



NATION | NEWS

Adityanath attacks Cong, INDI alliance over 'misinformation' on law replacing MGNREGA



WORLD | NEWS

Zelensky replaces Ukraine's powerful security service chief

SPORTS | NEWS

'Ajit Agarkar Should Be Given 10/10': Harbhajan Singh's Stunning 'T20 World Cup' Take



IN BRIEF

Hoax bomb threats trigger security alerts across Gujarat courts & offices

Ahmedabad, Jan 6: A spate of bomb threats targeting courts and government buildings across Gujarat in recent days has put security agencies on high alert, leading to temporary suspension of court proceedings and extensive searches. Authorities have so far found no explosives in any of the locations, describing the threats as hoaxes, though investigations remain underway. In Ahmedabad, an email threatening a bomb blast was received by the registry of the City Civil and Sessions Court, prompting officials to immediately halt court proceedings. Bomb Disposal and Dog Squad teams were rushed to the premises and carried out a thorough sweep before declaring the complex safe. Around the same time, a similar threat was reported at the Gandhinagar Collector's Office, where police conducted a complete security check and found nothing suspicious. Courts in Rajkot and Surat also received threats, triggering precautionary evacuations and heightened security.

Gangrape accused shot dead in police encounter

Lakhimpur Kheri (TSIT): A wanted gangster accused in the gangrape of two minor girls was killed in a police encounter during a joint operation by Lakhimpur Kheri and Sultanpur police early Monday morning. The deceased has been identified as Talib alias Azam Khan, a resident of Lakhimpur Kheri, who was carrying a reward of Rs 1 lac. Police said Azam had 17 criminal cases registered against him at various police stations in the district. According to police, Azam, along with his associates Salman and Mukhtar, was involved in the gangrape of two minor girls on December 15. The incident occurred around 6.30 am when the victims were cycling to attend tuition classes. The accused allegedly intercepted them, dragged them into a sugarcane field and raped them before fleeing. Following a complaint by the victims' families, an FIR was registered. Based on descriptions provided by the girls and intelligence inputs, police identified the three accused. On December 20, police arrested Salman and Mukhtar after an exchange of fire.

Telangana industrial land policy to boost development: Uttam



Hyderabad (TSIT): State Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Tuesday said that the Industrial Land Transfer Policy introduced by the Telangana Government would serve as a strong foundation for sustainable development of both Telangana and Hyderabad.

The Minister categorically clarified that the policy does not apply to leased lands and is strictly limited to lands with full ownership rights. He also expressed strong displeasure over opposition claims that lands worth 5 lakh crore, spread across 9,000 acres, were being diverted, stating that such allegations were made only for the sake of criticism. Uttam Kumar Reddy said the government's sole objective is to make Hyderabad a more livable city. He noted that decades of unplanned industrial growth had made several residential areas uninhabitable, and the policy was aimed at correcting this long-standing problem.

He strongly rejected the criticism being made by opposition parties on the policy, terming it "baseless and meaningless." He demanded that BRS and BJP clearly state their stand on

Venezuela crisis poses no immediate risk to India's oil bill: Report



New Delhi (TSIT): The ongoing geopolitical tension between the United States and Venezuela does not pose any immediate risk to India and that the country's oil import bill is unlikely to rise under present conditions, a report said on Tuesday.

The report from Bank of Baroda said the import bill will remain unchanged as "global crude supplies are likely in a glut mode", and Venezuela's share of global production is marginal at about 1 per cent.

The bank maintained that Venezuela's proven reserves are large, at roughly 19.4 per cent of the world total. Market conjecture that the reserves could be tapped by US to increase supplies has already softened crude

Air pollution: SC pulls up pollution watchdog for 'failing in its duty'



New Delhi (TSIT): Pulling up the pollution watchdog for seeking a two-month adjournment on temporary closure/relocation of toll plazas at Delhi borders to ease traffic congestion, the Supreme Court on Tuesday directed it to convene a meeting of experts in two weeks and submit a report on major causes behind worsening air pollution in Delhi-NCR. "Have you been able to identify the causes of pollution? During all these days, a lot of material is coming into the public domain, experts are writing

articles, people are having opinions (and) they keep on sending to us by mail. Heavy vehicles are contributing a large part, so the first question is: how do we address that... By holding a meeting on January 2 and telling us that we will come after two months... that's not acceptable to us. The CAQM is failing in its

duty," a Bench led by CJI Surya Kant told the Commission of Air Quality Management (CAQM).

The Bench – which also included Justice Jaymalya Bagchi – made these comments after Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, representing the CAQM, referred to minutes of the meetings with stakeholders and sought two months on the issue of temporary closure/relocation of toll plazas at Delhi borders to ease traffic congestion leading to air pollution control.

Telangana records 8,861 fire accidents in 2025: Ponnam



Hyderabad (TSIT): Telangana Transport Minister Ponnambalam Prabhakar on Tuesday, January 6, told the Assembly that the state recorded 8,861 fire incidents in 2025, wherein a total of 163 people died. Additionally, property worth Rs 879 crore was also damaged. During a discussion

on the Fire Services Department in the Winter Session of the Legislative Assembly, the minister highlighted the two biggest tragedies of the year – the Sigrachi Industry blast near Sangareddy and the Charminar fire in Hyderabad, where 17 people died in the same house. Prabhakar said that the Congress government is taking comprehensive measures to strengthen fire safety infrastructure and that presently, there are 138 fire station centres in the state, with nine outposts in each district.

Stray dogs matter: So many applications don't even come in cases of humans, says SC



NEW DELHI (TSIT): The Supreme Court on Tuesday took note of the number of interlocutory applications being filed before it in the stray dogs case and said that so many applications normally don't come even in cases of humans.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta made the observations when two lawyers

mentioned the stray dogs matter before it. One of the lawyers said they have

filed an interlocutory application in the case. "So many applications

normally don't even come in cases of humans," Justice Mehta observed.

The bench said the stray dogs matter is slated to come up for hearing before the apex court on Wednesday. When another lawyer mentioned a transfer petition in the matter, the top court said many pleas would be taken up for hearing on Wednesday, and the bench will hear all the lawyers. A three-judge special

bench comprising Justices Nath, Mehta and N V Anjaria is slated to hear the matter on Wednesday. Taking note of the "alarming rise" in dog bite incidents within institutional areas such as educational institutions, hospitals and railway stations, the apex court on November 7 last year directed forthwith relocation of stray canines to designated shelters after due sterilisation and vaccination.

Andhra Pradesh CM calls for developing island tourism



Amaravati, (TSIT): Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday called for developing island tourism in the state on the lines of the Maldives.

The Chief Minister directed the officials to promote tourism in a big way and prepare a master plan for beach tourism. Addressing the Pradesh State Investment Board meeting, the Chief Minister said that the Suryalanka beach should be developed over a stretch of 15 kilometres.

He told officials that the Suryalanka beachfront should be a pollution-free area. Along with Suryalanka, the small islands near Sullurpetta

can also be developed under beach tourism.

"We should develop island tourism on the lines of the Maldives. If we can build 25,000 rooms, we can attract tourists," he said.

Naidu wanted officials to focus on developing the Papikondalu-Polavaram region for tourism. Konaseema, Pulicat, and

Visakhapatnam clusters will become excellent tourism clusters. There is also potential for tourism from Anantapur to Gandikota. He said plans should be prepared to ensure that the Tourism Corporation generates an income of Rs 1,000 crore in the next 15 years.

With this, the SIPB has so far approved investments worth Rs. 8,74,705 crore, which is expected to create employment opportunities for 8,35,675 people. The Chief Minister praised the teamwork of officials in attracting huge investments during 2025 and advised them to work with the same team spirit during 2026 also.

Siddaramaiah confident on completing term, equals Devaraj Urs record as longest serving CM



MYSURU (TSIT): Siddaramaiah, who on Tuesday equalled Devaraj Urs's record as the longest-serving chief minister of Karnataka, while expressing confidence about him completing the full five-year term, maintained that the Congress high command will have to decide on it.

He also said that he will discuss with the high command regarding the much-awaited cabinet rejig when they call him for discussion.

In his second term as chief minister, Siddaramaiah on Tuesday, January 6, equalled Devaraj Urs's record as the longest

serving Chief Minister of Karnataka for 2,792 days, and will surpass it on January 7. This unique record has come even as the power tussle within the ruling party has intensified amid speculations about a change in chief minister in the state, after the

It's only a coincidence. I did not know how many years and days Devaraj Urs served as CM. Today because of the blessings of the people, I have got an opportunity to equal Devaraj Urs's record. Tomorrow it will be broken," Siddaramaiah told reporters here. Asked if he will create another record by completing the full five-year term, he said, it has to be decided by the Congress high command. "I don't know when the high command will decide."

To a question whether he has confidence about completing the full term and that the high command will decide in his

favour, he said, "I have confidence. If I had no confidence, how would I have been the Chief Minister?... It all depends upon the high command's decision."

Regarding his meeting with AICC General Secretary K C Venugopal on Monday in Mysuru, Siddaramaiah said the Congress leader was on his way to Bengaluru from Wayanad via Mysuru, before heading for Delhi. "As he was in Mysuru and I too was here, we met."

Ruling out any discussion on cabinet reshuffle during the meeting, in response to a question as to when it can be expected, he said.

UP SIR draft voter list out: 12.55 crore voters retained, 2.89 crore removed



LUCKNOW (TSIT): The draft electoral roll for Uttar Pradesh was published on Tuesday after the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) excluded 2.89 crore voters but retained 12.55 crore, said Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Navdeep Rinwa.

The 2.89 crore voters, or 18.7 per cent, of the 15.44 crore listed earlier could not be included in the draft list due to deaths, permanent migration or multiple registrations, he said at a press conference. The final electoral list will be published on March 6,

cise was short. "This is a completely hasty decision. The way the SIR process was started by giving only one month in a large state like Uttar Pradesh is unreasonable."

"They gave one month even to a small state like Kerala. Uttar Pradesh should have been given at least five to six months, as was done earlier in 2002-03... Had it been done that way, the booth level officers (BLOs) would not have been under such pressure and suicides could have been avoided."

CHANGE OF NAME
I, MOHAMMAD SULTAN, S/o.MOHAMMAD WASI, R/o. 24-5-379/b, Afzal Nagar, Kazipet Jaagir, Hanamkonda, Telangana. That I have changed my name from MOHAMMED SULTAN (Old Name) to MOHAMMAD SULTAN (New Name) for all purposes.

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PLEASE
CONTACT:
9948480279,
7330778889

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SAMMETI ASHOK KUMAR, S/o. NARSAIAH, R/o. 11-1-131, Labour Colony, Warangal, Telangana. That I have changed my name from KAMMETI ASHOK KUMAR (Old Name) to SAMMETI ASHOK KUMAR (New Name) for all purposes.

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on www.scrailways.gov.in
Details of the tenders and
tenders can be seen on our
website: www.scrailways.gov.in

Tender No. GTL-EM-69-
2025-26 Date:02.01.2026

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

Tender No. GTL-EM-69-2025-26 Name of the Work Proposed Construction of Extension of DTTC/GTL School-Electrical Arrangements **Approximate Value** Rs. 61,441,738/-

Closing date and time:
26-01-2026 at 15.00hrs

For Bidding the tender and other details login to <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. Corresponding of tender, if any will be issued online only. Tender Document may be downloaded from to <http://www.ireps.gov.in> by the tenderers free of cost.

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Maintenance, Guntakal
No/G/E.29/Tr/Tenders/
2025-26 D1.02.01.2026

Tender Notice No/G/E.29/Tr/Tender/
Notice/3/9/2025-26

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

Tender No. GTL-TRD-29-ETN-69-2025-26 Name of the Work: Strengthening of OHE through stone pitching, soil filling in connection with safety in PTPY-KPD and HX-RU sections. **Approximate Value:** Rs. 1,81,40,500/- **EMD:** Rs. 2,40,700/-

Tender Closing date & time:
27.01.2026 at 15.00 hrs

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

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

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Traction, Guntakal

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
(through <http://ireps.gov.in>)

C/E/29/TRD/SC/59/2025-26

Date: 02-01-2026
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Traction Distribution, Secunderabad invites e-tender on behalf of the President of India for the following works in Single packet system of tendering.

Sno 1 INT No. C/E.29/TRD/SC/59/2025-26 Name of the work

Tender No. C/E.29/TRD/SC/59/2025-26 Dt. 02.01.2026 SC Division: WD-SC & SC-KZ sections: Hyderabad: Slewing of Point no 44, Road no 5 and 6 CSR enhancement at Hyderabad. **Details-Estimate Cost:** Rs. 1,64,24,866.48 **Completion period:** 120 days **Date of closing:** 29.01.2026 at 15:00 hrs

1) For bid document and other details, please login to website <http://ireps.gov.in> 2) Tenderers should participate through e-tendering only and no manual offers may be considered. 3) Tender conditions/other particulars are available in the Tender documents on IREPS website at ireps.gov.in which can be downloaded, can be participated and can view any modifications if any. 4) All the prospective tenderers are requested to remit Cost of tender form & EMD through online payments only. 5) The tender notice is also displayed in the Notice Board located in the office of Sr. DEE/TRD, Secunderabad Division, South Central Railway, Secunderabad which can be seen on all working days. 6) The Railway reserves the right to cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereto. 7) All the prospective tenderers are advised to get GSTIN identification Nos. and submit along with their offers. 8) Tenderer should watch for any Corrigenda (issued online only) upto the date of commencement of the Tender submission period.

Sr. DEE/TRD/Secunderabad

No/G/D/S.70/Tender Notice/
AUX MOTORS/2025-26

Date:18/12/2025

GYDSL/58/2025/AUXMOTORS

Senior Divisional Mechanical

Engineer/Diesel/Gooty acting for

and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders for the following work

Description of work Overhauling and Re-winding of Auxiliary Motors of Electric Locos for a period of 2 years

Approx. Value in Rs. Rs.

46,91,862.82 (Rupees Forty-Six Lakh Ninety-One Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty-Two and Eighty-Two Paisa only) including GST

Earnest money Deposit in Rs.

93,800.00 (Rupees Ninety-Three Thousand Eight Hundred only)

Closing date & Time :

12/01/2026 at 12:00 hrs

For Bid document and other details login to <http://www.ireps.gov.in>, any corrigenda will be issued online only.

Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer Diesel Loco Shed, Gooty

TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of The President of India, Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, Secunderabad Division, South Central Railway, Secunderabad invites Open Tenders for the following works through E-procurement of the Tenders

SI.No 1 Tender No. & Date C.S.G. 36, 585 Dt:03/01/2026 Closing dt: 24/01/2026 Name of the work

Attention of repairs and deficiencies of Signalling & Telecommunication assets in Vikarabad-Parli (VKB-PRLI) section. **Approx. Value (Rs) .**

1,95,73,542.29 **Bid security/EMD (Rs) .** 2,47,900/- **Allocation REVENUE**

For further details visit the website www.ireps.gov.in; Bid security/EMD to be paid as per IGC 2022. "As per IRESGC 2022, e-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. (Ref:IGC 2022 part-1, Clause-3. Tender Notice has already been uploaded in the website.

Sr.DSTE/Co-ord/Secunderabad

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FOR further tender conditions /

details and for downloading the

tender documents.

Please visit website at

<https://www.ireps.gov.in> or www.scrailways.gov.in

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For further tender conditions /

details and for downloading the

tender documents.

Please visit website at

<https://www.ireps.gov.in> or www.scrailways.gov.in

For further details visit the website

www.ireps.gov.in; Bid security/EMD

to be paid as per IGC 2022. "As per IRESGC 2022, e-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. (Ref:IGC 2022 part-1, Clause-3. Tender Notice has already been uploaded in the website.

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RWA cooperation key for effective wet and dry waste management: Baldia Commissioner

WARANGAL, January 6, TSIT : Baldia Commissioner Chahat Bajpai said that Residential Welfare Associations should cooperate in providing wet and dry garbage. Distribution of wet and dry garbage in Surendrapuri Colony area of 56 Division, Hanmakonda range on Tuesday the commissioner participated in the awareness programme organized and gave suitable



suggestions for effective management. On this occasion, the Commissioner said that officials and staff should separate the wet and dry waste and pro-

vide them with awareness along with the local residential welfare associations.

Apartment dwellees should see that wet and dry waste must be separated from each house. Apart from that, hazardous waste should be handed over separately. According to the needs of residents

in Surendra Puri Colony in Gopalpur 60 feet road area.

The Commissioner ordered the officials to prepare proposals for the establishment of drains. In this programme, Corporator Sirangi Sunil Kumar, MHO Dr Rajesh, DE Ravi Kiran, Sanitary Supervisor Narendra, TPS Satish, Sanitary Inspector Bhasha Naik, ASCII representative Dr Raj Mohan and others participated.

Lulu Mega Sale in Hyderabad: Flat 50% Off on Over 25,000 Products

Hyderabad, January 2026: Lulu Mall and Lulu Hypermarket have launched a four-day "Lulu On Sale" mega sale from January 8 to 11, offering flat 50% discounts on more than 25,000 products across categories like groceries, fashion, electronics, home appliances, and more.

Over 200 brands are participating, with discounts extending to the food court, retail stores, and even Games Zone (excluding vending and bowling).

Customers shopping for 1,999 or more can enter a lucky draw to win a car. Lulu Happiness members get early access from January 7, with a chance to win a couple's trip to Bali. The hypermarket will remain open from 9:00 AM to midnight during the sale period. Officials have assured smooth arrangements for a comfortable shopping experience ahead of Sankranthi celebrations.



AXIS BANK LTD
5-2-183/184, 3rd Floor, Modi Square, Ranigunj, Secunderabad-500003.

