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'Marathi manoos' will be powerless if BJP controls civic bodies: Raj Thackeray



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Donald Trump withdraws US from key climate treaty and dozens of other groups

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Sarfraz Khan Achieves Huge Record, Slams Top India Star For 30 Runs In One Over In Vijay Hazare Trophy



IN BRIEF

ED raids in six states in govt jobs scam case

NEW DELHI (TSIT): The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday undertook searches at 15 locations in six states as part of a money laundering probe into a scam under which fraudulent joining letters for government jobs were sent, officials said. An organised gang is under the scanner of the agency. The Patna office of the ED is conducting searches in Bihar, West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, the officials said. They said the scam was initially detected in the name of Railways but an in-depth investigation found that it covers over 40 other government organisations and departments including Forests, RRB (railway recruitment board), India Post, Income Tax Department, some high courts, PWD, Bihar government, Delhi Development Authority, Rajasthan secretariat and others.

SIR summons to Sen, Shami routine: CEO

KOLKATA (TSIT): The office of the West Bengal Chief Electoral Officer has clarified that SIR hearing summonses to Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, cricketer Mohammed Shami and Bengali actor turned TMC MP Dev were part of a routine electoral verification process, and not targeted actions. Notices issued to these well-known personalities had sparked a controversy. According to the clarification issued by the CEO on Wednesday, scrutiny of the enumeration forms revealed that the mandatory linkage columns had been left blank by the electors concerned. Such cases automatically call for a hearing, and the individuals were summoned along with several other similarly placed electors, as per the Election Commission's notifications. "The Enumeration Form clearly shows that the linkage columns have been left blank by the elector," the state CEO's office said in a post on X. Addressing the case of economist Amartya Sen, it said that his enumeration form, submitted as an overseas elector, was received by a family member, Shantanu Sen, who linked him with his mother, Amita Sen.

Telangana to introduce new education policy soon: Revanth



Telangana is set to introduce a unique Education Policy with integrated residential schools where students from all communities study together, promoting inclusive and equal education.

acres of land at an estimated cost of Rs.200 crore. Students from all communities—including SC, ST, BC, minorities, and others—will study together on a single campus,

promoting social harmony and equal opportunities. He further stated that the government plans to introduce pre-primary education in government schools and strengthen them to compete with private institutions. As part of this initiative, free transportation facilities for pre-primary children in rural areas are also being considered.

The Chief Minister also discussed the upgradation of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) into

Advanced Training Centres (ATCs) and the proposal to establish ATCs in every Assembly constituency. He suggested that the Himachal Pradesh Education Minister visit the Mallepally ATC to better understand the model being implemented in Telangana.

Impressed by the integrated residential school concept, Himachal Pradesh Education Minister Rohit Kumar expressed keen interest and sought a detailed report on the initiative. He praised Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for introducing what he described as revolutionary reforms to strengthen the government education system.

Education Department Commissioner Yogita Rana, Director of School Education Naveen Nicholas, CM's Special Secretary Ajit Reddy, and senior officials from the Himachal Pradesh government were present at the meeting.

ED counters CM Mamata's claims on I-PAC raids, moves Calcutta HC

Kolkata (TSIT): The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday approached a single-judge bench of the Calcutta High Court, accusing West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of misusing her constitutional position by allegedly creating hindrances to the official duties of central agency officials during raid and search operations conducted earlier in the day.

The ED alleged that while its teams were carrying out searches at the office of the India Political Action Committee (I-PAC) in the northern outskirts of Kolkata and at the residence of I-PAC co-founder Pratik Jain at Loudon Street, the Chief Minister arrived at both locations accompanied by senior officials of the West Bengal Police and Kolkata Police and allegedly removed files and electronic materials from the premises.



At the same time, the ED issued a statement refuting the Chief Minister's claim that the agency had stolen documents belonging to the Trinamool Congress in the name of conducting search operations at the two premises. It is learnt that the single-judge bench of Justice Supra Ghosh admitted the ED's petition, and the matter is scheduled to come up for hearing on

Friday. Earlier in the day, two teams of ED officials were conducting simultaneous raids and search operations at I-PAC's office and Pratik Jain's residence when the Chief Minister visited both locations in quick succession. After leaving the premises, she made allegations against the ED officials. A few hours later, the ED clarified that search operations were being conducted at 10 locations—six in West Bengal and four in Delhi—under the Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in connection with an alleged coal smuggling syndicate led by Anup Majee.

The agency also asserted that the searches were in no way related to I-PAC's association with any political party, countering the Chief Minister's claims.

Indian AI startups should work towards global leadership: PM Modi

Chairing a roundtable with Indian AI start-ups ahead of the India AI Impact Summit 2026, Modi suggested that Indian AI models should be distinct and should promote local and indigenous content and regional languages, an official statement said.



said. The prime minister said startups and artificial intelligence entrepreneurs are the co-architects of the country's future.

As many as 12 Indian AI start-ups that have qualified for the 'AI for ALL: Global Impact Challenge' summit to be held next month attended the roundtable and presented their ideas and work. During the meeting, Modi highlighted the importance of artificial intelligence in bringing about transformation in society.

He noted that India will host the India AI Impact summit next month, through which the country will play a major role in the technology sector. The prime minister highlighted that India is making efforts to bring about a transformation by leveraging AI. He emphasised that startups and AI entrepreneurs are the co-architects of India's future and said the country has immense capacity for both innovation and large-scale implementation.

India should present a unique AI model to the world that reflects the spirit of 'Made in India, Made for the World', Modi said.

These start-ups are working in a diverse set of areas, including Indian language foundation models, multilingual LLMs, speech-to-text, text-to-audio and text-to-video; 3D content using generative AI for e-commerce, marketing, and personalised content creation; engineering simulations, material research and advanced analytics for data-driven decision-making across industries; healthcare diagnostics and medical research, among others. The AI start-ups commended India's strong commitment to advancing the artificial intelligence ecosystem in the country.

KTR alleges Revanth stalled Palamuru project

Hyderabad (TSIT): Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K.T. Rama Rao on Thursday alleged that Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy deliberately stalled the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Project to satisfy his "former political boss" and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, pushing lakhs of farmers in the region



into distress. Addressing a party meeting at Telangana Bhavan here, Rama Rao said the Congress government's handling of the project reflected a mix of political insecurity and administrative incompetence, which, he claimed, was directly affecting the people of the Palamuru region in Mahabubnagar district. KTR, as the BRS leader is popularly known, said that nearly 90 per cent of the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Project was completed during the tenure of former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR).

South India Times 2026 calendar inaugurated by IPR Commissioner Ch. Priyanka



Hyderabad (TSIT): The SOUTH India Times 2026 calendar was formally inaugurated by Information and Public Relations (IPR) Commissioner Ch. Priyanka on Thursday. The calendar launch ceremony was held in a cordial and dignified atmosphere.

