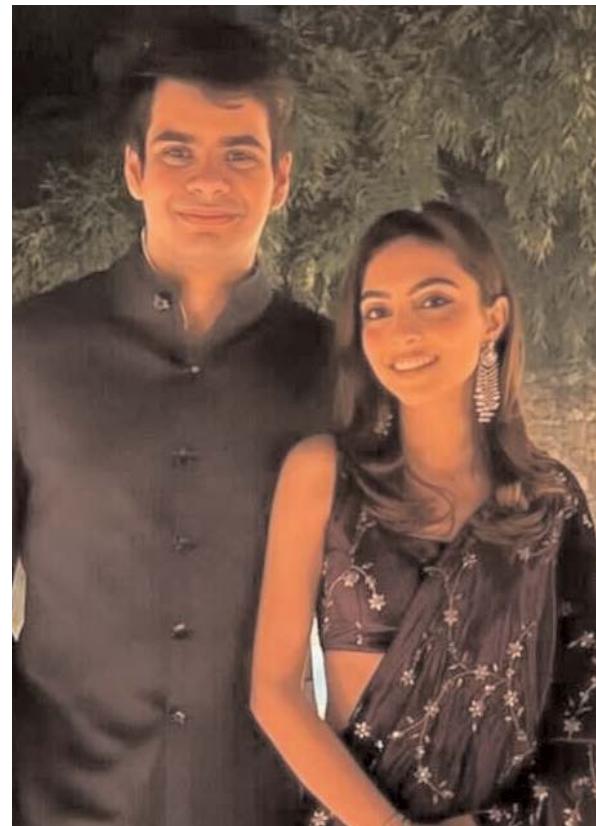
"Ramam" Movie Team Extends Birthday Wishes to Young Star Hero Bellamkonda Sai Sreenivas

Young star Bellamkonda Sai Sreenivas is playing the lead role in the upcoming film "Ramam." On the occasion of his birthday today, the team of Ramam extended their warm wishes to the actor. The film is being produced by Venu Donepudi under the Chitralayam banner, with Donepudi Chakrapani presenting the project. Lokamanya is directing the film. The recently released pre-look poster from Ramam, featuring Bellamkonda Sai Sreenivas in a striking shadow avatar, has grabbed attention with its powerful visuals. The film carries the tagline "The Rise of Akira." Currently under regular shooting, the makers have announced that more exciting updates about the film will be revealed soon.



Inside Priyanka Gandhi's son Raihan and Aviva Baig's engagement

Mumbai: Days after reports of Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and businessman Robert Vadra's son, Raihan Vadra, getting engaged began doing the rounds, Raihan has now officially confirmed the news on social media. The 25-year-old announced his engagement to his long-time girlfriend, Aviva Baig, through a heartfelt Instagram post. The engagement took place on Monday and was marked by Raihan sharing two photographs on Instagram. One picture shows the couple together after the ceremony, while the second is a childhood photograph of Raihan and Aviva, offering a rare glimpse into their deep-rooted bond. Keeping the announcement minimal, Raihan simply captioned the post with the date, "29.12.25". Reacting to the happy news, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra shared a warm message on Instagram, writing, "Love you both very much. May you always love and respect each other and remain the best friends you have been since you were 3!" Robert Vadra also extended his blessings, calling it a proud moment as his son begins a new chapter with his life partner, and wishing the



couple a lifetime filled with happiness, love and strength. The engagement ceremony was held at an intimate and private gathering in Ranthambore. In the photographs, Raihan is seen dressed in a dark-coloured sherwani, while Aviva looks elegant in an embellished sari, reflecting the traditional yet understated nature of the celebration. Raihan

Mandaadi Set for a Massive Summer 2026 Release, Sailboat Racing Sequences To Be A Major Highlight



Lyrical Song "Ninu Kasirina Samayana..." Released from Feel-Good Romantic Entertainer "Sky", Film Set for Grand Theatrical Release on February 6