DEMAND NOTICE

(Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act) read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) All of you the below mentioned Borrowers are hereby informed that the Bank has initiated proceedings against you under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the Demand Notices on the dates mentioned below u/s 13(2) of the Act sent to you by Registered Post/AC due have been received bank undelivered. All of you are hereby called upon to take notice and pay the outstanding loan amount mentioned below within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the Bank will proceed against all of you by exercising its right under Sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the Act by enforcing the below mentioned security to realize its dues with immediate effect that the notice is addressed to all of you without prejudice to any other remedy available to the Bank. As security for the repayment interests and costs, the account has been classified as Non Performing Asset in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, it is of the said loan to Axis Bank Ltd., all of you executed Loan Agreement, and also created, equitable mortgage by deposit of title deeds of the property detailed herein below: We draw your attention to Sec 13 (8) of the Securitisation Act as per which, no further steps shall be taken for transfer or sale of the secured asset, if the dues of the secured creditor together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by secured creditor are tendered by you at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer of the secured assets.

SINO:1 Ref No: 03/SARFAESI/13(2)/MAY/2025-26 Date: 17-12-2025

1) Mr. Anil Gopinathan Nair (Applicant), S/o. Mr. KP Gopinathan Pillai, R/o. H-401 Ramky Towers, Gachibowli, Rollies Hill, Serilingampally, Hyderabad, Telangana-500032. Also At: Mr. Anil Gopinathan Nair (Applicant), S/o. Mr. KP Gopinathan Pillai, Delivery Head at Postwest, Block-II, White House, Kundanbagh, Begumpet, Hyderabad-500016.

2) Ms. Thara Nair (Co-Applicant), C/o. Mr. Velappan Nair, R/o. H-401 Ramky Towers, Gachibowli, Rollies Hill, Serilingampally, Hyderabad, Telangana-500032. Also At: Ms. Thara Nair (Co-Applicant), C/o. Mr. Velappan Nair, R/o. H.N.87 SK7 MARKET Road, Sreeramkary, Thiruvannamapuram, Kerala-895157.

Demand Notice Date: 17-12-2025. Loan Account No. 919030016970315. NPA Date: 04-12-2025. Amount Outstanding: Rs. 23,14,407.71/- (Rupees Twenty Three Lakhs Fourteen Thousand Forty Seven and Seventy One only)

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

Schedule-A - All that the total land area measuring 25.13 acres in Survey No.s 11/11/2, 12,13,14,16,17,18,19/1,19/2,19/3, 21,22,23,25/1,25/2,27/1,27/2,28, 29,30,31,32,33,34,39,40,41,42 & 43 situated at peeramcheru village & Gram Panchayat, Gadipet Mandal, Rangareddy District and bounded by: Boundaries : North : Peeramcheru Village; Boundary : South : Peeram Cheru Lake and Shadan Medical College; East : Gindhari Constructions & Peeramcheru Village; West : Jnuru Housing Colony and Village Boundary.

Schedule-B - All that the total land area measuring 12.15 acres bearing Survey No.s 17,18,19/1,19/2,19/3, 25/1,26,27/1,27/2,28 & 30 situated at Peeramcheru Village & Gram Panchayat, Gadipet Mandal, Rangareddy District and bounded by: Boundaries : North : Peeramcheru Village; Boundary : South : Peeram Cheru Lake and Shadan Medical College; East : Gindhari Constructions & Peeramcheru Village; West : Jnuru Housing Colony and Village Boundary.

Schedule-C - All that the part of residential land No.104 in First floor with 150 Sq.Ft. in TUN "TURQUOISE" Tower that is constructed in Survey No.s 29 & 30 in PBEL city, together with one car parking slot(s) and undivided share of land that represent the schedule B Property share in the schedule A property equivalent to 40 Square yards only situated at Peeramcheru Village & Gram Panchayat, Gadipet Mandal, Rangareddy District and bounded by: Boundaries : North : Open to Sky; South : Open to Sky; East : Open to Sky; West : Corridor.

SINO:2 Ref No: 06/SARFAESI/13(2)/Oct/2025 Date: 20-12-2025

1) Mr. Purushotham Reddy (Applicant), S/o. Mr. Mutym Reddy Jitta, R/o.H-178/1, Sambasiva Colony, Boduppal, Near CCB Colony, Hyderabad, Telangana-500039. 2) Mrs. J pushpamma (Applicant), S/o. Mr. Mutym Reddy Jitta, R/o.H-178/1, Sambasiva Colony, Boduppal, Near CCB Colony, Hyderabad, Telangana-500039. **Property Address:** Mr. J Purushotham Reddy (Applicant), S/o. Mr. Mutym Reddy Jitta, Plot No.3/A & 4/A, in Survey No.92, Boduppal Village, Boduppal Gram Panchayat, Ghatekesar Mandal, Rangareddy District, Hyderabad, Telangana-500092.

Demand Notice Date: 20-12-2025. **Loan Account No.** PH00801001679209. **NPA Date:** 31-03-2014. **Amount Outstanding:** Rs. 31,95,00/- (Rupees Thirty One Lakhs Ninety Five Thousand Only)

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

All that the part and parcel of House (Consisting ground + First Floor) on part of plot No.3/A & 4/A, in survey No.92, admeasuring area 206.00 Square yards, equivalent to 17,21 Square feet, situated at Boduppal Village, Boduppal Gram Panchayat, Chakkar Mandal, Rangareddy District, Within the jurisdiction of the sub-branch, uppal and bounded as follows: BOUNDARIES Of Mortgaged Asset:North: Plot No.4/A/Part; South: Plot No.3/A/Part; East:25/1,25/2,26,27/1,27/2,28 & 30 situated at Peeramcheru Village & Gram Panchayat, Gadipet Mandal, Rangareddy District and bounded by: Boundaries : North : Peeramcheru Village; Boundary : South : Peeram Cheru Lake and Shadan Medical College; East : Gindhari Constructions & Peeramcheru Village; West : Jnuru Housing Colony and Village Boundary.

SINO:3 Ref No: 03/SARFAESI/13(2)/MAY/2025-26 Date: 17-12-2025

1) Mr. Joseph Irudia Rajan (Applicant), S/o. Mr. Joseph Gabriel, R/o. 20-74/4, Flat No.301, III Floor, Surya Enclave, Goutham Nagar, Malakjiriguda, Hyderabad, Telangana-500002. Also At: Mr. Joseph Irudia Rajan (Applicant), S/o. Mr. Joseph Gabriel, 30-178, Sahafigar, Old Salliguda, Malkajiguda, Near Mery Model School, Hyderabad-500004. Also At: Mr. Joseph Irudia Rajan (Applicant), S/o. Mr. Joseph Gabriel, Delivery Manager, System Technology Service Ltd, Cyber Gateway, Level-3, Wing-1, Block-C, Madhapur, Hitech City, Hyderabad-500087.

Demand Notice Date: 30-12-2025. **Loan Account No.** 92103005048961. **NPA Date:** 26-Aug-25. **Amount Outstanding:** 25,00,00/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakhs Rupees Only)

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

All that the part and parcel of House bearing Survey No. 17,18,19/1,19/2,19/3, 25/1,26,27/1,27/2,28 & 30 situated at Peeramcheru Village & Gram Panchayat, Gadipet Mandal, Rangareddy District and bounded by: Boundaries : North : Peeramcheru Village; Boundary : South : Peeram Cheru Lake and Shadan Medical College; East : Gindhari Constructions & Peeramcheru Village; West : Jnuru Housing Colony and Village Boundary.

SINO:4 Ref No: 02/SARFAESI/13(2)/MAY/2025-26 Date: 17-12-2025

1) Mr. Rama Addanki (Applicant), S/o. Mr. Venkata Narasayya Addanki, R/o.Flt No.102, Sai Durga Castle, Naveen nagar, Kairatabad, Near city centre mall, Hyderabad, Telangana-500004. Also At: Mr. Rama Addanki (Applicant), S/o. Mr. Venkata Narasayya Addanki, HIG-235, HB Colony, Bhavanipuram, Kamakotinagar, Krishna, Near VMC Keewell Park Vijayawada(Urban)Andhra Pradesh-520012.

Demand Notice Date: 30-12-2025. **Loan Account No.** 92103005048961. **NPA Date:** 26-Aug-25. **Amount Outstanding:** 25,00,00/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakhs Rupees Only)

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

All that the part and parcel of House (Consisting ground + First Floor) on part of plot No.3/A & 4/A, in survey No.92, admeasuring area 206.00 Square yards, equivalent to 17,21 Square feet, situated at Boduppal Village, Boduppal Gram Panchayat, Chakkar Mandal, Rangareddy District, Within the jurisdiction of the sub-branch, uppal and bounded as follows: BOUNDARIES Of Mortgaged Asset:North: Plot No.4/A/Part; South: Plot No.3/A/Part; East:25/1,25/2,26,27/1,27/2,28 & 30 situated at Peeramcheru Village & Gram Panchayat, Gadipet Mandal, Rangareddy District and bounded by: Boundaries : North : Peeramcheru Village; Boundary : South : Peeram Cheru Lake and Shadan Medical College; East : Gindhari Constructions & Peeramcheru Village; West : Jnuru Housing Colony and Village Boundary.

SINO:5 Ref No: 03/SARFAESI/13(2)/MAY/2025-26 Date: 17-12-2025

1) Mr. Kesari Manjula (Applicant), S/o. Mr. Gopal, R/o.H-12-193, C 210, Jaipuri Colony, Road No.9, Near Hanuman Temple, Nagole, Hyderabad, Telangana-500068. **Property Address:** Mr. Kesari Manjula (Applicant), S/o. Mr. Gopal, Kesari, House bearing GHMC New Addressed No.1-20-280, (Old No.6-391), Plot No.9, Kavuri Hills, Jubilee Hills, Road No.36 Extension, Hyderabad, Telangana-500033.

Demand Notice Date: 30-12-2025. **Loan Account No.** PH00801001679209. **NPA Date:** 04-12-2024. **Amount Outstanding:** Rs. 29,35,803/- (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakhs Thirty Five Thousand Eight Hundred and Three only)

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

All that the part and parcel of Flat No.501 in fifth floor admeasuring 1190.00 Sq.Ft Super builtup area including common area and car parking in the building known as "MADHU SAI RAM RESIDENCY" BLOCK NO-11, having with proportionately undivided share of land admeasuring 18.13 Sq.Yards or 732.9 Sq.Mtrs in premises Survey No. 1-12-138/64, admeasuring 883.13 Sq.Yards or 732.9 Sq.Mtrs is constructed in

Survey No. 19,20, 26 situated at Anand bagh under greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, Malkajigiri Circle, North Zone, Under Malkajigiri Mandal, Medchal, Malkajigiri District, and bounded by: Boundaries of Flat North : Open to Sky; South : Residential Flat No.502; East : Open to Sky; West : 7'-6" Wide Corridor. Boundaries of Land : North : Neighbors House & 30' Wide Road; South : Part of House No.1-24-138/64 belongs to Vendor 2; East : 30' Feet Wide Road; West : Neighbors House.

SINO:6 Ref No: 02/SARFAESI/13(2)/DEC/2025 Date: 20-12-2025

1) Mr. Surya Harsha (Applicant), S/o. Mr. Surya Harshavardhan Meka, R/o. Plot No.274, Gulmohar Park, Serilingampally, Near Rao School, Hyderabad, Telangana-500019. Also At: Mr. Surya Harsha (Applicant), S/o. Mr. Surya Harshavardhan Meka, Partner at Sri Sair Surface Coating Technologies, Export Zone, 17A, Phase-II, DIL, Pashmyaram, Hyderabad, Telangana-503207.

Demand Notice Date: 20-12-2025. **Loan Account No.** PH00801001679209. **NPA Date:** 04-12-2024. **Amount Outstanding:** Rs. 95,21,793.33/- (Rupees Ninety Five Lakhs Twenty One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety Eight and Thirty Three only)

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

All that the part and parcel of House bearing GHMC New Addressed No.1-20-260, (Old No.6-391) Bulitup area (GF 113 & FF 1134 St) Total 2268 Sq.Ft, admeasuring of 247 Square yards, equivalent to 20.64 Square Metres, standing on Plot No.34 in Survey No.489, situated at Shri Venkat Sai Nagar, alwal Village, Vallabhanagar Taluk, Medchal-Malkajigiri District, PTIN: 1160108426 and bounded as follows: Boundaries: North : Neighbors House, South : Neighbors House, West : 30' Wide Road.

SINO:5 Ref No: 02/SARFAESI/13(2)/DEC/2025 Date: 24-12-2024

1) Mr. Surya Harsha (Applicant), S/o. Mr. Surya Harshavardhan Meka, R/o. Plot No.274, Gulmohar Park, Serilingampally, Near Rao School, Hyderabad, Telangana-500019. Also At: Mr. Surya Harsha (Applicant), S/o. Mr. Surya Harshavardhan Meka, Partner at Sri Sair Surface Coating Technologies, Export Zone, 17A, Phase-II, DIL, Pashmyaram, Hyderabad, Telangana-503207.

Demand Notice Date: 24-12-2024. **Loan Account No.** PH00801001679209. **NPA Date:** 21-11-2025. **Amount Outstanding:** of Rs. 1,02,17,247.35/- (Rupees One Crore Two Lakhs Seventeen Thousand Two Hundred and Forty Seven and Thirty Five Only)

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

All that Part and Parcel of House bearing GHMC New Addressed No.1-20-260, (Old No.6-391) Bulitup area (GF 113 & FF 1134 St) Total 2268 Sq.Ft, admeasuring of 247 Square yards, equivalent to 20.64 Square Metres, standing on Plot No.150 in Survey No. 320/A,320/1/A,320/2,324,326/182, admeasuring 178.95 square yards or 150 Square meters, situated within approved layout of the Osmania university Employees cooperative Housing society limited at shaikep village,Hyderabad, Telangana and bounded by: Boundaries: North : Plot No. 149, South : Plot No. 149. East: 33' Wide Road, West: Plot No. 149. **Land Boundary:** North : Open to Sky, South : Open to Sky, East : Open to Sky, West : Open to Sky.

SINO:6 Ref No: 02/SARFAESI/13(2)/DEC/2025 Date: 17-12-2025

1) Mr. Abbaraj Nagaraju (Applicant), S/o. Mr. Rama Ramana Rao, R/o.Flt No.410, Block-C, 4th Floor, Midaas Fountain Head, Kachiguda, Hyderabad-500032. Also At: Mr. Abbaraj Nagaraju (Applicant), S/o. Mr. Rama Ramana Rao, C/o. H. No.8-1-284/OU/150 & Property PTIN: 1100871043 on plot No.150 in survey No. 320/A,320/1/A,320/2,324,326/182, admeasuring 178.95 square yards or 150 Square meters, situated within approved layout of the Osmania university Employees cooperative Housing society limited at shaikep village,Hyderabad, Telangana and bounded by: Boundaries: North : Plot No. 149, South : Plot No. 149. East: 33' Wide Road, West: Plot No. 149. **Land Boundary:** North : Open to Sky, South : Open to Sky, East : Open to Sky, West : Open to Sky.

Demand Notice Date: 17-12-2024. **Loan Account No.** PH00801001679209. **NPA Date:** 05-Oct-25. **Amount Outstanding:** Rs. 23,75,047/-

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

All that the part and parcel of House bearing MCH No: 8-1-284/OU/150 & Property PTIN: 1100871043 on plot No.150 in survey No. 320/A,320/1/A,320/2,324,326/182, admeasuring 178.95 square yards or 150

ONGC finalises plan to control blowout at Andhra well

AMARAVATI (TSIT): The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) said on Tuesday that a comprehensive blowout control plan has been finalised at well Mori-5 in Andhra Pradesh's Dr B. R. Ambedkar Konaseema district, where the blaze continued for the second day.

Senior management of ONGC, including Director (Technology & Field Services) Vikram Saxena from Delhi, along with Crisis Management Team (CMT) experts, has assumed operational control of the well located at Irusumanda village in the Malkipuram mandal.

"Excavation work has been completed for the cre-



ation of a temporary canal from a nearby irrigation source to facilitate deployment of high-capacity fire-water pumps. Fire pumps have reached the wellsite, and placement activities are in progress. A comprehensive blowout control plan has been finalised," the ONGC said in a statement.

The state-owned oil and gas company said that a gradual reduction in the flame intensity and size is

being witnessed. It also revealed that the team has been able to change the flame to a vertical direction. Air quality, noise levels, and nearby water bodies are being continuously monitored to minimise environmental impact within a 600-metre radius, it said. The ONGC remains in continuous coordination with all stakeholders, including district and police administrations, local authorities, and the media, to ensure transparency and an effective response. All operations are being carried out with the highest standards of safety and environmental care, it added.

Andhra Pradesh Government Releases PPT on Rayalaseema Projects

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh government on Tuesday released a comprehensive status report on the irrigation sector, offering a stark comparison between the alleged neglect during the previous regime (2019-2024) and the current administration's restoration efforts in the drought-prone Rayalaseema region.

In a detailed presentation, the government highlighted that the foundations for critical projects like Telugu Ganga, Handri-Neeva, and Galeru-Nagari were laid during the tenures of N.T. Rama Rao and N. Chandrababu Naidu with the vision of drought-proofing the region using Krishna river waters. The report underscored that systematic negligence over the preceding five years had compromised this vision, leading to infrastructure decay and financial waste.

According to the latest data released



by the government, the water availability in Rayalaseema has seen a

significant boost. As of January 5, 2026, the 17 major reservoirs in the region hold 288.32 TMC of water against a total capacity of 335.03 TMC, marking an 86% storage level. When including medium and minor irrigation tanks, the region currently holds 366.09 TMC (79% of the total 464.65 TMC capacity), ensuring substantial water security for the agricultural season. The report cited the Handri-Neeva Sujala Sravanti (HNSS) project as a prime example of administrative apathy during the 2019-2024 period. Despite the existence of pump houses with a 3,850-cusec capacity, the previous government allegedly failed to complete crucial works, rendering the infrastructure useless. The report noted that between 2019 and 2024, merely Rs.514 crore was spent on the project, while electricity dues were allowed to accumulate.