Speaking on the occasion, the IPR Commissioner appreciated the role of the media in strengthening democratic values and ensuring effective communication between the government and the public. She extended her best wishes to the SOUTH India Times team for continued journalistic excellence and responsible reporting.

SOUTH India Times Chief General Manager

(CGM) K. Vijay Dheeraj and General Manager Ravi were present during the inauguration. They briefed the Commissioner about the publication's vision, editorial commitment, and its efforts to provide credible and people-centric news coverage across South India.

Management thanked the IPR Commissioner for inaugurating the calendar and expressed confidence that the 2026 calendar would further strengthen the bond between the media fraternity and the public information system. The event concluded with an exchange of greetings and a group photograph to mark the occasion.

Telangana Congress to launch protests to demand restoration of MGNREGS



Hyderabad (TSIT): Telangana's ruling Congress on Thursday decided to organise a series of protests across the state for 45 days, demanding restoration of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). The state Congress unit, at its meeting at party headquarters, Gandhi Bhavan, decided to fight against Vikas Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act (VB RAM G), which was recently passed by the Parliament to replace the MGNREGS. The meeting, presided over by state Congress unit chief Mahesh Kumar Goud and attended by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, AICC in-charge, Meenakshi Natrajan and other senior

leaders chalked out the action plan to organise the protests. The leaders termed VB RAM G a "death sentence" for rural poor and vowed to highlight during the campaign the provisions of the new legislation which are against the interests of poor and farm labourers. The party will organise Gram Sabhas in all 12,000-plus Gram Panchayats from January 20 to January 30 to pass resolutions demanding the restoration of MGNREGS.

Trump withdraws US from India-led international Solar Alliance

New York (TSIT): President Donald Trump has ordered the US out of the Gurugram-headquartered International Solar Alliance (ISA) that promotes solar energy to combat climate change and is led by India. The ISA was among the 66 international entities that he withdrew the US from in an order on Wednesday, January 7, alleging that they worked "contrary to US national interests," the White House said.

Trump, who has called climate change a "hoax", swung the axe hard against entities

—United Nations (UN) and non-UN—with climate and environment mandates, including the ISA. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said that one of the reasons for the US action was "climate orthodoxy" that was working against "our nation's sovereignty, freedoms and general prosperity." The ISA was founded in 2015 jointly by India and France and has 124 signatories, of whom about 10 are full members. Its primary goal is to raise

investments of \$1 trillion for solar energy, besides encouraging related technologies by 2030. It is headed by Director-General Ashish Khanna. Between 2022 and 2025, Washington's contributions to the ISA were \$2.1 million, according to a US government database, which said the funds were "to support the US-India Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership through ISA programmes to accelerate the deployment of solar in developing and emerging countries."

The United Nations Framework Conference on Climate Change, through which the Paris Climate

Agreement was reached, was foremost among the 31 UN-linked organisations that Trump targeted.

Others included UN entities dealing with water, oceans and energy, and the UN Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries. The 35 non-UN organisations included nine working in the climate change and environment areas. Among them was the International Panel on Climate Change that was headed by India's Rajendra Pachauri when it won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007.

Jagga Reddy Participates in Erdanur Chowdamma Jathara

Hyderabad (TSIT): TPCC Working President Jagga Reddy participated in the Chowdamma Thalli Jathara held at Erdanur village in Kandi mandal. He offered special prayers after darshan of Goddess Chowdamma and sought her blessings for the well-being of the people.



On the occasion, Jagga Reddy listened with keen interest to the devotional songs rendered by Oggu folk artists, who narrated the history and sig-

nificance of Goddess Chowdamma through their traditional performances. He also visited and offered prayers at the hilltop shrine, where various deities are worshipped. Praying for the blessings of

Goddess Chowdamma, Jagga Reddy expressed his wish that people should lead happy, healthy, and prosperous lives.

Several Congress leaders and party representatives participated in the programme, including Sangareddy Assembly Constituency In-charge Julakanti Anjaneyulu, Block Congress President Raghugoud, Erdanur Sarpanch Pamballa Jyothi Durgaprasad, Congress leader Madhu, and others.

Slogans Don't Run Diplomacy India Paying the Price for Modi's Foreign Policy

Hyderabad: Telangana Pradesh Mahila Congress Vice President Dr. Rekha Boyalapalli has criticised the Union government's foreign policy, stating that India is facing growing diplomatic pressure due to what she termed the hollowness of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In a statement Dr. Rekha Boyalapalli said that as the United States moves forward with a sanctions bill proposing punitive tariffs of up to 500 per cent on countries



In a statement issued on Thursday, Dr. Rekha Boyalapalli said that as the United States prepares to impose sanctions on countries continuing to purchase Russian oil, India has been placed in a difficult diplomatic position.

She alleged that the Modi government relied more on slogans, photo diplomacy and personality-driven narratives than on strengthening institutional and principle-based foreign relations. Recalling the Prime Minister's earlier slogan "Ab ki baar Trump Sarkar," she said the assumption that personal rapport with global leaders could substitute for consistent diplomacy has proven to be misplaced.

Foreign policy, she said, cannot be sustained on rhetoric or selective nationalism, but must be built on credibility, predictability and trust.

She further stated that domestic political polarisation and ideological posturing have weakened India's global standing at a time when the international community expects the country to act as a responsible and balancing power. Concluding her remarks, Dr. Rekha Boyalapalli said that global leadership is earned through statesmanship and foresight, not proclaimed through slogans, and warned that India is now paying the cost of confusing rhetoric with effective diplomacy.

Notice is hereby given that the Rectification Deed in the name of Unmesh Trivedi S/o Vipul Trivedi, relating to Plot Nos. 334 & 335, Survey No.170 (Part), Dhooplapally Village, registered as Doc no :1616/2008 dated 26-03-2008 at Medchal SRO, has been lost. Objections, if any, within 15 days.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client CHEKKA BHAGYA LAXMI, W/o. Late CHEKKA RAJESH, R/o. H.No. 3-4-420/2, New Raipura, Hanumakonda District, do hereby inform to the general public that my client CHEKKA BHAGYA LAXMI is the absolute owner and possessor of the House with Open Place bearing H.No. 3-4-420/2, an extent of 119.00 Sq.Yards, or 99.48 Sq.M, situated at New Raipura, Hanumakonda District, which has acquired through Regd. Deed vide document 18796/2025, dt. 18-10-2025, executed by CHEKKA SATHISH and CHEKKA SRAVAN. My client's has lost her original link registered document i.e. Sale Deed vide Doc. No. 14229/2016, dt. 29-09-2016, before the Sub-Registrar, Warangal Fort, which has Jointly registered by my husband i.e. LATE CHEKKA RAJESH and his Brother i.e. CHEKKA SATHISH and CHEKKA SRAVAN from Chekka Pramila and Pendyala Ithupurudu. Reddy. Pertaining to the aforesaid property of my client, in case if you find out the original document of my client's property, handover the same to the address mentioned below. Instead of handing over the above mentioned original registered link documents of my client's property, if anybody has misused, then my client shall have to initiate the civil and criminal proceedings against such persons. Apart from if anybody is having any objection against my client's property or against the aforesaid Sale deed, you may submit your objections along with concerned documents within 7 days otherwise, it may be treated that no one is having any objections against my client's property mentioned above or against the aforesaid document.