"Sky" is an upcoming feel-good romantic entertainer starring Murali Krishnam Raju, Shruti Shetty, and Anand in the lead roles. The film is being produced under the Velar Entertainment Studios banner by Nagi Reddy Guntaka, Srilakshmi Guntaka, Murali Krishnam Raju, and Prudhvi Pericherla, who also serves as the director. With this film, Shiva Prasad is making his debut as a music director in the industry. Sky is all set for a grand theatrical release on February 6. Recently, the makers released the lyrical song "Ninu Kasirina Samayana..." from the film. The song features

biggest and most ambitious film of Soori's career, presenting him in a powerful, image-defining role crafted for big-screen impact. A major highlight of the film is Soori's remarkable physical commitment. He performed all the high-intensity sea action sequences himself, without a body double, despite the risk and extreme difficulty. For the sailboat race episodes, he got trained rigorously for six months, mastering every physical nuance of the sport. His dedication ensures raw, authentic, and immersive visuals. The film, releasing in Tamil, Telugu, and Hindi, aims for a wide pan-Indian reach, with industry buzz growing steadily. It also stands as the

largest-scale making. The sailboat racing segment is set to be its standout USP, an adrenaline-filled block that offers something never seen before in Indian cinema. To achieve global standards, the team brought in international action experts and employed advanced sport-specific camera systems. These additions elevate the visual experience, especially in the racing sequences. Top action choreographer Peter Hein worked on the film for nearly 60 days, ensuring intense, realistic, and emotion-driven stunt design. Mounted on an estimated 75 crore budget, Mandaadi is crafted to showcase its scale and ambition in every frame.

Nupur Sanon gets engaged to Stebin Ben, sister Kriti Sanon showers love



Mumbai: Actress and the younger sister of Bollywood beauty Kriti Sanon, Nupur Sanon, is engaged to her long-term beau, singer Stebin Ben. Sharing glimpses from the dreamy proposal on her Instagram, Nupur wrote, "In a world full of maybes, I found the easiest YES I've ever had to say (sic)", followed by red heart and evil eye emojis. The primary photo from the post has Stebin down on one knee, lovingly holding Nupur's hands. We can also see people holding the placards saying, "Will You Marry Me?" in the background. The newly-engaged couple was seen in the middle of a lake with a mesmeric

view in the backdrop. Sharing the milestone moment with their parents, Nupur and Stebin were also on a video call with them after the proposal. Dressed in a pretty floral dress, Nupur also flaunted her giant engagement ring. Stebin opted to wear blue formal for the special occasion. In one of the pictures, a female figure was seen hugging the happy couple. While her face is not visible, it is most likely Kriti expressing her excitement for the lovebirds. Speculations were going around for some time that Nupur and Stebin will be tying the knot in Udaipur soon. The singer is often



A Cinematic Leap of Faith: Zee Studios' Prestigious Gandhi Talks with A.R. Rahman's Music Set to Release on 30th January 2026

Zee Studios has announced the release date of its most ambitious and unconventional cinematic offering, Gandhi Talks, slated to hit theatres on 30th January 2026. Designed as a rare silent film in modern Indian cinema, Gandhi Talks stands as a bold creative leap where silence becomes the strongest form of storytelling. At a time when cinema is often defined by scale and sound, Gandhi Talks chooses restraint, emotion, and stillness to communicate its message. The film brings together an extraordinary ensemble featuring Vijay Sethupathi, Arvind Swamy, Aditi Rao Hydari, and Siddharth Jadhav, all of whom have consciously stepped into a form of storytelling that relies purely on performance and expression. For actors like Vijay Sethupathi and Arvind Swamy, the decision to headline a silent film reflects their unwavering belief in craft-driven cinema. Known for consistently choosing roles that challenge convention, their involvement underlines the film's artistic integrity. Aditi Rao Hydari and Siddharth Jadhav further enrich the narrative with deeply nuanced, expression-led performances embracing vulnerability and emotion without the support of dialogue. Adding an exceptional layer to the film is A.R. Rahman's music, which becomes the emotional voice of Gandhi Talks. In the absence of spoken words, Rahman's score acts as the narrator, guiding the audience through the film's emotional landscape. His music transforms silence into a powerful, immersive experience elevating the film to a global, festival-ready canvas. Speaking about the vision behind the film, director Kishore Belekar shared, "Gandhi Talks is a film about trusting silence. As Indian cinema marks over a

century of storytelling, we wanted to return to the medium's most elemental form pure performance and emotion. The actors embraced that vulnerability completely, and A.R. Rahman's score became the film's voice. With Zee Studios', Meera Chopra's support, we were able to make a bold, honest piece of cinema." With Gandhi Talks, Zee Studios once again reinforces its commitment to supporting path-breaking.