Online current booking facility of SRIVANI Tickets from Jan 09 on a trial-basis: TTD

Tirumala: Keeping in view the convenience of devotees, the TTD has taken a significant step introducing online current booking system for SRIVANI Trust tickets on a trial basis which will come into effect from 9th January 2026 onwards.

Highlights: Conversion of Offline Tickets to Online Mode:

- The 800 SRIVANI Trust Break Darshan tickets currently issued at Tirumala counters will now be made available

through online current booking.

- This is in addition to the existing online quota of 500 tickets which were released three months prior.

Daily Online Release Schedule:

- Tickets will be released online every day at 9 AM.

- Bookings will remain open until 2 PM.

- Devotees must report at 4PM for same-day darshan at Tirumala.

Trial-run - This initiative will undergo a one-month trial run.

- Based on the

outcome, a final decision will be taken regarding the overall SRIVANI darshan timings.

Appeal to Devotees

TTD requests all its devotees to kindly take note of this change and make use of the online current booking facility avoiding long waiting for tickets. By booking tickets online from 9AM onwards, devotees are requested to make use of this sacred opportunity and seek the blessings of Gomata and the Sri Venkateswara Swamy.

'Gopuja Mahotsavam' at SV Gosala on January 16

Tirupati: The Tirupati Sri Venkateswara Gosamrakshanasala will organize Gopuja Mahotsavam in a grand manner on January 16, on the occasion of Kanuma festival. On this occasion, Abhishekam, puja and harati to Sri Venugopala Swamy will be performed from 5 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. followed by Gopuja from 10.30 a.m. to 11.15 a.m.

Subsequently, from 11.15 a.m., bhajans and kolatams by artists of the Dasa Sahitya Project, followed by Sankeertana programmes by artists of the Annamacharya Project, will be held.

From 12noon onwards, devotees will be allowed for the darshan of Sri Venugopala Swamy, followed by distribution of prasadam. On the day of Gopuja Mahotsavam, TTD is providing an opportunity for devotees to personally offer jaggery, rice and fodder to the cows. Devotees are requested to make use of this sacred opportunity and seek the blessings of Gomata and the Sri Venkateswara Swamy.

Rs.10 Lakh Donation to TTD



Tirumala: A devotee from Nizamabad, Sri Katakanam Srinivas, donated Rs.10 lakh to the TTD Sri Venkateswara Annadana Trust on Tuesday morning. On this occasion, the donor handed over the donation DD to TTD Chairman Sri B. R. Naidu at the TTD Chairman's Camp Office in Tirumala.

Vasavi Clubs International donates Rs.25 Lakh to Telangana Sainik Welfare Fund



Hyderabad, Jan 6 (TSIT): Vasavi Clubs International, Secunderabad, donated Rs.25,00,000/- to the Sainik Welfare Department of Telangana, for the welfare of ex-servicemen and their families. The cheque was presented to Governor Jishnu Dev Varma, at Lok Bhawan Tuesday by Erukulla Rama Krishna, International President, Vasavi Clubs International. The Governor appreciated the contribution and handed over the cheque to Captain R. Srinivasulu, Director, Sainik Welfare, Telangana. Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said: "This generous gesture by Vasavi Clubs International reflects a deep commitment to social responsibility. Collective efforts like these honour our ex-servicemen and strengthen societal welfare."

Avakai: Amaravati Festival of Cinema, Culture and Literature to Transform Vijayawada's Riverfront with a Landmark Cultural Celebration, 8th to 10th January 2026

Vijayawada: 06th January, 2026: The Government of Andhra Pradesh presents Avakai: Amaravati Festival of Cinema, Culture and Literature, a three-day public cultural celebration to be held from 8th to 10th January 2026 at Punnami Ghat and Bhavani Island, Vijayawada. Conceived as an open, inclusive riverfront festival, Avakai brings cinema, literature and the performing arts into public spaces, creating direct engagement between artists and audiences, while transforming the banks of the River Krishna into a vibrant site of cultural exchange and creative dialogue. Anchored in the cultural geography of Amaravati-Vijayawada, Avakai foregrounds Telugu cinema and literature, while presenting a multidisciplinary programme spanning music, dance, theatre, poetry, storytelling, workshops and cultural conversations. Envisioned under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu, organised by the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Authority, powered by KIA and produced by Teamwork Arts, the festival introduces a format new to the state, combining artistic excellence with public participation and immersive riverfront experiences. The festival is free and open to the public, and audiences are encouraged to register online at www.avakai festival.com.



Delphin, Managing Director - Teamwork Arts, Mr. Sanjoy K. Roy.

Opening performances include Her Frames, Her Fire by Omaggio Performing Company, followed by Love Story - A Musical, created especially for Avakai. On Friday, 9th January 2026, the daytime programme at Bhavani Island features conversations and workshops, including Pure Evil: Anti-Heroes of Cinema with S. Hussain Zaidi, Yamduri Veerendranath and Sudhir Mishra in conversation with Balaji Vittal, followed by a discussion on Evolving Storytelling: The Journey of Indian Mythology.

On Saturday, 10th January 2026, the Bhavani Island day programme includes Words on Water, Katha Itranagal: Art of Telugu Storytelling, Friday Release: Cinema & Journalism, Sundaramaina Telugu: Glory of Telugu Literature & Cinema, and The Art of Translation: Words Without Borders, alongside continued workshops. The closing evening at Punnami Ghat features Chowraasta Live, Natasarvabhowma NTR - Homage to the Vishwaroopam of Acting, Love Story - A Musical, the Festival Closing Ceremony, and a grand finale concert by Javed Ali. Beyond performances and conversations, Avakai offers immersive festival experiences including interactive installations and curated culinary experiences, inviting audiences to engage deeply with the region's cultural and artistic heritage.

to cinema, with Yamduri Veerendranath and A. Kodandarami Reddy in conversation with Valli Padmanjali. Parallel hands-on workshops include Martial Arts with Tuhan Aditya Roy, Nagada with Nathoo Lal Solanki, Puppet-making with Shameem, and Dance with French choreographer Gilles Chuyen. As twilight descends on the sacred banks of the Krishna at Punnami Ghat, the evenings unfold into a rich celebration of music, movement and poetic expression. The programme features Carnatic Music by Chandana Bala Kalyan, followed by Dramatic Tales- Rasa United, a powerful Kuchipudi dance-theatre presentation by Vanashree Rao, and The Sound of Stories: Music & Poetry in Cinema, with Shekhar Ravjiani, Priya Saraiya and Kasarla Shyam in conversation with Rakshanda Jalil, exploring the lyrical soul of Indian cinema. The night further deepens with Mehfil-e-Sukhan: A Mushaira Experience, featuring Aditya Singh 'Aadi', Azhar Iqbal, Iqbal Ashhar, Khushbir Singh Shaad, Dr Nusrat Mehdi, Payala Murali Krishna, Popular Meeruthi, Saif Nizami and Sardar Saleem, followed by Ajaj Rang Hai - a transcendent collaboration between the Anirudh Varma Collective and Nizami Bandhu, blending contemporary classical with the timeless spirit of Qawwali.

On Saturday, 10th January 2026, the Bhavani Island day programme includes Words on Water, Katha Itranagal: Art of Telugu Storytelling, Friday Release: Cinema & Journalism, Sundaramaina Telugu: Glory of Telugu Literature & Cinema, and The Art of Translation: Words Without Borders, alongside continued workshops. The closing evening at Punnami Ghat features Chowraasta Live, Natasarvabhowma NTR - Homage to the Vishwaroopam of Acting, Love Story - A Musical, the Festival Closing Ceremony, and a grand finale concert by Javed Ali. Beyond performances and conversations, Avakai offers immersive festival experiences including interactive installations and curated culinary experiences, inviting audiences to engage deeply with the region's cultural and artistic heritage.

Decentralising Cancer Care: A Humane Leap in Telangana's Public Health System.



RAMESH PAKA

Cancer is not merely a disease; it is a prolonged battle that tests the physical endurance, emotional strength, and financial stability of patients and their families. In a country like India, where access to specialised healthcare often remains uneven, the burden of cancer treatment falls disproportionately on the poor and middle class. Timely diagnosis, continuous chemotherapy, and supportive care are critical to survival, yet these are often accompanied by immense hardship due to travel, accommodation, and loss of daily wages.

For decades, Telangana's cancer care ecosystem revolved largely around the MNJ Institute of Oncology and Regional Cancer Centre, Hyderabad. Though MNJ Hospital has rendered yeoman service in screening and chemotherapy, it remained the primary destination for cancer patients from every corner of the state. MGM Hospital, Warangal, offered limited services, but not in a fully fledged manner. As a result, patients from remote districts were compelled to travel to Hyderabad, often spending four full days for screening, chemotherapy, and related procedures.

This journey was not merely medical, it was economic and emotional. Patients had to be accompanied by attendants, lead-

ing to loss of wages, travel expenses, food costs, and accommodation charges. For many families, the cost of reaching treatment exceeded the cost of treatment itself. This was the stark reality of cancer care in Telangana until recently. In a transformative and compassionate move, the Hon'ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Sri Damodar Rajanarayana, has initiated a landmark reform by decentralising chemotherapy services across the state in all (33) districts. Recognising that healthcare must reach the patient rather than force the patient to chase healthcare, the Minister took a bold policy decision to expand chemotherapy facilities to Government General Hospitals in every district. Under this initiative, doctors, nurses, laboratory techni-



cians, and paramedical staff were systematically trained. Essential equipment, medicines, and protocols were extended from MNJ Hospital, Hyderabad, ensuring uniform standards of care. As a result, cancer patients can now undergo chemotherapy in their own districts, close to their homes and families.

This reform has dramatically reduced the burden on patients and attendants. The need to stay

in Hyderabad for four days has been eliminated. Travel expenses, food and lodging costs, and loss of wages have been minimised. Patients can now return home the same day after chemotherapy, significantly improving their quality of life and treatment compliance. According to reliable information, nearly 11,000 chemotherapy registrations were earlier being handled in a year at MNJ Hospital alone. With the redistribution of cases to district hospitals, the load on MNJ has been eased, allowing tertiary care centres to focus on complex and advanced cases. Simultaneously, district hospitals have been empowered, benefiting both doctors and patients through improved efficiency and accessibility.

This decentralised model reflects a deeper understanding of public health where infrastructure, human resources, and policy converge to serve the most vulnerable. Cancer care is not only about advanced technology; it is about empathy, accessibility, and continuity. Telangana's approach demonstrates how a strong public healthcare system can reduce inequalities and restore dignity to patients battling life-threatening illnesses.

The chemotherapy decentralisation initiative is only one among many progressive reforms being undertaken by the Health Department to ensure that the people of Telangana receive the best possible healthcare without financial ruin. Such people-centric governance stands as a model for other states to emulate. By bringing cancer care closer to home, Telangana has not only saved time and money, it has given patients hope, strength, and the assurance that the government stands firmly by their side in their fight against cancer.

Sridhar Babu defends HILT policy in Telangana Assembly

Hyderabad: The Telangana government on Tuesday defended the Hyderabad Industrial Land Transformation (HILT) policy, saying it is aimed at reducing pollution in the state capital and protecting it from environmental crisis by shifting polluting industries out of the city. Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu told the Assembly that the government headed by



Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has taken the historic initiative to ensure a clean and sustainable future for the coming generations.

Referring to the allegations by the opposition parties, he said some people were deliberately attacking the government and claiming a hidden agenda in this policy. "Many are seeing this as merely a simple land transfor-

mation. They are looking at this only from the perspective of revenue records, saying land use is changing, an industrial area is turning into a residential area, but through this Assembly, I want to clarify that it is not merely a change of land use. This is a healthy foundation that our government is laying for our children and future generations," he said.

TK Laxman Rao was a journalist who enhanced his writing skills and gave life to rural journalism

WARANGAL, January 6, TSIT : Warangal district Journalists paid tribute to the death of senior journalist TK Laxman Rao, who gave life to rural journalism by serving as official editor and assistant editor in the field of journalism. Apart from the unions, Desk journalists, Staff Reporters of various channels, news papers, photo journalists and rural reporters came to the condolence meeting under the leadership of journalist Laxman Rao's Well Wishers Circle in Greater Warangal on Tuesday.

Senior Journalists TUWJ Desk Journalists Forum State Convenor Shenkiesi



Shankar Rao, State Leaders of Desk Journalists' Forum Vardhelli Lingaiah, Former Press Club President Gaddam Kesavamurthy, TUWJ IJU District President Gaddam Rajireddy, Press Club Vice President Gokarapu Shyam, Senior Journalist Kancha Kumaraswamy (KK), Speaking at the con-

doncence meeting, TK Laxman Rao was praised for his professional dedication, especially for rural journalists and the way his passion for journalism encouraged them.

As a journalist who opened up the lives of rural people with humanitarian stories, Laxman Rao is a journalist who has given

sensational headlines to many stories reflecting the lives of people in Telugu states, he said. It was hailed as 'an employment exchange' which helped many people to get opportunities as rural journalists, staff reporters and sub-editors in various news papers.

He said that Lakshman Rao's death is a huge loss for rural journalism, and if we work towards fulfilling his ambition, we can fulfill the need. Laxman Rao, who worked in various capacities in news papers like Udayam Vartha, Andhra Bhoomi, Andhraprabha and Sakshi, said that he used to get along with everyone, regardless of

generation. He said that Laxman Rao, despite working in various positions, was very simple and lived modestly and set an example for all journalists. In this condolence meeting, senior journalists, Press Club Joint Secretaries Valishetti Sudhakar, Vishnuvardhan, Press Club Executive Member Nayene Pasha, Press Club Ex-Secretary Pawan Kumar, Desk Journalists Nagaraju, Vanam Srikanth, Raju, Kiran, Photo and video journalist leaders Gotte Venkanna, Tirumal, Pradeep, Journalists of various magazines, Vijaya Bhaskar, Razak, Narsaiah, Jannu Ravi, Raju Goud and others participated.

We are giving high priority to the construction of internal roads



Karimnagar, January 6, TSIT: Suda Chairman Komatireddy Narender Reddy said that the construction of internal roads in the city as well as in the suburban villages will be undertaken with high priority.

Along with Municipal Commissioner Praful Desai, he laid the foundation stones of many CC roads. On this occasion Suda Chairman Narender Reddy said that the internal roads

are bad and people are facing difficulties.

According to the request of the local leaders, Suda funds for the construction of CC roads along with drainages have been identified and

he said that the work will be accelerated by sanctioning municipal general funds.

30 lakhs for construction of CC road in Saraswatianagar division number one of

Arepalli and in the same division, with another 11 lakhs, the foundation stone was laid for the construction of CC road.

Similarly, Narender Reddy said that 10 lakhs have been laid for the construction of CC road in Kotirampur division number 40 for the construction of Ganesh Nagar link road.

Local leaders Cherla Padma, Ettepu Venu, Battini Chandraiah,

Literacy essential for Self Help Members, says Warangal Mayor



WARANGAL, January 6, TSIT: City Mayor Gundu Sudharani said literacy is essential for Self Help Members (SHG). Warangal District Department of Adult Education and Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation jointly as

part of ULLAS - (Understanding of life long learning for all in society) programme as part of the state government's ambitious "Ammaku Akshara Mala" programme. The Mayor addressed the training programme organized for MEPMA -

CRPs on implementation of literacy at the MEPMA conference building in Balida headquarters premises as the chief guest.

In the meeting organized on this occasion, the mayor said that there are 13 urban federations across the city. 3 CRPs will be selected from each federation and training will be provided through them to identify the illiterates in the respective SHGs and impart basic education. The Mayor unveiled the book prepared by the state government for this purpose. Mepma PD Jonah, Deputy Commissioner Sammaiah, District Adult Education Coordinator Ramesh Reddy, DMC Rajitha Rani, TMC Venkat Reddy, CO and others participated.

Saraswati Shishu Mandirs reflect Indian cultural traditions: Bandi Sanjay Kumar

KARIMNAGAR, January 6, TSIT: Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar said that Saraswati Shishu Mandir schools are symbols of Indian cultural traditions. He inaugurated the Khel Khoon cluster-level sports competitions at Karimnagar Saraswati Shishu Mandir by lighting the sports torch.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister praised the Gurus of Shishu Mandir as sculptors shaping a new India and said students are privileged to study in these institutions. He urged stu-



dents to serve the nation selflessly, emphasizing that true education involves concern for both self and society. The Minister also

announced plans to construct new buildings for Shishu Mandir schools within his parliamentary constituency.

Farmers Urged to Enhance Awareness on Crop Production Management.

MANCHERI, January 6 TSIT : District Cooperative Officer Satyanarayana has stressed the need for farmers to improve their awareness of effective crop production management to achieve higher yields.

Addressing a training programme held on Tuesday at the Integrated District Office Complex in Naspur, he said that adopting scientific farming practices and modern technologies was essential for enhancing agricultural productivity. The training programme, which focused on the activities of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), was attended by Principal of the Warangal Cooperative Training Centre, L. Yakub Naik, and lead trainer Bhusarupu Srinivas. The officials urged farmers to effectively utilise the



knowledge gained during the programme to strengthen their collective farming operations.

The sessions covered various modules, including the Learning Management System (LMS), electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), market linkages, digital literacy, and drone-based

agricultural business activities.

Mr. Satyanarayana called upon farmers to adopt modern technologies and digital tools to increase productivity and secure better access to markets.

Officials overseeing FPOs, along with their Chief Executive Officers, accountants, and members, participated in the programme.

NIWAS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

(Formerly, Niwas Housing Finance Private Limited)

Regd. Address: - Unit No. 305, 3rd Floor, Wing 2/E, Corporate Avenue, Andheri- Ghatkopar

Link Road, Chakala, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400093

Notice Under Section 13 (2) Of Securitization And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002

NHFL has sanctioned home loan/mortgage loan to the following borrowers against mortgage of residential premises. The repayment of the said loans are irregular and the accounts are finally classified as Non-Performing Asset in accordance with directions and guidelines of National Housing Bank/RBI. NHFL has therefore invoked its rights and issued a notice under section 13(2) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 and called upon the below listed borrowers to repay the total outstanding mentioned below within 60 days from the date of the demand notice. The following borrowers are hereby called upon by this publication to pay the total dues mentioned against them plus further charges & interest accrued till payment within 60 days from the date of the said demand notice, failing which NHFL shall resort to all or any of the legal rights to take possession of the secured assets, dispose it and adjust the proceeds against the outstanding amount.