Aerram Nitlesh Kumar, B.Sc., LLB Advocate
H.No. 16-302, Abbanikunta, Warangal, Cell : 90325 19080

For Bartronics India Limited
S/o. Diksha Omer
Company Secretary & Compliance officer

Telangana

HYDERABAD
FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2026

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info.southindientimes@gmail.com

DGP HANDS OVER 1.31 CRORE INSURANCE CHEQUE TO FAMILY OF DECEASED CONSTABLE

Hyderabad: Director General of Police B. Shivadhar Reddy on Thursday handed over an insurance cheque of 1.31 crore to the family of a constable who lost his life in a road accident.



dent on March 25 last year.

As Boya Pandu held an account with Bank of Baroda, the insurance benefits applicable in the event of accidental death were processed, and the cheque was formally handed over by the DGP to the family members.

Vishwaguru vs Reality Check India Confronts Cost of Slogan-Driven Diplomacy

Hyderabad: Telangana Pradesh Mahila Congress Vice President Dr. Rekha Boyalapalli on Thursday criticised the Union government's foreign policy, stating that India is facing growing diplomatic pressure due to what she described as slogan-driven and optics-centric diplomacy under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In a statement Dr. Rekha Boyalapalli said that as the United States moves forward with a sanctions bill proposing punitive tariffs of up to 500 per cent on countries

Sankranti Cyber Scams on the Rise Citizens Must Stay Alert- Shikha Goel

Hyderabad: Director of the Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGSB), Shikha Goel has cautioned citizens to remain highly vigilant against cyber frauds and online scams during the upcoming Sankranti festival season, noting a significant rise in cybercrime during festive periods.



In press note issued on Thursday, Shikha Goel stated that cybercriminals are exploiting increased digital transactions and online activity by circulating fake Sankranti offers, discounts, and cashback links through WhatsApp, SMS, and social media platforms. She said the Bureau has observed multiple instances of fraud involving bogus festival greetings, prize money claims, lucky draws, fake shopping deals at unusually low prices, and fraudulent travel and ticket booking links.

She warned that such fraudulent links often redirect victims to fake websites or prompt them to download malicious APK files. Once clicked or installed, these enable fraudsters to steal OTPs, banking details, personal data, and in some cases misuse compromised accounts to cheat family members and contacts. Shikha Goel noted that many scam links are

shared through trusted contacts and family groups, making them appear genuine and significantly increasing the risk of victimisation during the festive season. Advising the public, she urged citizens to avoid clicking on unknown or suspicious festival links, verify purchases and bookings only through official platforms, refrain from installing APK files received through messages, and ensure Two-Factor Authentication is enabled on all critical applications.

She stressed that OTPs, PINs, CVV numbers, and verification codes should never be shared with anyone. Citizens who suspect cyber fraud are advised to immediately stop transactions, preserve screenshots and transaction details, inform their banks or payment service providers without delay.

She further stated that domestic political polarisation and ideological posturing have weakened India's global standing at a time when the international community expects the country to act as a responsible and balancing power. Concluding her remarks, Dr. Rekha Boyalapalli said that global leadership is earned through statesmanship and foresight, not proclaimed through slogans, and warned that India is now paying the cost of confusing rhetoric with effective diplomacy.

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Ref. No. 02/SARFAESI/13(2)/DEC/2025-26

1) Mr. Peddi Prabhakar (Applicant), S/o. Mr. P. Ramulu, R/o F-1, First Floor Yashikiran Residency, Saptapini Colony, Neredmet, Secunderabad, Telangana-500056. Also At: Mr. Peddi Prabhakar (Applicant), S/o. Mr. P. Ramulu, Team United Express, Testa Express, Domestic & International Cargo, 1-2-952, Siddamsetty Compound, Parklane, Secunderabad, Telangana-500033. 2) Mrs. Peddi Shama (Co-Applicant), R/o F-1, First Floor Yashikiran Residency, Saptapini Colony, Neredmet, Secunderabad, Telangana-500056. Property Address: Mr. Peddi Prabhakar (Applicant), S/o. Mr. P. Ramulu, Residential Duplex Type House No.2, Ground and First floors, House No.35-24, plot No.6, Ramakrishnapuram, Malakajiri Municipality, Telangana-500056. Loan A/c. 245010600177375, NPA Date: 18-11-2025, Demand Notice Date: 30-12-2024, Outstanding amount: Rs. 16,46,495/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakhs Forty Six Thousand Four Hundred and Ninety Five Only) being the amount due as on 25-12-2025 this amount includes interest till 25-12-2025 together with further interest thereon from 26-12-2025 at the contractual rate of interest 25-12-2025. SCHEDULE OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY:

All that Part and Parcel of the Residential Duplex Type House No.2 Ground and First floors constructed on premises bearing house No.35-241 with a total built-up area of 1620 Sq.Ft of RCC

Roof on pillars along with land area measuring 130.00 Sq.Yards or 108.8 Sq.Mtrs. of 26100 Sq.Ft on part of plot No.6 Survey No.240/1, situated at Ramakrishnapuram, under Malakajiri Municipality and mandal, Rangareddy district and bounded as follows: Boundaries: North: Duplex Type House No.3, South: Duplex type House No.1 constructed on premises, Bearing house no.35-241 on part of Plot No.6, East: 20'-0" Wide Road, West: Neighbours Property.

Date: 08-01-2026

Place: Hyderabad

Authorised Officer

For Axis Bank Ltd.

(Authorized Officer)

STATE BANK OF INDIA OLD BUS STAND ROAD BRANCH (2016), SURYAPET

POSSESSION NOTICE

Rule-8(1) & 8(2) (For immovable property)

MSME-Cash Credit A/c No: 43430634880

WHEREAS,

- 1) The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the STATE BANK OF INDIA, OLD BUS STAND ROAD BRANCH (2016), SURYAPET under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated: 28-10-2025 and a paper publication on 07-11-2025 calling upon the borrower, M/S. HARSHITH TRADING AGENCY, Prop: Kakkireni Uma Rani C/o K Sathaiah, Unit Address: H.No.1-119/A/9, Thallagadda, Suryapet town, Suryapet District, Telangana-508213. Residence address: H.No.1-91, BC Colony, Pinnaipalem, Suryapet, Suryapet-508376. Guarantor: 1) Sri Balasavani Prema Kumar S/o B Sreenivas Rao, D.No. 53p 54p, Phase-3, Road No. 4 Mythri Nagar, Near Vignan School Miyapur, KV Rangareddy (D)-500049. 2) Smt. Bathini Kalpana, W/o K Shiva Kumar, H.No. 1-76, Kuppidepudu gudem village, Konkathimma Annaram, Suryapet-508376. To: Please note that under Section 13(1) of the said Act, no Borrower shall, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.