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

| Sr. No | Location/ Loan Account Number | Name of Borrower/Co-Borrowers/ Guarantor | NPA Date | Date & Amount as per Demand Notice |
|--------|--|---|-------------|--|
| 1 | MEERPET LNMRPOL-02250053645, LNMRLPAP-0325005725 | ALL KNOWN LEGAL HEIRS NAMELY MD YUSUF AND UNKNOWN LEGAL HEIRS OF DECEASED MD AMEENA (BORROWER) MD YUSUF (CO-BORROWER) | 07-Oct-2025 | 24-Dec-2025 & Rs.22,55,200 As on 22-Dec-2025 |

Description Of The Property: "ALL THAT THE HOUSE BEARING NO. 2-26, (PTIN NO. 1200902009), ADMESURING 86 SQ.YDS OR 71.90 SQ.MTRS. PLINTH AREA: 462 SFT, (STILT FOR PARKING), 462 SFT, (FIRST FLOOR), 462 SFT, (SECOND FLOOR), TOTAL: 1386 SFT, WITH R.C.C. ROOF. SITUATED IN GRAMAKANTAM OF TURKAYAMALI VILLAGE, ABDULLAPURMET REVENUE MANDAL, (FORMERLY UNDER HAYATHNAGAR REVENUE MANDAL), RANGAREDDY DISTRICT, UNDER TURKAYAMAL MUNICIPALITY WITHIN THE REGISTRATION SUB DISTRICT VANATHALIPURAM AND- BOUNDARIES AS FOLLOWS-NORTH: HOUSE NO. 2-27 BELONGS TO MD. JANI, SOUTH: HOUSE BELONGS TO YELLAMA AND HOUSE BELONGS TO LATE M. SRISAILAM, EAST: ROAD, WEST:HOUSE BELONGS TO LATE M. SRISAILAM AND HOUSE BELONGS TO S.B. SRISAILAM".

| | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|--|-------------|---|
| 2 | KURNOL LNKNUROL-09240047871 | ALL KNOWN LEGAL HEIRS NAMELY RUBIKAMMA H AND UNKNOWN LEGAL HEIRS OF DECEASED SUDAKAR H (BORROWER), RUBIKAMMA H (CO-BORROWER) | 07-Sep-2025 | 24-Dec-2025 & Rs.9,91,392 As on 22-Dec-2025 |
|---|-----------------------------|--|-------------|---|

Description Of The Property: "ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE PROPERTY BEARING H.NO.49-64, SATERLA VILLAGE, ITIKYAL MANDAL, JOGULAMBA GADWAL-509125 ADMEASURING 144 SQUARE YARDS OR 684 SFT THE FOLLOWING BOUNDARIES ARE NORTH-HUT OF J. BHASKAR, SOUTH-C.C. ROAD, EAST-HOUSE OF BHASKAR- WEST-C.C. ROAD

| Date: 07-01-2026 | Place: Telangana | Sd/- Authorized Officer NIWAS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED |
|------------------|------------------|---|
|------------------|------------------|---|

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Home Finance Registered office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400051 Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai- 400059 Branch Office: Ground floor, Usha Kiran Complex, S.D. Road, Secunderabad- 500003

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (2) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

| Sr. No | Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Loan Account Number | Description of property/ Date of Possession | Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.) | Name of Branch |
|--------|--|---|--|-------------------------|
| 1. | Nayan Chandra Nayak (Borrower), Sunanda Nayak (Co-Borrower), LHSEC0001518062 | All That The Part and Parcel of House Bearing No. 6-2-573/A Old, 6-2-573/A/1 Vide Ptin No. 1180611020, Admesuring 39.6 Sq.yds or 33.10 Sq.mts Consisting of Ground, First and Second Floors Having Plinth Area of Ground Floor- 357 Sq.Fts, First Floor- 357 Sq.Fts, Second Floor- 357 Sq.Fts and Total 1071 Sq.Fts Situated At New Bhiguda Slum, Secunderabad Hyderabad Telangana 500003 Bounded By- East: Lane, West: 10.6' Lane, North: Neighbours House No. 6-2-552 To 580, South: Neighbours House No. 6-2-552 To 580/ Date of Possession-3-Jan-26 | 25-06-2025 Rs. 24,61,705.28/- | Hyderabad- Secunderabad |
| 2. | Nayan Chandra Nayak (Borrower), Sunanda Nayak (Co-Borrower), LHSEC0001518191 | All That The Part And Parcel of House Bearing No. 6-2-573/A Old, 6-2-573/A/1 Vide Ptin No. 1180611020, Admesuring 39.6 Sq.yds or 33.10 Sq.mts Consisting of Ground, First and Second Floors Having Plinth Area of Ground Floor- 357 Sq.Fts, First Floor- 357 Sq.Fts, Second Floor- 357 Sq.Fts and Total 1071 Sq.Fts Situated At New Bhiguda Slum, Secunderabad Hyderabad Telangana 500003 Bounded By- East: Lane, West: 10.6' Lane, North: Neighbours House No. 6-2-552 To 580, South: Neighbours House No. 6-2-552 To 580/ Date of Possession-3-Jan-26 | 25-06-2025 Rs. 96,673.72/- | Hyderabad- Secunderabad |

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

Date : January 07, 2026 Place: Secunderabad Authorized Officer, ICICI Home Finance Company Limited

EDITORIAL

Nature of religion: Service or selfishness?

For centuries, India has been considered a land of religion, faith, and spirituality. Here, religion has not been limited to worship or rituals, but has been a guiding force in every aspect of life. Faith has provided strength to individuals in difficult situations, keeping them connected to morality and humanity. However, with changing times, it is becoming clear that the very nature of faith is gradually becoming distorted. Religion, once a means of spiritual peace, is in many places becoming a tool of fear, superstition, and commerce. Today's reality is that a large part of religious traditions has deviated from their original purpose. Rituals that were meant to provide spiritual balance to humans have now become associated with financial transactions and ostentation. Pilgrimage sites, once centers of penance, sacrifice, and meditation, have often become mere commercial activities. The financial situation of the devotee is increasingly prioritized over his or her feelings. The foundation of faith is belief—in God, in life, and in oneself. This belief stems not from fear or greed, but from inner satisfaction. When faith becomes based on fear, it degenerates into hypocrisy. Unfortunately, many religious activities today are driven by this fear. People are led to believe that if they do not follow a particular tradition or donate a certain amount, disaster will occur. Thus, religion, which used to be reassuring, is becoming a source of fear. Traditions are the hallmark of any society. They evolve through experience and knowledge passed down from generation to generation. However, traditions are only useful as long as they are in keeping with the times, wisdom, and humanity. Accepting traditions as set in stone hinders social progress. Today, there is a need to reconsider traditions—to understand their purpose and their relevance in the present. Service has been an important aspect of religion. Service means selflessly helping others. However, when a price is attached to that service, its nature changes. Charity is only considered charitable when it is given voluntarily. When it is given out of pressure, fear, or social prestige, it loses its sanctity. Unfortunately, today, charity is being levied as a compulsory fee in many places. This situation affects ordinary and emotional people the most. In times of grief, sorrow, or crisis, a person is mentally vulnerable. Exploiting their faith during such times is not only immoral but also inhumane. The purpose of religion is to protect humanity from breakdown, not to burden it further. The greatest danger of hypocrisy is that it gradually breeds distrust of religion. When people are repeatedly deceived and their emotions exploited, they either turn away from religion or begin to view every tradition with suspicion. This situation is detrimental to society, as a healthy form of religion plays a vital role in maintaining social balance. In today's educated and aware society, it is expected that individuals should test everything through logic and reason. Faith and reason are not in conflict. True faith is that which is in harmony with reason. If a tradition goes against humanity, morality, and compassion, changing it should be considered a righteous step. The role of religious institutions and those involved in religion is also crucial. They must understand that their responsibility extends beyond simply performing rituals, but also guiding society in the right direction. If religious leadership itself is driven by greed and self-interest, it is futile to expect morality from the public. The need of the hour is to transform religion into a medium of service, not a business. Society's responsibility is no less. Hypocrisy will never end until people become self-aware. Asking questions isn't unrighteous. Understanding and reflecting on the purpose of every tradition is a sign of intellectual maturity. Blindly accepting everything is neither faith nor religion. The role of the media and educational institutions is also crucial in this context. A balanced, rational, and sensitive discussion of religious issues will increase social awareness.

ROAD ACCIDENT COMPENSATION AND THE CONSTITUTION: THE SEARCH FOR HUMAN DIGNITY BEYOND INCOME

- Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

Road accident compensation is not limited to a technical system; it is deeply intertwined with the fundamental philosophy of the Indian Constitution—equality, dignity, and a welfare state. Millions of road accidents occur in India every year, resulting in the loss of life or permanent disability of thousands of people. In such circumstances, compensation is not merely financial relief, but also an attempt by the state to recognize the value of life and restore dignity to the victim. The current compensation system under the Motor Vehicles Act is primarily income-based, which may seem logical at first glance, but upon closer examination, it raises serious questions about constitutional values.

The "multiplier method" adopted in the Motor Vehicles Act determines compensation based on the victim's income, age, and number of dependents. Its objective is to restore a family's pre-accident financial situation, as much as possible. However, the biggest problem with this method is that it ties a person's life to their marketability. The death or disability of a highly paid individual is met with compensation of lakhs or crores of rupees, while the amount for a daily wage laborer, rickshaw puller, or worker in

the unorganized sector is meager. Thus, the law inadvertently conveys that a homemaker's work has not only emotional but also economic value. Despite this, in practice, this contribution is still not adequately reflected in compensation calculations. Another constitutional dimension of the income-based compensation system relates to Article 21, which guarantees the "right to life and personal liberty." The Supreme Court has time and again clarified that life does not mean mere physical existence, but a life with dignity. When the value of a person's life, after death or disability, is reduced to mathematical formulas and income slabs, it appears to undermine their inherent dignity. Viewing life solely through the lens of economic loss ignores the profound suffering, mental trauma, and social insecurity that the victim's family faces.

In this context, it is also noteworthy that the concept of "just compensation" has been interpreted broadly by the Supreme Court itself. The Court has recognized that compensation should not only compensate for loss of income, but also for emotional damage, mental anguish, and uncertainty about the future. However, the current legal framework does not adequately address these intangible aspects. As a result, the compensa-

tion process often becomes a mechanical calculation, lacking human sensitivity. This disparity becomes even more pronounced when compared to other transport laws. The Railway Act and aviation laws provide for uniform, fixed compensation in case of an accident, regardless of the victim's income or social status. For example, a fixed amount is paid for death in railway accidents. This system recognizes that the right to safety and the value of life are equal for all citizens. The lack of such uniformity in the road transport sector raises the question of whether the 'right to safety' in India varies depending on the mode of transport.

In a welfare state, the state's role should not be limited to resolving disputes through courts, but should actively ensure that every citizen receives a minimum degree of protection in life and death. In this regard, reform of the road accident compensation system is the need of the hour. First, a high and mandatory minimum compensation amount should be established, based on the principle of no-fault liability. This will ensure that every affected family, regardless of income, receives a respectable basic level of support.

Additionally, the contributions of non-earning groups must be realistically assessed.

SURESH KALMADI: THE MAN BEHIND THE LEGENDARY 5-STAR DINNER THAT UNNERVED EVEN SONIA GANDHI

Suresh Kalmadi treated loyalty not just as a virtue, but as a business model. He died as he had lived: complicated, controversial, and utterly irreplaceable.

In over four decades of political journalism, few figures have generated as much fascination as Kalmadi. Here was a man who wore several hats: sports organiser, event manager, party animal, media baron, and politician - sometimes, in the same evening. We can't talk about Kalmadi without talking about Sharad Pawar. Their relationship is perfectly captured in a joke Pawar once told at a Pune rally, "What happened when Suresh Kalmadi tried to hang himself from the ceiling? The ceiling came down!" Even when they were feuding, there was an undeniable fondness between them - the kind reserved for family, who know too much about each other to ever truly part ways.

A Lot Happened Over Coffee

Their story began at the Pune Coffee House in 1974. Kalmadi, fresh from his stint as an Indian Air Force pilot, had bought a stake in the establishment and would man the cash counter. It was amidst the aroma of filter coffee and the chatter of Pune's emerging elite that he first encountered Pawar, then rising as Yashwantrao Chavan's heir apparent in western Maharashtra.

What followed was a master-



When Narasimha Rao Kept The Guest List

observed. But it was after Rajiv Gandhi's assassination in 1991 that Kalmadi truly came into his own. As the Congress scrambled to find a new leader among PV Narasimha Rao, Sharad Pawar, Arjun Singh, and Shankar Dayal Sharma, Kalmadi took it upon himself to "manage Delhi" for his Maratha强人.

Delhi witnessed the transformation of Maharashtra Sadan into Pawar's campaign headquarters, with Kalmadi orchestrating operations with military precision. He ordered food from the nearby Taj Mansingh, ensuring a steady supply of grilled chicken and paneer tikka even at odd hours. The proximity to Pandara Road market meant those preferring 'liquid embellishments' were thoroughly entertained whereas Intelligence Bureau officials trying to update their masters wrote rather exaggerated notes while braving the heat and their hunger.

tionships was both his greatest strength and his greatest weakness. His relationship with Pawar embodied this complexity perfectly. In 2001, when Sonia Gandhi decided to inaugurate Ganesh Utsav celebrations in Pune - a move orchestrated by Kalmadi and Govindrao Adik to snub Pawar on his home turf - it was political theatre. Yet, by 2009, Pawar was doing six-day campaigns for Kalmadi's Pune Lok Sabha bid, making emotional appeals to his supporters.

The CGW Saga

The Commonwealth Games saga revealed another facet of Kalmadi's character. As corruption allegations mounted, Pawar maintained a safe distance. But even in those dark days, there was something oddly admirable about Kalmadi's resilience and optimism. When sports minister Margaret Alva wondered why she got constant bad press while Kalmadi didn't, an official replied that it was due to "high spirits", capturing Kalmadi's approach to both life and politics.

The recent image of an ailing Kalmadi in a Pune hospital being visited by Pawar was both poignant and fitting. Two old warriors, who had travelled impossible distances together, fell apart, reconciled, and ultimately understood that some bonds transcend political convenience.

In an era where political relationships are increasingly transactional, Kalmadi represented a bygone world where personal chemistry mattered as much as ideology. He proved that in Indian politics, the man who controls the guest list often controls more than those whose names appear on it.

Suresh Kalmadi didn't just manage Delhi. He understood it. And in understanding it, he helped others navigate its labyrinthine ways. That, perhaps, is the most fitting epitaph for a man who made a career out of making things possible for others.

China's "Core Interests": What It Means, And Why Arunachal Is Now A Part Of It

The US Department of War's annual report to the Congress, which notes that China's conceptualisation of 'core interests' has expanded to now include Arunachal Pradesh, should be a matter of concern for India. The formulation of 'core interests' is said to have entered Chinese diplomatics around the 2000s. In 2003, the then Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan, had told his US counterpart that Taiwan was China's core interest and that it was important to handle this since it would have implications for the broader Sino-US relations. Later, reacting to a decision by the US to sell a radar system to Taiwan in 2004, the Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said that China would not tolerate actions of foreign powers that would damage its core interests. It also evoked the tenet of 'core interest' after French President Nicolas Sarkozy met the Dalai Lama in 2008, asserting that Tibet concerned Chinese sovereignty and territorial integrity. In the 2010s, Japanese media outlets interpreted China as expanding its ambit of 'core interests' to include the Diaoyu-Senkaku islands.

An Old Controversy

The Chinese began to up the ante on Arunachal in the mid-2000s. The then Chinese envoy to India asserted that the entire state belonged to China. A bureaucrat serving in Arunachal was denied a visa in 2006, and following this, the practice of granting travel approvals issued on a piece of paper stapled to the passport began. In 2009, China even opposed a loan by the Asian Development Bank for a water project in Arunachal, questioning India's sovereignty



over the state. The issue of Arunachal has also increasingly been in focus since China's military standoff against India began in 2020. In 2021, Beijing had raised objections to then-President Venkaiah Naidu's visit to the state. A year later, in December 2022, things came to a head after China tried to militarily change the status quo in the Yangtse area in Arunachal's Tawang sector. The Chinese have also started using the term 'Xizang' for Tibet, and consequently refer to Arunachal Pradesh as 'Zangnan', meaning south Tibet. Over the last couple of years, they have resorted to a series of renaming of places in Arunachal Pradesh, and giving them Chinese names. Official Chinese maps, too, show China as subsuming large parts of Arunachal.

Delegitimising Indian Nationality

In November last year, when an Arunachal woman living in the UK was harassed and detained at Shanghai airport during her transit, the officials

authorities took photographs of his family members. He then booked himself a plane ticket to Bangkok and was escorted by Chinese law enforcement officials on the flight. New Delhi has been firm with its position that Arunachal Pradesh is an inalienable part of India and that its residents are within their rights to travel on Indian passports. This assertion has been followed by the government seeking reassurances from the Chinese authorities that Indian nationals, regardless of their place of birth, will not be selectively targeted as they travel or transit through China. The government has also cautioned Indian nationals to exercise "discretion" whenever travelling through China, although a formal travel advisory has not been issued. The expansion of Chinese core interests to include Arunachal does not augur well for India, since tying it to sovereignty and territorial integrity will make the resolution of the LAC issue even more protracted and complicated.

Material suggests involvement of Khalid, Imam in planning, mobilisation: SC in Delhi riots conspiracy case

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday said prosecution material suggests that activists Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam were involved in "planning, mobilisation and strategic direction" of the 2020 Delhi riots, as it denied them bail in the conspiracy case.

The apex court cited Section 43D (5) of the UAPA, which requires the court to deny bail if, on perusal of a case diary or chargesheet, it finds that there are reasonable grounds for believing

that the accusation against such a person is *prima facie* true.

"This court is satisfied that the prosecution material taken at face value as required at this stage discloses a *prima facie* attribution of essential and formative role by the appearance in appeals... of Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam in the alleged conspiracy," a bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and NV Anjaria said.

The material suggests "involvement at the level of planning, mobilisation



and strategic direction, extending beyond episodic or localised acts", the bench said, adding "this statutory threshold under 43D (5) of UAPA therefore stands attracted qua these appellants".

According to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) provision, "Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code, no person accused of an offence punishable

under Chapters IV and VI of this Act shall, if in custody, be released on bail or on his own bond unless the Public Prosecutor has been given an opportunity of being heard on the application for such release.

"Provided that such accused person shall not be released on bail or on his own bond if the Court, on a perusal of the case diary or the report made under Section 173 of the Code, is of the opinion that there are reasonable grounds for believing that the accusation

against such person is *prima facie* true."

The top court said that when prosecution material *prima facie* discloses offence, statutory restriction must prevail, and if not, liberty must prevail.

The apex court, however, granted bail to activists Gulfisha Fatima, Meeraan Haider, Shifa Ur Rehman, Mohd. Saleem Khan and Shadab Ahmad, saying it does not reflect a dilution of the seriousness of allegations or findings of guilt against them.

Army suspends Colonel over irregularities, disciplinary action underway

New Delhi, Jan 6: The Indian Army last month suspended an infantry commanding officer attached to the Rajputana Rifles Regimental Centre in New Delhi over alleged irregularities, with disciplinary proceedings initiated against him under various provisions of the Army Act. Colonel Ashish Singh Mehta, who was serving as the commanding officer of the 16th Battalion of the Jat Regiment under the 16 Reorganised Army Plains Infantry Division (RAPIDS) at Sri Ganganagar in Rajasthan, is facing 12 charges. Of these, ten charges have been framed under Section 63 of the Army Act, which deals with acts prejudicial to good order and military discipline.

Launching a sharp attack on the Congress and the INDIA bloc over its opposition to the VB GRAM G law, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said those who "plundered" the country's resources for decades and pushed the poor into hunger were now questioning a transparent reform aimed at strengthening rural India.

Addressing what he described as an important press conference of the NDA government here, Adityanath said the briefing was convened to explain the newly enacted *Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G), 2025*, which has replaced the *Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)*. "The VB-G RAM G Act will prove to be a milestone for India's workers, farmers and rural development, and

the Uttar Pradesh government fully supports it and is committed to its effective implementation," he said. The event was attended by Deputy Chief Ministers Brajesh Pathak and Keshav Prasad Maurya, and ministers from NDA allies, including the Nishad Party, SBSP and Apna Dal (S). Slamming the Congress and "INDI alliance", Adityanath said, "those who plundered the country's resources for decades and pushed the poor and youth into hunger and migration are now questioning a transparent reform aimed at strengthening

rural India." "This law (VB GRAM G) has been brought to take forward Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of *Viksit Bharat*. It will guarantee employment, ensure livelihoods and create permanent infrastructure in rural areas," Adityanath said, calling the legislation a milestone for village-centric development.

The chief minister said the press conference was necessary as those opposing the law feared that support for such transparent reforms would expose their past failures. "If the public starts asking why these steps were not taken when they were in power, their reality will be laid bare," he said. Adityanath alleged that MGNREGA had failed to create durable assets and was plagued by fake job cards, bogus attendance, delayed wage payments, weak social audits and widespread corruption.

KLH Global Business School Students Achieve National Sporting Distinction

Hyderabad, 06 January 2026: KLH Global Business School has achieved a series of significant sporting milestones, reflecting its sustained commitment to competitive university sport and its emphasis on discipline, preparation, and performance, along with academic pursuits.

Among the notable accomplishments, Dhanush Srikanth, a first-year BBA student, has been nominated for the prestigious Arjuna Award for Air Rifle Shooting, in recognition of his consistent performances, commitment to training, and disciplined approach to sport. Adding to this achievement, M. Venkat Rami Reddy, another BBA student, secured the Gold Medal in the 800-metre event for running at the Khelo India University Games 2025, held in Rajasthan. Further strengthening the institution's sporting record, Mogli Venkata Ram Reddy earned a bronze medal in the 800-metre event at the 4th South Asian Senior Athletics Championships 2025, bringing international recogni-



tion to the university's student-athlete community.

This momentum continued in tennis, where KLH GBS students delivered a commendable performance at the South Zone Inter-University Tennis Tournament 2025, a competition that drew participation from leading universities across South India and was conducted through a demanding knockout format. This team comprised KLH GBS students, along with students from the KL Vijayawada and

KLH Azinagar campuses.

In the women's category, Muruga Sera Anjum, a third-year BBA student from KLH GBS, played a decisive role, while the men's competition witnessed impactful performances from Nashik Reddy, a third-year BBA student, and Dheeraj Reddy, a second-year BBA student. Their collective efforts resulted in one Winner position and two Runners-Up finishes. In recognition of these performances, all three students have been selected for

the All-India Inter-University Team and the Khelo India University Games 2026, marking their progression to the national competitive stage.

Commenting on the achievement, Er. Koneru Lakshman Havis, Vice President, KL Deemed to be University, stated, "Inter-university competition demands sustained preparation, discipline, and mental resilience. The achievements recorded by our students—ranging from national nominations to podium finishes and team selections—reflect their commitment to excellence and their ability to balance academic responsibility with competitive sport."

KLH Global Business School views these outcomes as a reflection of sustained sporting engagement and structured preparation. Beyond medals and selections, the achievements signify the fulfilment derived from disciplined effort and competitive integrity, as students progress to higher levels of representation while upholding the values associated with university sport.

GITAM School of Architecture Open House Inspires DAV Public School Students



Hyderabad: GITAM School of Architecture (GSA), Hyderabad, organised an engaging Open House Programme for students of DAV Public School, IIT Hyderabad Campus, offering an insightful introduction to the field of architecture and design. As part of the school's academic exposure initiative, 58 students from Classes 10, 11 and 12, accompanied by three faculty members, participated in the visit.

The programme featured interactive sessions, exhibition walkthroughs and curated displays of student projects, giving participants a firsthand glimpse into the academic environment and creative culture at GSA. Faculty members and student ambassadors introduced students to key aspects of architectural educa-

tion, including studio-based learning, design thinking and interdisciplinary approaches.

A major highlight of the visit was a Mandala Workshop conducted by Assistant Professor Ar. Shruti Gawli. Conducted in a collaborative studio setting with rhythmic music, the workshop encouraged students to explore pattern-making.

"composition and visual expression, while also promoting mindfulness and creative engagement," said Sir Ganga Ram Hospital Chairman Dr Ajay Swaroop. The hospital added that her health parameters are being closely monitored and a decision on her discharge will be taken based on her clinical progress, likely within the next day or two.

Sonia Gandhi stable after hospitalisation for mild asthma exacerbation

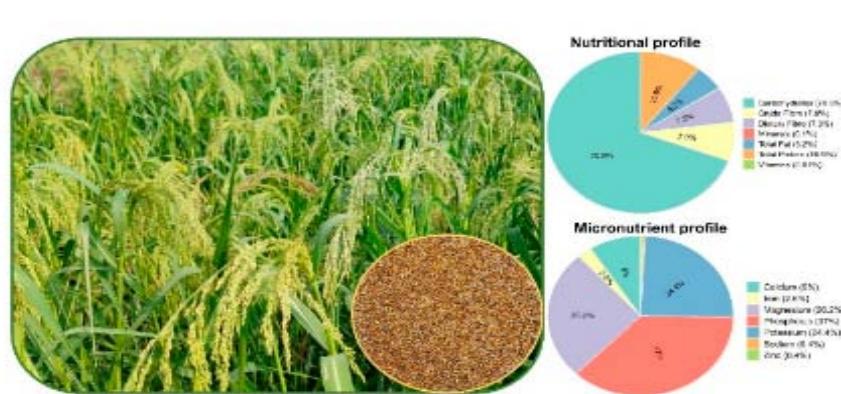


New Delhi, Jan 6: Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi is "absolutely stable" and responding well to treatment after being admitted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital on Monday night, the hospital confirmed on Tuesday. According to a medical update, Sonia Gandhi was admitted around 10 p.m. following respiratory discomfort. Doctors noted a mild exacerbation of her bronchial asthma, attributed to cold weather and high air pollution in the national capital.

"Her condition is absolutely stable. She is responding well to treatment and is being managed with antibiotics and other supportive medications," said Sir Ganga Ram Hospital Chairman Dr Ajay Swaroop. The hospital added that her health parameters are being closely monitored and a decision on her discharge will be taken based on her clinical progress, likely within the next day or two. The update comes as reassurance to Congress leaders and supporters following reports of her hospitalisation. Sonia Gandhi, who turned 79 last December, recently attended the 140th Foundation Day of the Congress party on December 28 and the Congress Working Committee meeting on December 27. During these events, she actively participated in party activities, including the flag-hoisting ceremony at Indira Bhawan and discussions on key legislative issues. In December, she had issued a statement criticizing the government's proposed changes to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and other laws.

ICAR Scientists Decode World's First Chromosome-Scale Genome of Little Millet

Hyderabad: In a major breakthrough for millet research, scientists at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have successfully decoded the world's first chromosome-scale genome of little millet, significantly strengthening India's scientific leadership in millet research. The achievement was accomplished by the Global Centre of Excellence on Millets (Shree Anna) at the ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), Hyderabad, in collaboration with the University of Saskatchewan, the National Research Council of



Canada, and the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru. Little millet, a climate-resilient

crop traditionally grown in dry and marginal regions, is known for its low water requirement, drought tolerance, pest resistance, and high nutritional value, especially iron and dietary fibre. Until now, limited genetic information had constrained efforts to improve the crop. The newly developed genome map reveals 18 chromosomes and more than 59,000 genes governing climate resilience, nutrition, yield, and grain quality. Researchers also analysed 300 little millet varieties from across India, identifying nearly 2.5 lakh SNP genetic

markers that explain variations in yield and nutrient content. The findings have been published in the international journal *Nature Communications*. This milestone paves the way for precision breeding, genomic selection, and gene editing, enabling the development of improved varieties for farmers and the health-food sector. As climate challenges and nutritional deficiencies persist, the breakthrough provides strong scientific support to India's millet mission, reinforcing the role of little millet in sustainable food and nutrition security.

Ride on AI, rise to greater heights, CM Stalin tells youth

CHENNAI: Urging students and youth to embrace Artificial Intelligence (AI) positively, Chief Minister MK Stalin on Monday said the rapidly growing technology would help them reach greater heights in life.

Launching the laptop distribution scheme for students under the title 'Ulagam Ungal Kaiyil' at a function here, he said Tamil Nadu's growth is closely linked to the confidence and capabilities of its youth. "The laptop scheme is neither an expenditure nor a free gift. It is a tool placed in your hands to rule the world through knowledge. We have created every opportunity for students to excel in their studies," the Chief Minister said.

Backing the use of AI, he clarified that technology cannot replace the human brain but can



enhance efficiency and workflow. Those who fear AI and restrain themselves from making use of its advantages were treading a path of foolishness, he said. "With the support of AI, we are reaching new heights," he added.

Addressing students, particularly college-goers, the Chief

Minister said the Dravidian model government has always accorded priority to science and technology. Recalling earlier initiatives, he said late Chief Minister M Karunanidhi had implemented the TIDEL Park project and introduced a separate Information Technology policy 25

years ago, laying the foundation for Tamil Nadu's growth in the technology sector.

In a veiled reference to future electoral success, Stalin said the government would continue to uphold its values and work hard to secure a dignified future for the State.

Advising beneficiaries of the laptop scheme, the Chief Minister urged students not to use the devices merely for entertainment. "Do not restrict it to games or movies. Use it as a launchpad for your future. Victory is waiting for you," he said. Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin, Ministers Thangam Thennarasu, Govi Chezhiaan, and Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, former ISRO chairman Mayilsamy Annadurai, and Chief Secretary N Muruganandam were present at the event.

Madras High Court's Deepathoon ruling a rebuke to DMK government: BJP's Nainar Nagenthran



CHENNAI: BJP state president Nainar Nagenthran on Tuesday mounted a sharp attack on the ruling DMK government, hailing the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court for permitting the lighting of the deepam at the Deepathoon in Tirupparankundram hill and accusing the State of repeatedly acting against Hindu religious practices.

In a statement, Nainar

Nagenthran said the High Court, by dismissing the DMK government's appeal seeking to block lighting of lamp, had once again stood firmly on the side of justice and constitutional values. He said the verdict had brought immense relief to devotees and reaffirmed that the deepathoon rightfully belongs to the Tirupparankundram Subramania Swamy Temple. "The court has delivered a clear

rebuke to the State government for misusing the bogey of law and order to suit its political convenience," he said, adding that projecting routine religious practices as potential flashpoints was both misleading and unacceptable. The BJP leader said the ruling had categorically rejected the DMK's claims and exposed what he termed its manufactured narrative around public order.

Nagenthran alleged that despite facing repeated judicial setbacks, the DMK government continued to pursue what he described as a persistent anti-Hindu agenda, ignoring court directions and reviving the same arguments through appeals. "Even after being pulled up multiple times by the judiciary, the government shows no inclination to correct itself," he said.

Striking a strong political note, the BJP state president asserted that the DMK's arrogance of power and continued hostility towards Hindu beliefs would ultimately lead to its political downfall. "A government that repeatedly disrespects faith and constitutional propriety will be decisively shown the door by the people," he said. The verdict, he added, was not merely a legal win but a reaffirmation of religious rights and judicial balance in the State.

Woman faints at Pongal event; senior BJP leader Tamilisai assists in Tiruchy



CHENNAI: A woman participating in the Namma Ooru Modi Pongal Vizha fainted due to dehydration at the venue here on Monday and was administered first aid by medical personnel, with BJP leader Tamilisai Soundararajan also rushing to assist. The woman, identified as Nagajothi (30) of Vayalur in Tiruchy, collapsed while preparing Pongal in the morning. She was immediately shifted to the on-site first-aid centre, where she was treated and later advised to rest, organisers said. According to sources, participants had been asked to reach the venue by 8 am and Pongal preparation began around 9 am, following the distribution of utensils and ingredients. But BJP leader Amit Shah arrived at the venue around 12 noon.

The tragic incident occurred during a roadshow on 27 September 2025, organised as part of Vijay's political outreach in Karur district. A massive crowd

CBI summons TVK president and actor Vijay in Karur stampede case



had gathered for the event, which was seen as a significant public mobilisation for the newly floated TVK ahead of the upcoming elections. Chaos ensued, leading to a fatal stampede that also left dozens injured, drawing national outrage and immediate political repercussions.

The CBI, which took over the probe from Tamil Nadu Police, is investigating potential lapses in crowd management, safety protocol violations, and roles of the event organis-

ers. The summon to Vijay, as the leader of the party that organised the rally, marks a critical escalation in the investigation. It seeks his direct examination to ascertain the planning, permissions, and on-ground execution of the fateful event. While party sources have confirmed receiving the summons, they have remained conspicuously non-committal on whether the high-profile leader will personally appear before the central agency in Delhi.

TN signs MoU with UN Women to create technical support for gender equality

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation Employees' Federation (AITUC) general secretary R Arumugam on Sunday urged the State government to extend the Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme (TAPS), announced for government employees, to workers of State transport corporations as well.

In a statement, Arumugam said transport workers had a long history of struggle to secure pension benefits. He recalled that when transport undertakings functioned as a

government department, workers who completed 10 years of service were covered under the Madras Liberalised Pension scheme. However, after the formation of transport corporations, the pension scheme was withdrawn and replaced with a contributory provident fund system. He said workers deputed from government departments to transport corporations were also denied pension, forcing AITUC to wage an 18-year-long struggle on the streets, in courts and in the Assembly.

Scientists Sequence Arabica Genome, Opening Doors to Climate-Resilient Coffee



from an agronomic point of view but has a lot to offer from a genetic point of view. "The advantage of our reference genome is that it's derived from a 'dihaploid' individual. This results in a homogeneous reference genome that will be a superior standard for future research," explains Patrick Descombes, coordinator of the work and senior expert in genomics at the Nestlé Institute of Food Safety & Analytical Sciences. He explains that Arabica coffee is a tetraploid; it has two genomes in one because it is the fusion of two other species.

By sequencing a dihaploid derived from Arabica coffee compared to a common tetraploid variety, scientists get a clearer and more simplified view of the genome. This makes it possible to identify variations between similar genes with greater precision, facilitating the use of molecular information for improvement studies.

In this study, the group was able to determine more precisely when this fusion took place: no more than 600,000 years ago. C. canephora and C. eugenioidea fused to form this tetraploid hybrid, which continued its evolutionary path. "We came to this conclusion using DNA information from Arabica, Robusta and Eugenioidea: we were able to make a more accurate inference because previously this interval was dated at between 50,000 and 1 million years. We reduced that window to 350,000 to 600,000 years," reports Domingues.

Unique Approach to Sequencing

The group which Domingues belongs

to has sequenced a plant that is not interesting, including Brazil, which participated with more than one institution. In Domingues' case, his participation was partially funded by FAPESP through a Young Researcher project and a postdoctoral fellowship awarded to Suzana Tiemi Iwamoto-Suzuki, also an author of the article. "We used the reference sequence to understand the diversity that exists in wild Arabica coffees, from the African region of origin, and compare this with the Arabica coffees that are cultivated today," says the ESALQ-USP scientist, explaining that the group resequenced Arabica coffee varieties planted in different parts of the world, as well as wild specimens collected in the forests of Ethiopia, and managed to understand the difference between the wild and cultivated ones.