Dated: 08-01-2026

Sd/- Authorised Officer

State Bank of India

Rajadhani Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd, H.No. 3-4-1005/2/1, Indrani Complex, Barkatpura, Hyderabad - 500 027.

Date : 06/01/2026

Notice under section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

From: Sri Aparajitha Reddy, Chief Executive Officer/Authorized Officer, Rajadhani Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd, Barkatpura, Hyderabad.

1. Smt. Laitha Madhuri Kotha W/o Sri. Kotha Kondaiya Ravi Sagar, H.No 2-1-112/PH/9, Road No.8, Platinum Homes, Venkateshwara Colony, Uppalpally, Attapur, Rajendranagar, R.R Dist -500048 (Borrower and mortgagor).

2. Sri. Kotha Kondaiya Ravi Sagar H-2-1-112/PH/9, Road No. 8, Platinum Homes, Venkateshwara Colony, Uppalpally, Attapur, Rajendranagar, R.R Dist -500048 (Borrower).

3. Miss Latha Madhuri Kotha W/o Sri. Ravi Sagar Kotha Kondaiya H-2-1-112/PH/9, Road No.8, Platinum Homes, Venkateshwara Colony, Uppalpally, Attapur, Rajendranagar, R.R Dist -500048 (Guarantor).

Sir/Sr. Enforcement of security interest notice – in connection with the credit facilities/loan enjoyed by you with us – Classified as NPA.

The serial no 1 of above availed mortgage loan vide A/c No. OD-2006602100044 of Rs.25,00,00/- on 06/07/2024 from our Atapur Branch for which Two and Three in the above are guarantors.

The serial no 2 of above availed mortgage loan vide A/c No. RML 2006308100081 of Rs.10,00,00/- on 15/02/2025 from our Atapur Branch for which Three the above is guarantor and First is the Mortgagor of both loans.

Smt. Latha Madhuri Kotha W/o Sri. Ravi Sagar Kotha Kondaiya reported her mortgage of her property shown in the schedule as security to the two loans availed by Smt. Latha Madhuri Kotha and Smt. Ravi Sagar Kotha Kondaiya, in the normal course of banking business the following facilities were sanctioned and availed by first and second of you.

S.I No Date of loan Nature of facility/limit Outstanding amount as on 31/12/2025

1 06-07-2024 OD 2006602100044 Rs.27,60,176.00 Rs.25,00,00/-

2 15-02-2025 RML 2006308100081 Rs.8,91,898.00 Rs.10,00,00/-

Total outstanding Rs.36,52,074.00

You have executed the following documents for each of the said facilities:

1. Demand promissory note 2) Memorandum of Agreement and 3) Memorandum of Deposit of Title Deeds.

The repayment of the aforesaid facilities is personally guaranteed by No. 3 of you executing an agreement of guarantee. The repayment of the said loan and overdraft facility is secured by mortgage of property belonging to No 1 of you more fully described in schedule given here under.

Despite repeated requests/notifications calling upon to pay the amount together with interest, all of you and each of you, who are jointly and severally liable, have failed and committed default in repaying the amount due. The loan accounts have been classified as NON PERFORMING ASSETS since 31/12/2025 in accordance with the directions/guidelines relating to assets classification issued by the Reserve Bank of India.

The outstanding dues payable by you as on 31/12/2025 amount of Rs 36,52

EO TTD visits SPCHC, children's hospital in Tirupati



Tirupati: The TTD Executive Officer Sri Anil Kumar Singhal has instructed officials to expedite the completion of the new building of the Sri Padmavathi Children's Hospital, which is under construction near Alipiri. On Thursday, the TTD EO inspected the Sri Padmavathi Children's Heart Centre and the new hospital building under construction along with the doctors and the engineering officials.

During the inspection, the EO directed the engineering wing to make advance arrangements for medical equipment, furniture, electrical works and other essential infrastructure so that all facilities are ready by the time the building is completed.

The EO reviewed the usage plan of each floor in the G+6 hospital building meant for medical services and its administration. The Doctors informed him that the 6th floor will be used entirely for operation theatres, while the 7th floor will be exclusively used as a helipad.

The EO suggested that images of deities be installed on hospital walls to instill devotion and confidence among patients and their attendants, and emphasized maintaining cleanliness in and around the hospital premises.

He instructed the offi-

cials concerned to complete the construction at the earliest and take steps to inaugurate the new hospital as soon as possible.

Earlier, the TTD EO inspected the Sri Padmavathi Children's Heart Centre and interacted with staff regarding services being provided to patients through the NTR Vaidya Seva, SV Pranadana Trust schemes and offered them several suggestions with respect to online registration and related aspects.

He first inspected the pharmacy store and later interacted with children who had undergone cardiac surgeries and their attendants from Anantapur, Proddatur, Chittoor, Kakinada, Tenali, Rayachoti, Kurnool and other places and enquired about the quality of medical services, availability of free treatment and free medicines.

The attendants expressed immense satisfaction over the services being provided in the hospital.

The Hospital Director Dr N. Srinath Reddy informed the EO that a heart transplant surgery was successfully performed on Bharat from Kurnool. He stated that so far 4,950 cardiac surgeries and 23 heart transplant procedures have been conducted at the hospital.

SSIM HOSTS 27TH EDITION OF SAMANVAY MANAGEMENT FEST IN HYDERABAD



Hyderabad, January 8, 2026: Siva Sivani Institute of Management (SSIM) began the New Year on an energetic note with the 27th edition of Samanvay, its flagship two-day inter-collegiate management fest, held on January 8 and 9 at the SSIM campus in Kompally, Hyderabad. The event drew enthusiastic participation from students across Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and neighbouring states, turning the campus into a vibrant centre of learning, competition, and cultural exchange.

Samanvay 2026 featured 13 competitive events covering both formal and informal categories aimed at enhancing managerial, analytical, creative, and leadership skills. Major management events included Sreshta - The Young Manager, Start Up - Aspiring Entrepreneur Challenge, Saankhya - Detectives of Data, Ad-Venturer - Ad

Designing Competition, Bulls 'n' Bears - The Mock Stock, Business Quiz, and Sustainable Development Goals Poster Presentation. The fest also showcased a colourful range of cultural and informal activities such as Sangeet Sangam (singing), Floor Fusion (dance), Fashion Fiesta, Cut Shot (short film competition), treasure hunt, and the popular BGMI gaming competition, adding to the festive spirit.