Tracing Arabica's Evolutionary History To gain a genomic perspective on the evolutionary history of Arabica, the consortium sequenced 46 accessions, including three Robusta, two Eugenioidea and 41 Arabica. The latter included an 18th-century type specimen (the physical specimen designated by the author of the taxon at the time of the description as the material on which it was based), 12 cultivars with different breeding histories, the Timor hybrid (a spontaneous cross of Arabica with the pest-resistant C. canephora Robusta variety) and five of its backcrosses with Arabica and 17 wild accessions plus three wild/cultivated ones collected from the east and west sides of the Great Rift Valley in Ethiopia. "We used the latest genomic technologies, i.e. long reads from the high-fidelity PacBio system [for

gene sequencing] and proximity ligation with short reads from Illumina [an integrated system for analyzing genetic variation and biological function], to generate the chromosome assembly.

This combination resulted in a chromosome-level assembly of the highest quality and integrity," says Descombes. According to the ESALQ-USP professor, among the cultivated species, something very important for breeding was the introduction of genes for resistance to coffee leaf rust. "In the 1930s, Brazil played an important role in this regard. And the IAC [Agronomic Institute of Campinas, also in the state of São Paulo] is a pioneering center for studies and breeding. IAC researchers provided us with plants that predate the institution's breeding program, which dates back to the 1930s. Disease-oriented breeding emerged between the 1960s and 1970s, and the main work was to cross a rust-resistant Arabica plant, the so-called Timor hybrid, with plants grown in various countries so that the new varieties would be resistant. But it wasn't known which genes were responsible for the resistance."

Discovered in the fields of Timor Island in the 1920s, the Timor hybrid is naturally resistant to rust and other diseases. "In addition to rust, coffee berry disease, coffee berry borer and coffee stem borer are three other major pests affecting production in many regions of the world. Climate change is also a key concern in the control of pests and diseases, as it allows them to spread to new regions. The trade of green coffee beans between different regions is another factor that can facilitate the spread of certain pests and diseases to new areas," reveals Maud Lepelley, manager of the Plant Genetics and Chemistry group at the Nestlé Institute of Agricultural Sciences. In the paper now published, the group has managed to find sets of genes already linked in the literature to disease resistance that are only present in post-improvement varieties. "Somehow the Timor hybrid managed to get these resistance genes, and now we know which ones. There are dozens of them, but we've narrowed the search. Arabica coffee has 69,000 genes; we've narrowed it down to just under 30 genes. Being able to identify these candidate resistance genes.

A Lunar Orbit That's Just Right for Humanity's First Space Station Around the Moon



every two weeks. However, what Gateway would gain in a stable orbit, it would lose in easy access to the Moon: the distant orbit would make it harder to get to the lunar surface. A third option, NRHO, is just right for Gateway, marrying the upsides of low lunar orbit (surface access) with the benefits of distant retrograde orbit (fuel efficiency). Hanging almost like a necklace from the Moon, NRHO is a one-week orbit that is balanced between the Earth's and Moon's gravity. This orbit will periodically bring Gateway close enough to the lunar surface to provide simple access to the Moon's South Pole where astronauts will test capabilities for living on other planetary bodies, including Mars. NRHO can also provide astronauts and their spacecraft with access to other landing sites around the Moon in addition to the South Pole. The benefits of NRHO don't end with surface access and fuel efficiency. NRHO will allow scientists to take advantage of the deep space environment for a new era of radiation experiments that will inspire a greater understanding of potential impacts of space weather on people and instruments. NRHO will also give Gateway a continuous line of sight, or "view," of Earth, translating to uninterrupted communication between Earth and the Moon.

Instamart and Young India Skills University (YISU) Team Up to Create over 5,000 Opportunities in Quick Commerce for Telangana Youth

Hyderabad, January 06, 2026: With quick commerce reshaping the Indian retail landscape and how consumers shop for everyday essentials, the demand for skilled talent in supply chain, logistics and retail operations has surged. Today, Instamart and Young India Skills University (YISU), established under the Young India Skills University Telangana Act 2024 by the Government of Telangana to boost industry-aligned skill development, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to launch a skill-based academic programme for youth to build careers in the growing quick commerce industry. The multi-year collaboration is expected to train over 5,000 youth in Telangana, preparing them for meaningful career opportunities in the sector. The MoU was signed in the presence of Mr. V.L.V.S.S. Subba Rao, Vice Chancellor of Young India Skills University (YISU), Telangana, and Girish Menon, Chief Human Resources Officer at Swiggy Ltd. As part of this collaboration, Scooty, a wholly owned subsidiary of Swiggy and its logistics arm, and YISU will introduce a three-month learning programme designed to build job-relevant operational and managerial skills for the quick commerce sector, with a strong focus on dark store operations. The programme responds to the growing need for standardised operational and managerial capabilities in high-velocity



retail environments, covering areas such as quick commerce operating models, dark store and supply chain execution, customer promise and SLA-driven service delivery, and emerging trends in retail logistics. Delivered through a combination of classroom instruction and structured field exposure, this collaborative programme between YISU and Instamart will equip participants with a practical, systems-level understanding of store execution, last-mile coordination, and the performance metrics required to operate quick com-

merce at scale. Successful completion of the course and internship will fast-track students into roles as Store Manager Trainees, preparing them for leadership responsibilities in quick commerce fulfilment and operations. Instamart, India's pioneering quick commerce platform, serves consumers across the country from its growing network of over 1000 dark stores and megapods across India. Through the platform, merchants offer tens of thousands of products, ranging from everyday essentials to electronics and home living items, supported by a strong

supply chain and technology-driven operations. Speaking about partnership, Mr. V.L.V.S.S. Subba Rao, Vice Chancellor of Young India Skills University (YISU), Telangana, said, "We are proud to partner with Instamart, one of India's leading quick commerce platforms, to address the evolving needs of the sector and equip young talent with job-relevant skills. This programme is a testament to YISU's commitment to industry-aligned skilling and to Instamart's leadership in shaping the future of quick commerce through meaningful workforce development in Telangana state." Sharing his thoughts on the collaboration, Girish Menon, Chief Human Resources Officer at Swiggy Ltd, said, "India's demographic advantage is both an opportunity and a responsibility for the industry to invest in building job-ready capabilities at scale. As quick commerce evolves from a convenience-led model into a core part of India's retail and supply chain ecosystem, the demand for skilled operations and management talent is growing rapidly. Our collaboration with Young India Skills University focuses on creating practical industry-aligned learning pathways that prepare graduates for real-world roles in supply chain and quick commerce operations. This is a long-term investment in India's skilling ecosystem, not a short-term hiring initiative."

Car giant Hyundai to use human-like robots in factories



Hyundai Motor Group says it will roll out human-like robots in its factories from 2028, as major companies race to use the new technology. The South Korean firm showed off Atlas, a humanoid robot developed by Boston Dynamics, at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas on Monday. Hyundai says it "plans to integrate Atlas across its global network", including a plant in the US state of Georgia that was involved in a massive immigration raid in 2025. Other firms that have said they will use humanoid robots in their operations include Amazon, Tesla and Chinese car making giant BYD. The Atlas robots will gradually take on more tasks, said Hyundai. The firm owns a majority stake in Boston Dynamics, the technology company famous for Spot the robot dog. Atlas, which is designed for general industrial use, is being developed to work alongside people and autonomously manage

machines. among other roles, the news agency Reuters reported. Monday's announcement came after Hyundai said in 2025 that it would invest more than \$20bn (£15.5bn) in the US, supporting President Donald Trump's plans to boost manufacturing in the country. The firm said it would expand car production in the US and invest in autonomous driving technology and artificial intelligence (AI). Elon Musk's electric carmaker Tesla has also invested heavily

in its humanoid robot, Optimus. Hyundai's battery plant in Georgia, which it operates in partnership with electronics giant LG, is one of its key facilities in the US. In September 2025, US immigration officers raided the plant and arrested hundreds of workers, including at least 300 South Korean citizens. The workers had their legs shackled in scenes that sparked outrage in South Korea. President Lee Jae Myung and Hyundai's chief executive José Muñoz warned that the raid could deter foreign investment in the US. Later that month, Washington and Seoul reached an agreement to release the detained workers. Trump said he opposed the raid and that the US had an "understanding" with the world on the need to bring in experts to set up specialised facilities and train local workers. Muñoz said in November that the White House had phoned him personally to apologise for the raid.

Government demands Musk's X deals with 'appalling' Grok AI deepfakes



Technology Secretary Liz Kendall has called on Elon Musk's X to urgently deal with its artificial intelligence chatbot Grok being used to create non-consensual sexualised deepfake images of women and girls. The BBC has seen several examples on X of people asking the bot to digitally undress people to make them appear in bikinis

without their consent, as well as putting them in sexual situations. Kendall said the situation was "absolutely appalling", adding "we cannot and will not allow the proliferation of these degrading images." "It is absolutely right that Ofcom is looking into this as a matter of urgency and it has my full backing to take any enforcement action if

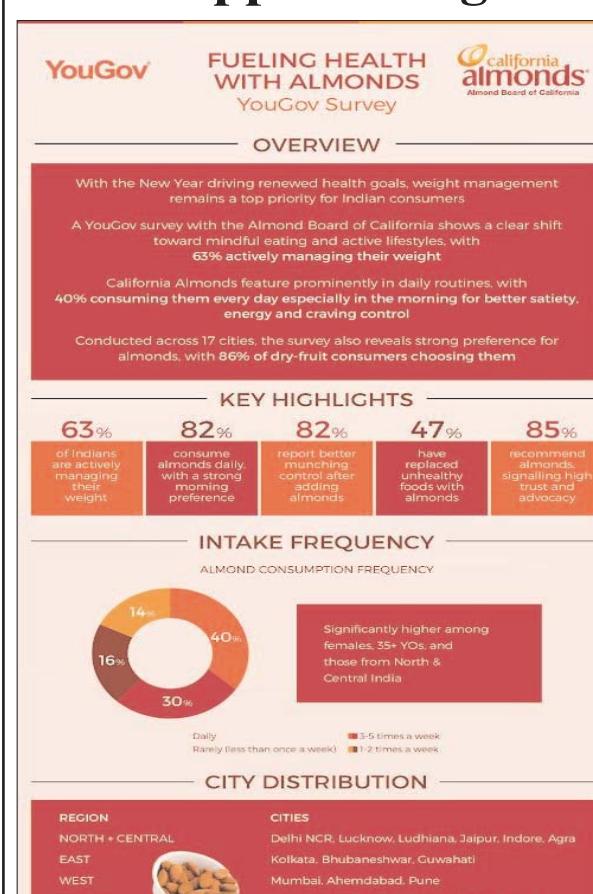
Nvidia unveils self-driving car tech as it seeks to power more products with AI



Nvidia has unveiled a new tech platform for self-driving cars as the world's leading chip-maker seeks more physical products to embed AI into. Speaking at the annual CES technology conference in Las Vegas, boss Jensen Huang said the system - called Alpamayo - would bring "reasoning" to autonomous vehicles. That would allow cars to "think through rare scenarios, drive safely in complex environments, and explain their driving decisions," Huang claimed. He said Nvidia was working with Mercedes to produce a driverless car powered by the tech, which would be released in the US in the coming months before being rolled out in Europe and Asia. Nvidia's chips have helped power the AI revolution, though so far attention has mostly been focussed on the software it powers, such as ChatGPT. However, leading tech firms are now increasingly looking for hardware - meaning physical products such as cars - that AI could be used in. Physical AI's 'ChatGPT

moment' Wearing his trademark black leather jacket, Huang told an audience of hundreds that the project has taught Nvidia "an enormous amount" about how to help partners build robotic systems. "The ChatGPT moment for physical AI is almost here," Huang said. "NVIDIA's pivot toward AI at scale and AI systems as differentiators will help keep it way ahead of rivals," said Paolo Pescatore, analyst at PP Foresight, from Las Vegas. "Alpamayo represents a profound shift for NVIDIA, moving from being primarily a compute to a platform provider for physical AI ecosystems." Shares of the AI chip designer rose slightly in after-hours trading following Huang's presentation. It featured a video demonstration of the AI-powered Mercedes-Benz driving through San Francisco while a passenger, sat behind the steering wheel, kept their hands in their lap. "It drives so naturally because it learned directly from human demonstrators," Huang said, "but in every single scenario... it tells you what it's going to do, and it reasons about what it's

New Year, New Habits: 7 in 10 Indians Say California Almonds Support Weight Management, Finds YouGov Survey



January, 2026: With the New Year underway and health goals taking centre stage, weight management often tops resolution lists. As people reset their routines and look for sustainable ways to feel fitter and more energised, mindful eating and balanced nutrition take on renewed importance. Reflecting this shift, a new YouGov survey conducted in association with the Almond Board of California reveals that Indian consumers are increasingly embracing healthier choices, from exercising regularly to choosing nutrient-dense foods that support everyday wellness. Among these, California Almonds continue to feature prominently in morning routines and breakfast habits, with many associating them with improved satiety, better control over cravings, and sustained energy through the day. The survey, conducted across 16 cities in India, also highlights a broader shift toward holistic, health-focused living. A vast majority (92%) show strong interest in health and nutrition, with 51% reporting adoption of an active lifestyle with daily exercise. Additionally, 63% of respondents say they are trying to manage their weight - often through consistent practices like daily workouts, drinking more water, and reducing sugar consumption. This emphasis on mindful eating is reflected in almond consumption habits across India. Nearly 40% of respondents say they consume almonds daily, with about 30% eating them first thing in the morning and 22% including them with breakfast. Purchase frequency also remains strong as 43% purchase almonds monthly, while another 44% do so weekly or bi-weekly. Preferences vary, with 30% opting for soaked or soaked-and-peeled almonds and 25% consuming them raw. Among dry-fruit consumers, a remarkable 86% choose almonds, reinforcing their widespread popularity. The motivations behind almond consumption reflect a strong awareness of their nutritional benefits. More than half of

Selfies and smiles: South Korea seeks 'new phase' in ties with China



South Korea's President Lee Jae Myung has called for a "new phase" in ties with China as he met its leader Xi Jinping in Beijing on Monday. Regional security and lifting Beijing's unofficial ban on Korean pop culture is high on Lee's agenda, as he continues his four-day trip in China. He is set to meet China's Premier Li Qiang and the chairman of parliament, Zhao Leji on Tuesday. It marks the first visit by a South Korean leader since 2019. Bilateral ties had soured under Lee's predecessor, impeached ex-president Yoon Suk Yeol, who was very critical of China. Xi, meanwhile, has appeared keen to shore up ties with South Korea amid a diplomatic row between China and Japan. South Korea is a US security ally - like Japan - but also relies on China for trade.

Security forces patrol Venezuelan streets as opposition calls for release of political prisoners

We've been speaking to people about what it's like in Venezuela since the US operation. Earlier we reported on the experiences of Wilmer* in Caracas and Angela* in Guayana City. Pedro*, in the north-western coastal city of Maracaibo, has been able to go outside and buy bread, but says already there is a price increase of about 30%. "It wasn't normal shopping," he told the BBC. "Initially people were happy, but now people are scared of what might happen, and nobody is talking about what happened." Agreeing with what Pedro said, Wilmer and Angela both said that, because of guards' presence in many places, people are not discussing what's going on. "We smile, you know; that's all we can do," says Wilmer. And Angela says that "people in the supermarket that I went to were quiet because everyone is scared to talk about what happened, and guards are



outside." *Names have been changed due to fears of a backlash from authorities. Donald Trump might keep insisting that the US is "in charge" of Venezuela, but in reality, the Venezuelan government is still very much in power. Delcy Rodriguez is the acting president, many of Nicolas Maduro's ministers are still in post, and the pow-

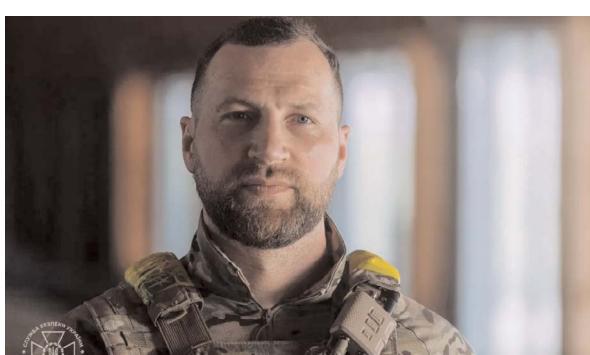
erful military is, so far, staying loyal to her. Trump has issued serious threats to Rodriguez - that if she doesn't do "the right thing" (i.e. what the US wants) she could face the same fate as Maduro, or worse. Many expected Trump to back the opposition to take charge, but in some ways the current set-up is more convenient for him.

The Venezuelan government will now undoubtedly be nervous about what could happen to them if they don't at least somewhat comply. Trump isn't in charge, but he does have a lot of influence. Tensions remain high in the capital, Caracas, where gunshots were reported overnight near the presiden-

tial palace. Yesterday Delcy Rodriguez was sworn in as Venezuela's interim president, but the security situation still remains unclear after the US seized President Nicolas Maduro and said it would run the country. Several videos posted on social media overnight show armed men on the streets as apparent gunshots are heard ringing out. We've verified one video filmed near Miraflores Palace in which you can hear gunshots, but it's not immediately clear what they were in response to. We've located another video to a plaza about 650m from the palace, in which you can hear someone ask in Spanish, "What happened?" A man who appears to be a security official replies: "Drones, drones". This suggests that the gunshots may have been in response to a drone sighting, although we can't independently confirm this was the case. The US

military intervention in Venezuela has resurfaced the issue of Greenland's future. Trump has repeatedly said the US "needs" the whole island for national security reasons (the US already has a military base there), while Greenland's leaders have repeated that it is not for sale. Earlier today BBC's Europe Editor Katya Adler described how European leaders are facing an increasingly "awkward" and "intense" atmosphere as they try to "manage rather than confront" Trump. After top Trump aid, Stephen Miller told CNN that "nobody's going to fight the US over the future of Greenland", European leaders issued a strongly-worded joint statement saying only Greenland and Denmark can decide its future. "Greenland belongs to its people. It is for Denmark and Greenland, and them only, to decide on matters concerning Denmark and Greenland.

Zelensky replaces Ukraine's powerful security service chief



President Volodymyr Zelensky has reshuffled the leadership of Ukraine's Security Service (SBU), replacing influential Vasyl Malyuk and nominating Maj-Gen Yevheni Khmara as acting head. The SBU is primarily concerned with internal security and counter-intelligence and, since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022, it has also played a prominent role in assassinations and sabotage attacks deep inside Russia. Malyuk, who had run the SBU since 2022, gained a reputation for overseeing successful operations against Russia and for purging the SBU from alleged Russian double agents. The latest reshuffles are the latest in a long series made by Zelensky since the start of the war. Malyuk's name is known across Ukraine. After all, last June he co-ordinated the daring "Spider Web" attack, which saw more than 100

Ukrainian drones struck air bases deep inside Russian territory. Khmara, his replacement, was also involved in the preparation of that operation. So it did not come as a surprise that Malyuk's dismissal earlier this week was widely criticised within Ukraine, including by several high-profile military commanders. The impression that the decision made by President Zelensky was shortsighted was cemented by reports that Malyuk had initially refused to step down voluntarily. Although he has been dismissed from the position of SBU chief, he has been asked to continue leading special operations against Russia. Ukraine needed more "asymmetric operations against Russian forces", Zelensky said, adding that Malyuk was "best at this". Khmara's appointment has gone some way in quelling fears about the SBU's future effectiveness.

Self-proclaimed hypnoterapist on trial in France for drugging and raping women



A man is on trial in southern France accused of drugging and sexually abusing women, as well as filming some of the assaults. Dance teacher and self-taught hypnoterapist Cyril Zattara is charged with raping 14 women over a decade, as well as allegedly secretly filming around 20 other women. Zattara, who has been held in detention awaiting trial since 2021, has admitted 10 rape charges.

The trial is being held behind closed doors in the city of Aix-en-Provence at the request of one of the alleged victims, and is due to last at least two weeks. Others had sought open proceedings, saying they wanted their voices to be heard by as many people as possible. Zattara would allegedly slip sleeping pills into women's drinks before sexually assaulting them, a police investigation found.

NESTLE ISSUES GLOBAL RECALL OF SOME BABY FORMULA PRODUCTS OVER TOXIN FEARS

Nestle has issued a global recall of some baby formula products over concerns they contain a toxin which can cause food poisoning. The food and drink giant said specific batches of its SMA infant formula and follow-on formula were not safe to be fed to babies. The batches were sold across the world, Nestle said, and they potentially contain cereulide, which can trigger nausea and vomiting when consumed. The company said there had been no confirmed reports of illness associated with the products, but was recalling them "out of an abundance of caution". "The safety and wellbeing of babies is our absolute priori-

ty," Nestle said. "We sincerely apologise for any concern or inconvenience caused to parents, caregivers, and customers." The company confirmed to the BBC that the recall was global. Affected products were sold in several European countries, including France, Germany, Austria, Denmark, Italy and Sweden. It stressed that all other Nestle products and batches of the same products that have not been recalled are safe to consume. Nestle promised refunds for customers and said the problem was caused by an ingredient provided by one of its suppli-



and presenting the largest challenge to the state since the Women, Life and Freedom protests in 2022. Footage has also shown protests in Qom in central Iran and Mashhad in the north-east, both of which have traditionally hosted populations extremely loyal to the Islamic Republic. Prof Sina Azodi, Director of Middle East Studies Program at George Washington University, said that unrest in those cities was "very telling" and amounted to evidence that the government's "base of support is also suffering under the economic hardship". Authorities have traditionally used violence to crush unrest. During the 2022 protests - sparked by the death in custody of Mahsa Amini, a young woman who had been detained in Tehran for wearing "improper hijab" - more than 550 people were allegedly killed by security forces, according to human rights groups. While the latest response by police and security forces initially appeared to be more restrained, verified footage has shown officers ramping up the use of force since Saturday.

IRAN ANTI-GOVERNMENT PROTESTS SPREAD TO MAJORITY OF PROVINCES

Protests have broken out in at least 17 of Iran's 31 provinces, presenting the largest challenge to the country's clerical establishment since 2022, a BBC Verify and BBC Persian analysis has found. The BBC's analysis of protests includes only those for which we have verified video footage - the true number is almost certainly far higher. There are reports of protests in a further 11 provinces. The wave of protests has spread rapidly across Iran since 28 December, when anger initially broke out in the capital Tehran following a fresh and sharp devaluation of the country's currency against the dollar and other major foreign currencies. Verified footage from the last 10 days shows evidence

of anti-government demonstrations and gatherings in more than 50 towns and cities across the country, including in several regions previously perceived as being highly loyal to the state. More than 100 videos which we geolocated and checked for publication date paint a picture of the scale of the unrest, with people taking to the streets in many major cities in Iran

Swiss ski bar not inspected for five years before deadly fire, mayor says



The Swiss bar was the scene of a fire which killed 40 people and injured 116 had not undergone safety checks for five years, authorities have said. The mayor of Crans-Montana, Nicolas Feraud, told a Tuesday news conference that he could not explain why Le Constellation bar had not been checked in so long, but that the council was "profoundly sorry". The venues should have been checked annually. "We regret that - we owe it to the families and we will accept the responsibility," he said. He added that sparklers - which are believed to have caused the fire when they were raised too close to the ceiling - will be banned in local venues. Local authorities will now bring in an external contractor to inspect and audit all 128 venues in the area. Feraud conceded there was a team of five people inspecting more than 10,000 buildings in Crans-Montana and could not explain why the bar had not been inspected since 2019. Taking repeated questions on why the bar had not been checked in so long, Feraud said: "I have no answer for you today." "We're profoundly sorry about that and I know how hard that will be for the families." "I'm not resigning, no, and I don't want to," he later added. Feraud said it would be "down to the judges" to decide whether members of the local authority would be included in a criminal investigation that has been opened by Swiss prosecutors. When the fire occurred on New Year's Day, the bar seemed to have many more people in it than legally permitted, which Feraud said was the responsibility of the managers of Le Constellation to regulate. Swiss prosecutors have placed the two bar managers under criminal investigation, which local media have named as French couple, Jacques and Jessica Moretti.

Donald Trump claims US oil firms could be 'up and running' in Venezuela within 18 months



President Donald Trump says the US oil industry could be "up and running" with increased operations in Venezuela within 18 months, after a surprise military operation removed President Nicolás Maduro from power. Trump told NBC News that "a tremendous amount of money will have to be spent, and the oil companies will spend it, and the oil companies will spend it, and then they'll get reimbursed by us or through revenue". Representatives from major US petroleum companies planned to meet the Trump administration later this week, BBC's partner CBS News reported. Analysts previously told the BBC it could take tens of bil-

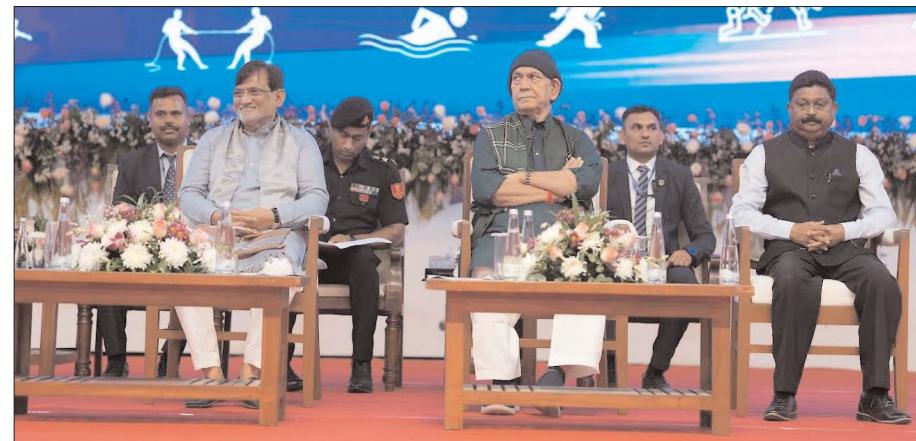
lions of dollars, and potentially a decade, to restore Venezuela's former output. Trump's remarks came days after he said the US would "run" Venezuela after the ousting of Maduro - who has now been brought to the US to face criminal charges. Speaking to NBC about his 18-month timeframe, Trump speculated that oil production could ramp up "in less time than that, but it'll be a lot of money". He has been explicit about his ambitions for American petroleum companies to scale up their operations in the country. "Having a Venezuela that's an oil producer is good for the United States because it keeps the price of oil down," Trump added. The analysts

who previously spoke to the BBC were sceptical that Trump's plans would have a major impact on the global supply - and therefore price - of oil. They suggested that firms would look for reassurance that a stable government was in place, and even when they did invest, their projects would not deliver for years. Trump has claimed in recent days that American oil companies can fix Venezuela's oil infrastructure. The country has an estimated 303bn barrels, the world's largest proven reserve - but its oil production has been in decline since the early 2000s. The Trump administration sees significant potential for its own energy prospects in Venezuela's reserves. Increasing the country's production of oil would be expensive for US firms. Additionally, Venezuelan oil is heavy and more difficult to refine. There is only one US firm, Chevron, currently working in the country. Asked for comment about Trump's plans for US oil production in Venezuela, Chevron spokesman Bill Turenne said the company "remains focused on the safety and wellbeing of our employees, as well as the integrity of our assets". "We continue to operate in full compliance with all relevant laws and regulations," Turenne added.



Khelo India Beach Games have expanded horizon of Indian sports, created new pathways for talent development: PM

The second edition of Khelo India Beach Games got off to a colourful start here at the Ghoghla Beach on Monday with a special message from the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi. The Games, featuring over 2100 participants from across the nation, will conclude on January 10. Diu is wearing a festive look with the Khelo India Beach Games mascot 'Pearl' – the happy and energetic dolphin – welcoming athletes, support staff, volunteers and all stakeholders associated with KIBG 2026. The Khelo India Beach Games, organised by the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, is being held under the technical supervision of the Sports Authority of India and national sports federations. More than 1,100 athletes will compete in eight different sports – volleyball, soccer, sepak takraw, kabaddi, pencak silat, Open water swimming, mallakhamb and tug-of-war. The first six will be medal sports and 32 gold medals will be up for grabs. While wishing good luck to the athletes and congratulating the Union Territory for



hosting KIBG 2026, PM Modi said: "The Khelo India Beach Games occupy a special place in India's sporting landscape. Beach and coastal sports demand physical endurance, mental strength and the ability to perform under constantly changing conditions. By bringing emerging disciplines to the forefront, these Games expand the horizons of Indian sport and create new pathways for talent to be discovered, recognised and nurtured." PM Modi lauded the UT organisers for choosing Ghoghla Beach as a venue. "The choice of Ghoghla Beach, a Blue Flag certified

beach, as the venue is particularly noteworthy. Sport, when hosted in harmony with nature, becomes a powerful medium for both athletic achievements and environmental awareness. This setting reminds us that excellence and sustainability progress together." The Khelo India Beach Games 2026 were declared open by the Hon'ble Lt Governor, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, Shri Manoj Sinha after the parade of athletes and the ceremonial torch relay by four athletes who have excelled in beach sports – Don Remedios (beach football), Payal Parmar (beach

volleyball), Ajish Patel and Jalpa Solanki (both tug-of-war). The torch was officially placed by Shri Sinha and the Hon'ble administrator of DNH & DD and Lakshadweep, Shri Praful Patel. Shri Sinha highlighted how Jammu and Kashmir has found its prominence through the Khelo India Beach Games. Shri Sinha said: "It gives me immense pleasure to inform you that the first Khelo India Beach Games 2025, held at this very beach, witnessed an exceptional performance by the players from Jammu and Kashmir. Competing in pen-

cak silat, our athletes brought great pride by securing a total of nine medals." "Since 2014, the Union Territory Administration has undertaken remarkable development initiatives in Diu. These include the redevelopment of the INS Khukri Memorial, the achievement of Blue Flag certification for Ghoghla Beach, and significant progress in strengthening both urban and rural infrastructure. These efforts reflect the administration's strong commitment to sustainable development and tourism promotion," Shri Sinha said. PM Modi once again reiterated the transformative power of sports. "Today, India is witnessing a deep transformation of its sporting culture. Across the country a renewed emphasis on institutional outreach, grassroots participation and cultural change is reshaping how sporting talent is identified and supported. Modern infrastructure, scientific training methods and transparent competition platforms are increasingly accessible to young athletes, irrespective of background or geography."

Mustafizur Rahman's Reaction To IPL Row Revealed: "Person Of Different Level"

It has been an eventful few days for Bangladesh cricket team fast bowler Mustafizur Rahman. He was excluded from the Kolkata Knight Riders squad ahead of the IPL 2026 on the advice of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). The decision led to a massive controversy and the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) decided to request the International Cricket Council (ICC) to shift their T20 World Cup 2026 games from India to Sri Lanka. While the topic has been dominating headlines, Mustafizur was in action for Rangpur Riders in the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League (BPL). He had a tough start to the season but played a big role in guiding the Riders to victory over Dhaka Capitals. Mohammad

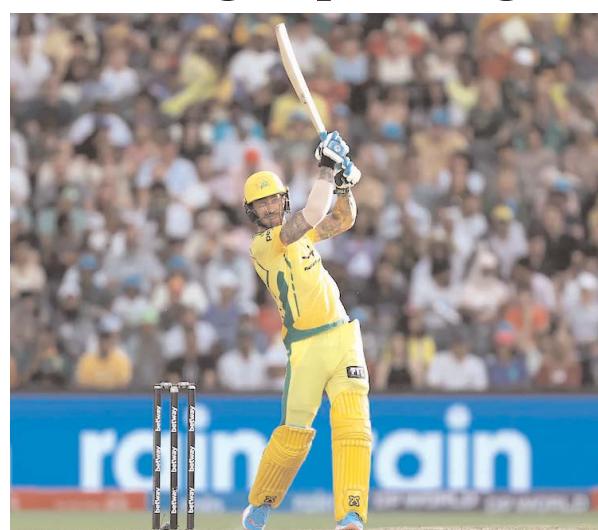


Ashraful, who is guiding Riders as assistant coach in the ongoing BPL, revealed that Mustafizur has been 'completely chill' despite the ongoing controversy. "He (Mustafizur) is completely chill. He is not worried at all about all the off-field talk - whether it's BCB, India, BPL or ICC," Ashraful was quoted as saying by Cricbuzz. "Right

now he is focused on playing for Rangpur Riders and after this whatever assignment comes next, he will focus on that. He is a person of a different level," he added. Ashraful will also be working with Mustafizur in the national set-up as he is currently the batting coach of Bangladesh. "If you talk about Mustafizur in the first two matches his

performances were a bit below par but especially the way we won the last match against Dhaka was an outstanding victory. And the way Mustafizur bowled those last two overs - I think he is a world champion for this format, that's how important he is," he said. Mustafizur's national side teammate Mohammad Saifuddin also echoed similar sentiments by Ashraful. "We had our last match against Rangpur Riders and after the game we were having dinner together and I called him to sit with me. We thought he would be disappointed but that is hardly the case," Saifuddin told reporters following a practice session. "He was hearing music and seemed to be relaxed like the way he always does."

MI Cape Town Seek Revival Against In-form Joburg Super Kings



Game 15 of SA20 Season 4 will see two titans collide when MI Cape Town and Joburg Super Kings meet in the 'El Clasico' at Newlands on Tuesday. The form of the two respective teams heading into this much-anticipated showdown could not be more contrasting. MI Cape Town's championship defence is hanging on by the barest of margins with Robin Peterson's team yet to claim a victory in five attempts thus far this season. In stark contrast, Joburg Super Kings have enjoyed a fairytale start to their season. Stephen Fleming's team have surged up the table, winning three matches on the bounce, with the sole blip being a rain-affected game last Saturday at the Wanderers. Their confidence is buoyed further by a thrilling Super Over victory against the Durban Super Giants. MI Cape Town captain Rashid Khan

has certainly not given up hope of his team reaching the playoffs and believes they still have time to get their campaign back on track, starting against the high-flying JSK. "We still have an opportunity to qualify," said Rashid Khan.

"In T20, you can't think about the past. "Individually everyone is experienced and they know how to manage themselves. We have to come with the right mindset and need to forget where on the table we are. "I feel like if we can lose four games in a row then we can win four in a row too." This season has seen the emergence of new heroes in the JSK camp, notably US international Shubham Ranjane, who has been nothing short of a revelation. With a remarkable average of 82.0 to his name and a maiden Betway SA20 half-century, Ranjane has quickly made a name for himself in South African cricket.

'Ajit Agarkar Should Be Given 10/10': Harbhajan Singh's Stunning 'T20 World Cup' Take



Former Indian cricket team spinner Harbhajan Singh praised BCCI chief selector Ajit Agarkar for the decisions taken regarding the T20 World Cup 2026 squad. The BCCI selection panel stunned everyone with a number of controversial decisions including the call to exclude Shubman Gill. Wicket-keeper batter Ishan Kishan was also rewarded for his form in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy as he was included alongside Sanju Samson. Harbhajan said that he felt a bit bad for Gill before adding that Agarkar should be given full marks for picking a good side for the competition. "The team is really good. I had told that Ajit should be given 10/10 for the team. I felt a little bad for Shubman, but he will get more chances soon. All the players are match winners in their own right. Hope we can

win back-to-back World Cups because we have that team," Harbhajan Singh told ANI.