Reflecting its growing popularity, over 3,000 students registered for various events this year. The grand fest was graced by noted cine artist Subhalekha Sudhakar as Chief Guest and Sridhar Nandiraju, AVP - JIO, as Guest of Honour, along with SSIM leadership including Aarathy Sampathy, Dr. Sailesh Sampathy, and Deepika. Their addresses inspired students to strive for innovation, excellence, and leadership.

Allotment of land for construction of Kottapalli Police Station



Karimnagar: University Vice-Chancellor Professor U Umesh Kumar said in a statement that the University Executive Council (Executive Council) has taken a decision to allocate 15 acres of land under Satavahana University for the construction of a permanent building of Kothapally Police Station. He stated that a resolution to this effect was taken in the 84th Executive Council meeting held on December 24 last year. He said that 15 pits of land on the road from Malkapur

Junction to Chintakunta, next to the West Gate of the University, have been earmarked for the construction of this building.

VC explained that an official 'No Objection Certificate' (NOC) has been handed over to the Karimnagar Police Commissioner. On this occasion Police Commissioner Goush Alam said that in the surrounding areas of the University, Construction of permanent building of Kothapally Police Station in University to further improve law and order maintenance in urban and rural areas of Karimnagar. He said that organizing it will be beneficial to provide more services to the people. The CP thanked the VC for taking this decision of the university on the request of the police department, recognizing the safety of the students and the need for continuous vigilance in the area.

Telangana culture reflects rural agricultural life: Rajanala Srihari



Warangal TSIT: Greater Warangal Congress Working President Rajanala Srihari on Thursday unveiled the wall magazine for the Sankranti Sahitya and Cultural Competitions being organised under the auspices of the JB Cultural Art Society, with the support of the Telangana Language and Culture Department.

Speaking on the occasion, Rajanala Srihari said that Telangana culture is deeply rooted in the rural agricultural way of life and is beautifully reflected through the festival of Sankranti. He congratulated the organisers for conducting cultural and literary programmes that highlight traditional values and preserve the rich heritage of the Telugu language and culture. He

noted that in the present context, where the Telugu language and cultural traditions face challenges, such initiatives play a vital role in promoting linguistic pride and passing cultural excellence on to future generations.

Addressing the gathering, Telangana Bullion Jewellery and Gents Federation State Joint Secretary and Congress State leader Thota Harish said the organisation is striving to strengthen the Telugu language through continuous cultural and literary activities. Founder President of JB Cultural Art Society, Jadala Shiva Haritha, informed that the competitions will be held on Saturday, January 10, from 10 am at Potana Vigyan Peetham Auditorium in Warangal.

Karimnagar collector reviews arrangements for Venkateswara Swamy Brahmotsavam



KARIMNAGAR - District Collector Pamela Satpathy chaired a high-level review meeting on Thursday, January 8, 2026, to oversee the preparations for the upcoming Sri Venkateswara Swamy Brahmotsavam. The annual festival, which draws thousands of devotees to the Market Road temple, is scheduled to take place from January 23 to January 30, 2026.

During the meeting held at the Collector's camp office, the Collector emphasized the need for seamless coordination between various departments, including Police, Revenue, Municipal, Fire, and Traffic, to ensure the festival's success.

Key directives for the festival:

Devotee Facilities: Officials were instructed to set up secure queue lines with sturdy barricades, shamianas (tents) for shade, and adequate drinking water points throughout the temple vicinity.

Sanitation & Hygiene: A strict "no-waste" policy was mandated for the temple surroundings. Municipal authorities must ensure that food waste is not dumped on roads and that cleanliness is maintained throughout the week-long event.

Safety & Security: To manage the anticipated rush, the Collector ordered the installation of a comprehensive

CCTV network for real-time monitoring.

Electrical Safety: Special attention was directed toward the stage, lighting, and sound systems, with a specific mandate for technical checks to prevent short circuits.

Traffic Management: The Traffic department was tasked with creating a plan to prevent congestion on Market Road, ensuring that the move-

ment of devotees does not disrupt city traffic.

The review session was attended by temple chairmen Chakilam Srinivas and Chakilam Gangadhar, Executive Officer Sudhakar, and temple priest Nagaraju. The Collector concluded by urging all departments to complete the necessary arrangements well before the 'Ankurarpalan' ritual on January 23.

Service to mentally challenged is a universal service: Dr Anitha Reddy



Balasamudram, January 8, 2026, TSIT: Anurag Helping Society Chairman and Kakatiya University Governing Body member Dr Anitha Reddy said that service to the mentally challenged is a universal service and that there is no greater joy than bringing happiness to such children.

Dr Anitha Reddy participated as the chief guest in the Sankranti celebrations organised by Vikas Mentally Handicapped School, Hanmakonda, under the chairmanship of organiser Vishali. She inaugurated the programme by lighting the Jyothi and later served Bhogi pandu to the children, filling the atmosphere with festive cheer. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Anitha Reddy said it was a pleasure to celebrate Sankranti with mentally challenged children, who are pure at heart and free from negativity.

Railways to implement 52 major reforms in 52 weeks: Ashwini Vaishnaw



New Delhi: Union Minister for Railways Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw held a high-level meeting with Union Ministers of State Shri V. Somanan and Shri Ravneet Singh, along with the Railway Board Chairman & CEO and senior officials, at Rail Bhavan in New Delhi to chart out an ambitious reform roadmap for Indian Railways.

During the meeting, it was decided to implement 52 major reforms in 52 weeks, reflecting the spirit of the New Year and a renewed commitment to systemic improvements in efficiency, governance, and service delivery. The dis-

cussions focused on ushering in comprehensive reforms across operations, infrastructure, and passenger services.

Safety remained a key priority, with officials highlighting a significant reduction of nearly 90 per cent in consequential train accidents—from 135 in 2014–15 to 11 in 2025–26. The

ministry aims to further bring this number down to single digits through enhanced safety measures and technological interventions.

The meeting also emphasised accelerating the use of artificial intelligence and advanced technologies for improving safety, maintenance, and capacity enhancement initiatives.

Rs.40.50 Crore Development Works Launched in Shadnagar Municipality



Shadnagar (TSIT) Shadnagar town witnessed a festive and energetic atmosphere on Thursday as MLA Veerlapalli Shankar inaugurated development works worth Rs.40.50 crore across several municipal wards. The programmes saw large participation from

Congress leaders, party workers, and residents, along with a massive bike rally that passed through different wards. On the day, works worth Rs.11 crore were formally launched in various colonies. The sanctioned funds include Rs.18 crore under TDS, Rs.3 crore from

Focus on Better Outcomes in Education, Health: Collector Kumar Deepak.



Mancheri, January 8, 2026, TSIT: District Collector Kumar Deepak has directed officials to work towards achieving measurable improvements in education and healthcare services across the district.

Addressing headmasters during a review meeting held at the District Science Centre on Thursday, the Collector instructed teachers to focus on every student individually and strive to achieve 100 per cent pass results in the upcoming Class X examinations. He emphasised the importance of ensuring regular student atten-

dance, completing the syllabus within the stipulated timeframe, and strengthening students' proficiency in both Telugu and English.

Recalling that the district had recorded a 96.4 per cent pass percentage in the previous academic year, Mr. Deepak expressed confidence that Mancheri could surpass this performance

with sustained and focused efforts from teachers and education officials.

Later in the day, the Collector inspected the 30-bed Government Hospital at Luxettipet, where he reviewed the progress of construction works on the post-mortem room and instructed officials to expedite the completion.

SC reserves verdict on plea of Justice Yashwant Varma assailing validity of inquiry panel by LS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Thursday reserved its verdict on a plea of Allahabad High Court judge Yashwant Varma challenging the legality of the parliamentary panel probing corruption charges against him.

A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and SC Sharma reserved its decision after hearing senior advocates Mukul Rohatgi, Siddharth Luthra, appearing for Varma and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing both houses of Parliament.

During the hearing, Rohatgi and Luthra questioned the procedure adopted in setting up the parliamentary panel and said under the Judges (inquiry) Act of 1968, only the Speaker of Lok Sabha and chairman of Rajya Sabha are entitled to admit the motion for removal of a judge from office. Mehta defended the constitution of the parliamentary panel, and said if the motion has been admitted in both the houses then



The committee submitted its report on May 4, finding Justice Varma guilty of misconduct

the inquiry committee shall be jointly constituted by the speaker and the chairman. On

Wednesday, the top court orally observed that there was no bar under the Judges

Inquiry Act on Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla setting up an inquiry committee to probe corruption charges against Varma after a similar motion was rejected in the Rajya Sabha. Justice Varma was repatriated from the Delhi High Court to the Allahabad High Court after burnt wads of currency notes were found at his official residence in New Delhi on March 14. The top court had on December 16 agreed to hear Justice Varma's plea challenging the constitution of the inquiry committee and issued notices to the office of Lok Sabha Speaker and the secretaries general of both Houses of Parliament.

Earlier, then Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna had initiated an in-house inquiry and constituted a three-member committee comprising Supreme Court judge Justice Aravind Kumar, Madras High Court Chief Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava, and senior advocate B V Acharya. Justice Varma has sought quashing of the Speaker's action, the admission of the motion, and all consequential notices issued by the inquiry committee, contending that the entire process is unconstitutional and contrary to the Judges (Inquiry) Act.

Justice Anu Sivaraman. The committee submitted its report on May 4, finding Justice Varma guilty of misconduct.

After Justice Varma declined to resign, the CJI forwarded the report and the judge's response to the President and the prime minister, setting the stage for impeachment proceedings.

Subsequently, Birla admitted a multi-party motion for Justice Varma's removal on August 12 and constituted a three-member inquiry committee comprising Supreme Court judge Justice Aravind Kumar, Madras High Court Chief Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava, and senior advocate B V Acharya. Justice Varma has sought quashing of the Speaker's action, the admission of the motion, and all consequential notices issued by the inquiry committee, contending that the entire process is unconstitutional and contrary to the Judges (Inquiry) Act.

Mahindra launches new XUV 7XO and electric XEV 9S in Hyderabad



HYDERABAD (TSIT)
Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. has officially launched its latest SUV offerings, the XUV 7XO and the electric XEV 9S, marking a significant expansion in its vehicle portfolio. The launch event took place today, January 8, 2026, at The Park in Somajiguda.

The new vehicles were unveiled by senior Mahindra officials, including Mr. Abhishek Kumar (Zonal Manager - MEAL), Mr. Swathik (Regional Manager - Auto Division), and Mr. Naved Khan (Regional Manager - MEAL). They were joined by key dealer part-

ners: Mr. Narayana (CEO, Automotive Mahindra), Mr. Veerend (MD, VVC Mahindra), and Mr. Mahendar (CEO, Landmark Mahindra).

XUV 7XO: Redefining the Benchmark Building on the success of the XUV 700, which has garnered over 300,000 customers since 2021, the new XUV 7XO enters the market with a starting price of Rs.13.66 lakh (ex-showroom). Mahindra aims to democratize high-end technology with this model, ensuring advanced features are available even in base variants. The standard "AX" variant includes:

Coast-to-Coast 31.24 cm Triple HD screens. Intelligent ADRENOX with Wireless Android Auto & Apple CarPlay Alexa Built-in integrated with ChatGPT. 75 standard safety features.

XEV 9S: India's Big New Electric Priced at Rs.19.95 lakh (ex-showroom), the XEV 9S is positioned as "India's Big New Electric." Designed for families and creators requiring ample space, the SUV is powered by MAIA, described as India's fastest automotive mind. The vehicle combines Mahindra's expressive design philosophy with a focus on "electric freedom," catering to modern Indian lifestyles.

GITAM Hyderabad hosts pre-Sankranti festivities and film festival



cluded with a traditional sit-down lunch served on banana leaves.

Film Festival Simultaneously, the university hosted a Film Festival under the banner 'GITAM 70MM' by The Filmmakers Club.

Coordinated by Pranay Mula, the event provided students with industry exposure through workshops led by professionals. Celebrated writer Gopi Mohan conducted a scriptwriting workshop, while editor Sai Murali

led a session on editing. The day culminated in an interactive session with acclaimed filmmaker Venky Atluri, giving aspiring filmmakers a rare opportunity to learn from leading voices in cinema.

SRM University-AP unveils pioneering AI and quantum initiatives

AMARAVATI - SRM University-AP has announced a series of landmark initiatives in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Quantum Computing, and Green Energy, aiming to establish Andhra Pradesh as a global hub for emerging technologies. The announcement was made by Vice Chancellor Prof. Satish Kumar during a leadership meet on January 8, 2026. Pioneering AI and Quantum Institutes A central highlight is the university's collaboration with Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) to establish a dedicated AI Institute. This partnership will integrate AI education



across all disciplines—including liberal arts and management—and includes faculty capacity-building programs, the first batch of which is set to depart for CMU this weekend. To build a "quantum-ready" workforce, the university is also launching a Quantum Institute.

Aligning with the state's declaration of Amaravati as a Green Hydrogen Valley, the university is launching an Energy Institute. This hub will focus on scalable clean energy solutions and workforce development through applied research and pilot projects. Furthermore, the university is introducing specialized academic programs in: Defense Engineering Financial Engineering Semiconductor Health Engineering Prof. Satish Kumar emphasized that these initiatives are designed to foster interdisciplinary research and produce skilled professionals capable of driving societal advancement and economic growth.