The ex-India star also backed skipper Suryakumar Yadav to perform at the top level despite not enjoying a good run of form lately. He also weighed in on the performance on certain players and said that Abhishek Sharma, Hardik Pandya and Jasprit Bumrah can win matches on

their own. "Suryakumar has not made many runs, but when the WC comes, we will need big players to fire. He will shine bright in that big match. Abhishek (Sharma) can win you matches on your own. The form Hardik (Pandya) is in, he is a key player. We also have Arshdeep (Singh) and (Jasprit) Bumrah in pace." Harbhajan Singh opined on the split coaching in India fol-

lowing their poor performances in Test cricket under head coach Gautam Gambhir. India suffered two whitewashes at home in the last two years. The Asian Giants suffered a humiliating 0-3 loss to New Zealand in 2024, followed by a 0-2 thrashing at home by South Africa in 2025, under head coach Gautam Gambhir. New Zealand's 3-0 whitewash also marked the end of India's great Test empire, which had been well guarded by leaders like MS Dhoni, Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma for over a decade. The NZ whitewash cost a once well-settled India a place in the ICC World Test Championship 2025 final, and the latest setback to the Proteas could also end up costing them a berth in the marquee one-off Test championship clash, depending on how further results go.

"Never Seen That In My Life": England Great Stumped By Steve Smith's Bizarre Request To Brydon Carse In 5th Test



Steve Smith showed his class on Day 3 of the fifth Ashes Test in Sydney, remaining unbeaten on 129 as Australia stretched their first innings lead to 134 runs. However, it wasn't entirely smooth-sailing for the Australian stalwart. In a bizarre incident during the day, Smith was seemingly distracted by the sunlight deflecting off Brydon Carse's sunglasses and entering his eyes. This led to Smith asking Carse to turn his sunglasses around and wear them over the back of his head, a request which the latter accepted. "Carsey! Can you just turn your sunglasses around? On the back," said Smith, as could be heard over the stump mic. Former England captain Michael Vaughan expressed his surprise at Carse obliging to Smith's request. "That's very nice of Brydon to do so. Don't think there's any regulation for the way you put on your glasses? I've never seen that before in my life. Brydon

Carse should just put them on. I can't believe he's actually said, 'Ok, no problem!'" Vaughan said, speaking on commentary. Smith, who was batting on 51 at that point, went on to pile further misery on the England bowling attack. The 36-year-old slumped 15 boundaries and a six, reaching 129 off 205 balls at Stumps on Day 3. Travis Head hit a swashbuckling 163. It was the destructive opener third ton of the series, to go with the phenomenal match-winning 123 he made in Perth and 170 at Adelaide. Australia lead the series 3-1 and have already retained the Ashes, with England desperate for another morale-boosting win after victory at the previous Test in Melbourne. "Nice batting wicket out there. Nice to start my innings on the back of a great innings from Travis Head," Smith told Fox Sports. "When you're out there with them, they forget about you and I was able to get into my work."

Virat Kohli Quit Instead Of Fixing His Flaws, Chose To Play 'Easiest Format': Sanjay Manjrekar



A sharp critic over the years, former India cricketer Sanjay Manjrekar revisited Virat Kohli's decision to hang up his boots in Test cricket, after seeing England star Joe Root smash his 41st hundred in the format. Together with Root, Steve Smith and Kane Williamson, Virat Kohli formed the 'Fab 4' in the longest format. But Kohli is the only player from the quartet to have quit Test cricket. Manjrekar, in a video on his Instagram account, questioned Kohli's decision to quit Tests instead of fixing his flaws, while continuing to play the 'easiest format' ODIs. "Well, as Joe Root attains new heights in Test cricket, my mind goes to Virat Kohli. He's walked away from Tests, and it's unfortunate that in the five years that he struggled before retiring, he didn't quite put his heart and soul into finding out the problems as to why he was averaging 31 for five years in Tests. That is for another time as to what he could

have done. But I just feel sad that people like Joe Root and Steve Smith, Kane Williamson are really making a name for themselves in Test Cricket," Manjrekar said on his Instagram handle. Explaining his stance, Manjrekar said that he had no problem if Kohli had quit all three forms of the game. But the fact that he chose to stick with the 'easiest format' ODIs but refused to fix the mistakes he was making in red-ball cricket baffled him. "It was okay, Virat Kohli just walked away from cricket,

retired from all cricket. But that he's chosen to play one-day cricket actually disappoints me more, because this is a format which, for a top-order batter, I've said before as well, is the easiest format."

"The format that really tests you is first, obviously, Test Cricket, and T20 cricket has its different challenges. The other thing is because he's so fit, supremely fit, you feel even more that he could have maybe continued his fight, you know, to get back into form, even if he was left out of a series."

BANGLADESH RECEIVE 'T20 WORLD CUP REVENUE' WARNING AMID ONGOING CONTROVERSY



Former Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) general secretary Syed Ashraful Haque, who also served as CEO of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), weighed in on Bangladesh's decision to not travel to India for the upcoming T20 World Cup 2026. Bangladesh cited 'security concerns' as they requested the International Cricket Council (ICC) to shift their matches from India to Sri Lanka. The request came just after IPL side Kolkata Knight Riders released Bangladesh fast bowler Mustafizur Rahman following the request from BCCI. Haque explained that Indian government can assure 'head-of-state' level security for the Bangladesh cricketers and in that case, the ball will once again be in Bangladesh's

court. He added that if Bangladesh stick to their stance of not travelling to India and decided to opt out of the World Cup, they will miss out on the revenue share and may also get into a conflict with BCCI. "In this case, I believe the Indian government will say that they will provide 'head-of-state' level security for Bangladesh.

Then the ball will come again to our court. Then we will decide whether we will travel or not," Ashraful told The Daily Star. "Based on my experience, with only one month remaining before the tournament, relocating venues is an extremely uphill task. Moreover, if Bangladesh does not play or if the ICC refuses relocation

Battle of the Sexes 'brought eyes on tennis'



Aryna Sabalenka defended her 'Battle of the Sexes' match against Nick Kyrgios after she opened her 2026 season with a 47-minute victory against Cristina Bucsa. Women's world number one Sabalenka lost 6-3 6-3 to Kyrgios in a much-publicised exhibition match in Dubai last month. Belarusian Sabalenka, a four-time major winner, said it helped her fitness after she swept aside Spain's Bucsa, ranked 28th in the world, 6-0 6-1 in the second round of the Brisbane International. "When you play against a guy, the intensity is completely different," Sabalenka said. "Especially when there is Nick, who is drop-shotting every other shot, you move a lot, so there was a great fitness for me." The match was widely criticised, with Wimbledon champion Iga Swiatek saying this week that it did not have "anything to do with social change", following the original 'Battle of the Sexes' between Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs in 1973. But Sabalenka said the match "brought so many eyes on tennis". "It wasn't about proving something to anyone. It was able to show that tennis can be really huge," she said. "That exhibition, it was fun. It was a great challenge." Sabalenka, who received a first-round bye in Brisbane, will face Romania's Sorana Cirstea in round three. The Australian Open starts on 18 January. GB's Boulter and Kartal win in Auckland. British number four Katie Boulter started her season with victory over Ukraine's Yulia Starodubtseva at the ASB Classic in Auckland. Playing her first match since October - and her first under new coach Michael Joyce - Boulter triumphed 6-3 6-3 in the first round. Given a main draw wildcard for the WTA 250 tournament, she will face top seed Elina Svitolina of Ukraine next. Boulter missed out on a place in the main draw of the Australian Open after falling out of the world's top 100.

A Complete Sankranthi Family Entertainer with Vintage Chiranjeevi

We will see the vintage megastar in *Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu*. This is a clean, full family fun film. Everyone will enjoy it with children and family. Producers Sahu Garapati, Sushmita Konidela, Megastar Chiranjeevi and hit machine Anil Ravipudi are going to entertain the audience with the wholesome family entertainment *Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu*. Adding to the excitement, Victory Venkatesh is playing a key role. Produced by Sahu Garapati and Sushmita Konidela under the banners of Shine Screens and Gold Box Entertainments, the film stars Nayanthara as the female lead, while Smt. Archana is presenting the film. The film's promotions are going on wonderfully. The trailer and songs have greatly increased the expectations on the film. *Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu* will be released grandly worldwide on January 12 as a Sankranthi gift. On this occasion, producers Sahu Garapati and Sushmita Konidela shared the film's features in a press conference.

The censoring took place yesterday, didn't it? How is the report?

-A very good report was received. The movie was enjoyed a lot. Clean film. Full family fun. They said it was a movie that everyone can watch with their children and family.

It's a film made by two big stars together. What kind of response is being received from fans after the trailer was released?

-Both fans are enjoying it. There is also a wonderful response from social media. Both Chiranjeevi and Venkatesh worked together very happily.

Sushmita garu. This is a very big project. How did you enjoy this process?

-This is a milestone project. We feel very honored to do this project. Doing it in my father's core genre and Anil's taking on that genre is superb. The journey with Sahu garu is beautiful. This is a milestone project that I enjoyed a lot. I wish this combination continues again. With this movie, it seems like



Namma has opened a new talent box. Fans say that it is like what they saw in the movie *Rowdy Alludu*. His performance in this movie is very fresh, reminiscent of vintage charm. My father focused on losing weight and fitness. He looked very charming. This made it easy for us to design costumes for him. Also, Anil wanted to show him in a certain style. He also gave a lot of input. We

all worked with the same vision.

Sahu garu. There are many movies for Sankranthi. I hear that there will be trouble in theaters?

-We have running distributors. Our film has been in the pipeline since before Sankranthi. However, when so many films are coming out, it is natural that one or two theaters will decrease. Otherwise, there has not been much of a problem with theaters until our film.

Sushmita garu. What is Venkatesh garu's role going to be like?

-Venkatesh will be seen in a big impactful character. The fun will increase even more after his arrival. A very important character. A rich character with a lot of entertainment.

Sahu garu.. What will Chiranjeevi's role be like?

-The trailer has shown shades related to Chiranjeevi's character. His character has fun, action, emotion, and all the commercial elements. There are many wonderful comedy scenes between Venkatesh and Chiranjeevi.

HONORING A LEGEND - REMEMBERING BA RAJU ON HIS 66TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Today, January 7th, marks the 66th birth anniversary of BA Raju, a man who was truly the well-wisher of the Telugu film industry. For 40 years, he was not just a person working in cinema, he was an institution in himself. Whether acting as a journalist, a Public Relations Officer (PRO), a publisher, or a producer, he remained at the top of his game. What made him truly special was his nature. In an industry that can be very competitive, he was a friend to everyone. From top stars and directors to newcomers, he treated everyone with equal respect and love, often acting as a mentor to help shape the careers of many heroes and heroines. BA Raju's professional journey was nothing short of amazing. He began his career looking after publicity for Superstar Krishna and eventually became the publicity in charge for over 1,500 films, playing a massive role in their success. His legacy in journalism is equally impressive. After working for several daily papers, he launched his own magazine, Super Hit Weekly, in 1994 with his wife, B. Jaya. His dedication was so immense that he ran the magazine for 27 years without ever missing a single issue until his last breath. In 2001, he expanded his horizons by establishing the Superhit Friends and RJ Cinemas banners with his wife. Together, they moved their operations to Hyderabad and produced successful, lovely movies such as *Premalo Pavani Kalyan*, *Chantigadu*, *Lovely*, and *Vaisakham*. Beyond production, he was known as the "Knowledge Bank" of the industry. He did not need a computer to find facts, he had release dates, theater runs, and box office collections right at his fingertips. As a leader, BA Raju served as the president of the



Film Critics Association, where he was always there to protect and help fellow journalists. If anyone faced financial trouble or needed emotional support, he was the first to offer a helping hand. While he maintained close relationships with everyone, he shared a very special bond with Evergreen Superstar Krishna and Superstar Mahesh Babu. Although BA Raju is no longer with us, his work continues to thrive. He established the popular web portal *IndustryHit.com*, and his famous X (Twitter) account continues to provide updates to nearly 7 lakh followers. His son, Shiva Kumar B, is now carrying the torch forward and is revamping the Superhit Friends and RJ Cinemas banner to announce new films with popular stars soon.

Audience Acceptance in Strong Roles Is My Biggest Success: Deepshikha Chandra

Deepshikha Chandra, who starred as the heroine in the blockbuster *Mark*, has become the talk of the town. Deepshikha, who impressed everyone with her excellent performance and impressive screen presence, has become everyone's favorite. She recently shared the highlights of the film in a press conference.

Your performance in the movie 'Mark' is getting a super response. How does it feel to be recognized as a mass heroine at the beginning of your career?

-I am really feeling grateful. The response from Mark has given me a lot of encouragement. The tag of mass heroine seems like a blessing rather than a pressure. The fact that the audience has accepted me in strong characters is a huge

achievement in my career. I want to move forward by choosing roles that challenge me.

A film with Kiccha Sudeep is a big opportunity. How was it working with him?

-I feel really honored. Working with Kiccha Sudeep is like a learning school. His discipline, focus, and the respect he gives to his co-artists are amazing. His presence on the set is very motivating. Being such a big star, he gets along with everyone. He encourages me a lot when it comes to acting.

Even though you have a Chennai background, you are working in Tamil, Kannada and Telugu films. Don't you feel any difficulty in terms of languages?

-It felt a bit challenging in the beginning. But language is

Charming Star Sharwa, Sakshi Vaidya's Lovely Number Bhalle Bhalle From Nari Nari Naduma Murari Unveiled



Charming Star Sharwa's upcoming wholesome family entertainer *Nari Nari Naduma Murari*, directed by Ram Abbaraju, will be gracing the theatres in 8 more days on January 14th, and the promotional activities are already in full swing. Produced by Ramabrahman Sunkara under the AK Entertainments banner in association with Adventures International Pvt. Ltd., the film stars Samyuktha and Sakshi Vaidya as the female leads. The makers begin the musical promotions. The first single, *Bhalle Bhalle*, composed by Vishal Chandrashekhar, is out now, and it instantly captures the joyful essence of young love. Sung by Haricharan and penned by Ramajogayya Sastry, the track blends playful lyrics with a soulful melody, perfectly reflecting the chemistry between Sharwa's charming, verbose hero and Sakshi's traditional, heartwarming character. Visually, the song is a treat. Set against the lush landscapes of Kerala, the vibrant frames highlight the couple's blossoming romance, with every gesture and smile amplifying the festive, chooda-muchataina vibe of the track. The combination of rich visuals, melodic instrumentation, and expressive vocals makes *Bhalle Bhalle* a memorable musical moment. As the first glimpse of the film's soundtrack, this song sets a high bar. King Of Entertainment Sree Vishnu played a special role in the movie co-starring Satya, Sunil, and Sudarshan in important roles. Coming to

the technical crew, cinematography is handled by Gnanasekhar VS and Yuvaraj, while Vishal Chandra Shekar scores the music. Bhanu Bogavarapu provided the story, with Nandu Savirigana contributing dialogues. Art direction is managed by Brahma Kadali. Ajay Sunkara takes on the role of co-producer, and Kishore Garikapati is the executive producer.

Ram Charan wishes A.R. Rahman on his birthday



Mumbai: Actor Ram Charan extended warm birthday wishes to music maestro A.R. Rahman, expressing gratitude for the musical magic the composer has brought to his upcoming film *Peddi*. Ram took to Instagram, where he shared a picture with Rahman, who turned 59 on Tuesday. Ram Charan shared a heartfelt note for the Oscar-winning composer, wishing him good health, happiness and "endless music". "Wishing @arram sir a very Happy Birthday. May this year bring you great health, happiness and endless music. #ChikiriChikiri was just the beginning. Can't thank you enough sir...for the magic you've woven for #Peddi," he wrote. Talking about "Peddi", the film is directed by Buchi Babu Sana. Filmed under the working title of RC16, it was officially announced as "Peddi" in March 2025. Ram Charan in the titular role is paired with Janhvi Kapoor in an ensemble cast featuring Shiva Rajkumar, Jagapathi Babu and Divyendu. The original score and soundtrack album are composed by A. R. Rahman. The film is scheduled to release on 27 March 2026. Meanwhile, Rahman, who is nicknamed "Isai Puyal" and "Mozart of Madras", is a recipient of six National Film Awards, two Academy Awards, two Grammy Awards, a BAFTA Award, a Golden Globe Award and the Padma Bhushan. With his in-house studio Panchathan Record Inn, Rahman's film-scoring career began during the early 1990s with the Tamil film *Roja*. Following that, he went on to score several songs for Tamil language films, including Mani Ratnam's politicaly charged *Bombay*, the urban *Kaadhalan*, *Thiruda Thiruda*, and S. Shankar's debut film *Gentleman*.

Rukmini Vasanth unveiled as the Mellisa from Yash's Toxic: A Fairytale for Grown-Ups

Yash's Toxic: A Fairytale for Grown-Ups continues to establish itself as an evolving extravaganza that grows darker, deeper, and more daring. The saga of its intricate takes an exciting turn as the big ticket action drama unveils Rukmini Vasanth as the graceful, commanding and unflinching Mellisa. This film marks her striking collaboration with Yash under the distinctive cinematic gaze of Geetu Mohandas. Known for her intelligence-driven performances and emotional depth, Rukmini's introduction signals a performance that finds space within Geetu's layered, atmospheric storytelling, and Yash's ambition to make an Indian film that matches global standards in scale and offers a universal resonance in its storytelling. Following the unveiling of the arresting first looks of Kiara Advani as Nadia, Huma Qureshi as Elizabeth, Nayanthara as Ganga, and Tara Sutaria as Rebecca, *Toxic: A Fairytale for Grown-Ups* deepens its immersive realm with the introduction of Rukmini Vasanth as Mellisa. Set against the backdrop of a vibrant, hazy party in the late 1960s, Mellisa moves with an air of absolute self-assurance. Her expression is focused—a sharp, determined gaze that pierces through the surrounding festive chaos. While the world around her is fluid and drifting, she is focused, navigating the room with a stride that commands the floor. With each reveal, the film sharpens its edge, expanding its emotional terrain and cinematic scale, cementing *Toxic* one of the most anticipated Indian films of 2026. Geetu Mohandas says, "What I admire most about Rukmini is her intelligence as an actor. She doesn't just perform, she processes. She asks questions, not out of doubt but out of curiosity. It pushes me to think deeper and sometimes even my

own choices as a director. Watching her work reminds me that intelligence on screen often lies in what is left unsaid. Between shots, I often see her quietly writing in her journal, capturing thoughts, small anecdotes from the set.