KU VC Prof Pratap Reddy releases a book "Rivers of Grace"



Warangal, Jan 8 (TSIT): 'Rivers of Grace' is an immersive journey through India's most iconic and lesser-known rivers, revealing the magnificent interplay between nature, culture, and history that each waterway embodies," said Vice-Chancellor (VC) of Kakatiya University (KU) Prof. K Pratap Reddy. Releasing a book on "Rivers of Grace: Exploring the Majestic Waterways and Timeless Beauty of India" authored by Prof. B. Suresh Lal, Prof. Reddy, said that the book's narrative begins with the sacred Ganges, tracing its origins in the Himalayas and exploring the spiritual practices centred on its life-giving waters. Alongside this, the story delves into the Brahmaputra's fierce rapids and expansive floodplains, highlighting its role in sustaining diverse wildlife and communities, he added. Participating as the Guest, Chief Convenor of the Indian Economic Association (IEA) Dr. Anil Kumar Thakur stated that

as the book progresses, readers are taken to the tranquil backwaters of Kerala, where the intricate network of rivers and canals paints a serene landscape inhabited by unique flora and fauna. "The journey continues along the Yamuna, sharing tales of ancient cities and legends that have flourished on its banks, contrasting with modern conservation challenges. The book also explores the Narmada and Godavari rivers, illustrating their significance in regional cultures and economies. Throughout, personal stories, historical anecdotes, and environmental

'Marathi manoos' will be powerless if BJP controls civic bodies: Raj Thackeray

Mumbai: MNS chief Raj Thackeray has launched a scathing attack on the BJP, alleging that those seeking to separate Mumbai from Maharashtra are in power at the Centre and in the state, and warned that if they control the municipal corporations, "Marathi manoos" will be rendered powerless.

In the first part of a joint interview of Raj and Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray, published in the latter's party mouthpiece Saamana on Thursday, the Maharashtra Nanirman Sena (MNS) chief said he and his cousin have come together not for their existence but for that of "Marathi manoos" in the state.

The Thackeray cousins were interviewed by Sena (UBT) Rajya Sabha member and Saamana's Executive Editor Sanjay Raut and noted director Mahesh Manjrekar. Last month, the cousins announced the alliance of their parties for the January 15 Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) elections.

In the Saamana interview,



Raj Thackeray said those from outside the state are not just coming for livelihood, but they are forming their own constituencies. "It is an old wound...efforts are on to realize the dream of separating Mumbai from Maharashtra," he claimed. Today, the atmosphere is similar to what it was during the Samyukta Maharashtra movement when Gujarat wanted Mumbai to be its part, he said. "Those who want to separate Mumbai from Maharashtra are in power in the Centre as well as the state," Raj Thackeray said, targeting the BJP. "Marathi manoos will not be able to do anything if (the) BJP controls the municipal corporations," he claimed.

Khammam collector outlines welfare roadmap for persons with disabilities

KHAMMAM - District Collector Anudeep Durishetty has announced a robust action plan dedicated to the upliftment and welfare of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in the district.

Speaking at the International Day of Persons with Disabilities celebrations held at the Collectorate on Thursday, January 8, 2026, the Collector detailed several initiatives aimed at transparency and inclusivity. The celebrations, which were delayed by a month due to the recent Gram Panchayat elections, served as a platform for the administration to reaffirm its commitment to disability rights. Key Welfare Initiatives Employment & Backlog Posts: Drawing on his successful record in Hyderabad, the Collector assured that backlog vacancies in Khammam would be filled through a transparent and stringent process. Additionally, a 5% quota will be strictly implemented for new Meeseva centers. Housing & Livelihood: PWDs

will receive a 5% reservation in the Indiramma Housing Scheme. Municipal authorities have also been directed to prioritize the community for street vending opportunities. SADAREM & Healthcare: To ensure fairness, the Collector stated he would personally conduct random checks on the issuance of SADAREM disability certificates to maintain transparency. Education: Responding to grievances raised during Prajavani, a new special school for visually impaired children will be inaugurated in Khammam shortly. Cultural and Community



Support The administration is fast-tracking the land allotment for the Disabled Self-Respect Building (Atma Gaurava Bhavanam). During the event, Collector Durishetty also distributed marriage incentive awards and prizes to winners of district-level sports competitions. The event concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony attended by District Welfare Officer Vijetha, Deputy DM&HO Dr. Venu Madhav, and various disability rights advocates who praised the ongoing "Every Child Reads" initiative for its positive impact on inclusive education.

EDITORIAL

Why 10-Minute Delivery Model Is Under Pressure In India

India's booming quick-commerce industry is on notice. In a New Year's Eve flash strike, more than 200,000 riders refused to ferry food, grocery and other orders nationwide. While gig workers' demands for fair pay, safety, and dignity can be addressed to some extent by the platforms that use their services, the union leading the protest also wants a more fundamental change: an end to 10-minute deliveries. That would be a showstopper.

Like everywhere else, the Indian consumer's fascination for everything to arrive in under half an hour began during the pandemic lockdowns — with daily essentials. But while the likes of Fridge No More, Buyk, Jokr, and Getir died or faded away in the US once shopping habits normalized, the Indian industry just kept getting bigger by shortening delivery times and adding more items — from pillows to prescription drugs — to the list of things available for instant gratification. Apps like Blinkit, Swiggy Instamart, and Zepto have liberally poured money into so-called dark stores, strategically located warehouses dedicated to fulfilling online orders. Traditional retailers, led by tycoon Mukesh Ambani, and e-commerce heavyweights like Amazon.com Inc. and Walmart Inc.'s Flipkart, were late to the party. But now they're also investing feverishly. Real-estate broker Savills Plc expects a threefold growth in dark stores by 2030 — to 7,500 from 2,500 — as the craze for everything arriving in 10 minutes spills over into smaller Indian cities. The strike has sparked a debate about the cost of this addiction. Apps claim that they don't put drivers on the clock. But delays do show up as bad ratings, angry calls by supervisors and monetary penalties, forcing riders to engage in risky behavior on narrow, congested, potholed roads that are already notorious for a death every third minute. In the capital New Delhi, being out on the streets means constant exposure to hazardous air.

Even before the recent disruption, investors were getting rattled by calls for better social security for gig workers under India's new labor codes. Since mid-October, shares of Swiggy Ltd. and Eternal Ltd., which owns food-delivery service Zomato and quick-commerce app Blinkit, have fallen around 20%, even though the benchmark Nifty 50 Index has been broadly stable.

The flash strike has complicated matters. If regulatory diktats nudge consumers to be a little more patient — or force labor to be a little less desperate — the business model breaks down before it turns profitable. The new czars of quick commerce are trying to prevent such an outcome. In a flurry of posts on X, Eternal's Chief Executive Officer Deepinder Goyal blamed a "small number of miscreants" for obstructing non-striking agents. With order volumes hitting an all-time high of 7.5 million on December 31, the strike had failed to affect operations, he said. But even while dismissing the strike, Goyal has gone to great lengths to address the rising social concerns. The 10-minute mandate, he says, isn't leading to unsafe driving — Blinkit riders cover an average distance of 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) at a speed of 16 kilometers per hour. The company pays the premiums for drivers' insurance. Finally, the average worker earns 102 rupees (\$1.13) every hour they're logged in. (Tips are extra, but meager.) For someone working 10 hours, 26 days a month, that translates into 21,000 rupees monthly, net of fuel and vehicle maintenance. "Now tell me, is this unfair? Especially for an unskilled job, which is largely part time, and has zero barriers to entry?" he asked on X. Well, the problem with the model is revealed by Goyal's own data. Very few people are actually putting in the effort needed to earn the 21,000 rupees a month in his hypothetical example. In a year, the average Zomato delivery worker put in 38 days, seven hours per working day. Only 2.3% worked more than 250 days. If gig work is a decent halfway house between abject urban poverty and a formal sector that has few jobs to offer, surely more people will try to maximize their earnings from the platform?

Madhav Gadgil: The 'Durable Optimist' Who Believed Science, Too, Has Obligations

The last time I spoke to Madhav Gadgil was not in a forest or a committee room, where we usually met for interviews, but on the phone, amid the eruption of public protests in Kerala against the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) report he had chaired in 2011. He spoke softly, almost diffidently, about what he had learnt from the field. I, less restrained, ranted about the misinformation being spread by vested interests among villages in the high ranges of Idukki. It did not take long for us to realize we were circling the same truth from different directions, that India's environmental crises cannot be understood from the lens of ecology, not through history alone, but only by patiently weaving together an understanding of 'nature-peoples-equity' for the future. That synthesis was, in many ways, the story of Madhav Gadgil's life. What Brought Gadgil Back To India Born in Pune, educated in Bombay (now Mumbai) and then at Harvard, where he studied biology under EO Wilson, Gadgil could easily have built a distinguished academic career in the United States. Instead, in the early 1970s, he and his wife, atmospheric scientist Sulochana Gadgil, returned to India, determined to build knowledge where it mattered most. It was a choice rooted not in nationalism, but in conscience. At the Indian Institute of Science (IIS), Bengaluru, then under the leadership of Satish Dhawan, the Gadgils found



a home. Sulochana helped establish the Centre for Atmospheric Sciences and reshaped India's understanding of the monsoon. Madhav Gadgil founded the Centre for Ecological Sciences, which went on to train generations of ecologists. Much of India's environmental scholarship today carries his intellectual DNA, often unacknowledged. The Man Who Saw Forests - And People Madhav Gadgil began, as many ecologists do, with animals and equations. But the forests he studied were never empty spaces. They were inhabited landscapes, dense with human histories and everyday struggles. In and around national parks, he encountered repeated conflicts between forest departments, conservationists, Adivasis, peasants and pastoralists. What disturbed him was not only ecological damage but the systematic bias of state policy where forests are managed for timber and revenue, not for livelihoods, justice or long-term sustainability. This moral clarity owed much to his father, economist DR

Edit

HYDERABAD
FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2026

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The \$700-Billion-Big China Problem Behind Trump's Venezuela Blitz



If you go by the headlines, you would think the removal of Venezuela's president, Nicolas Maduro, and his transfer to the United States were carried out to protect America's national security. We were told he was involved in narco-terrorism and drug trafficking that was poisoning and ruining American lives. This, we were assured, was law enforcement that required the use of force. Then, in typical Donald Trump fashion, the curtain slipped. He admitted — some might say — boasted, with refreshing bluntness that it was really about oil. Vast oil reserves that Venezuela is blessed with. What he did not say was that it may also be about rare minerals, present in abundance in Venezuela and desperately needed by the US. And what he did not explicitly say was that it was about dismantling China's presence in Latin America. He left that to his Secretary of State.

Scratch the surface, and you don't need to be Einstein to see the larger picture. Venezuela was never just Venezuela. It was one more battlefield in the long, grinding US-China standoff, with energy sitting right at the centre. The November temporary truce between the two parties has done little to allay doubts and suspicions against each other.

Rubio's Revelation

A couple of days after the lightning strike in Caracas, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio dropped the pretence altogether. "This is the Western Hemisphere. This is where we live," he said, before making it clear that Washington would not tolerate rivals using it as a base of operations. You get the drift, don't you? It's about China. And to a much lesser degree, about Iran. And just in case anyone missed the point, Rubio spelt out the provocation. You cannot, he said, allow the world's largest energy reserves to sit in the hands of America's adversaries. Period. For two decades now, China has been doing what it does in many countries. Patiently and quietly, writing cheques, building roads, power plants and ports and locking in long-term energy supplies. Venezuela fitted the model perfectly. Beijing invested more than \$100

billion in infrastructure and energy projects and cultivated political goodwill. China became the destination for nearly 80% of Venezuelan oil exports. These are official Chinese figures for 2024. Only hours before he was abducted, Maduro was calling President Xi Jinping an "elder brother" and a global leader, while Chinese state media busily showcased the depth of bilateral ties. Those images were soon overshadowed by pictures of Maduro blindfolded, handcuffed and photographed aboard a US warship.

Should Maduro's Ouster Worry China?

But if anyone still believes this was merely about removing a "hostile" leader, they are being wilfully naive. This was about dismantling a strategic pillar of Chinese influence in Latin America. The damage to China's interests in Venezuela is immediate and measurable. The flow of Venezuelan oil exports to China is in jeopardy. Chinese firms, such as the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) and Sinopec, were among the largest investors and operators in the country. Beijing's exposure includes more than \$100 billion in finance and project commitments since 2000, and around \$10 billion in outstanding loans. They are assets now vulnerable to freezes, nationalisation, renegotiation or

quiet disappearance under a new political dispensation. We do not know whether the raid disrupted physical oil flows to China. What's important is that it injected political poison into every existing deal and every future calculation. Chinese banks and companies will now have to factor in US pressure as a permanent risk, while regional partners will think twice before deepening ties that could turn into geopolitical liabilities overnight. And mind you, Venezuela is only part of the story. China has painstakingly assembled a formidable economic footprint across Latin America. Trade between China and the region crossed \$518 billion in 2024, making Beijing the largest trading partner for much of South America. Conservative estimates also place China's investment stock in Latin America at well over \$100 billion, spread across energy, mining, logistics, ports and telecoms, with an additional \$150 billion or more extended through loans and development finance. These figures are drawn from long-term tracking by the China-Latin America Finance Database, run by the Inter-American Dialogue and Boston University and academic monitors, such as the Red ALC-China and Dussel Peters Monitor, which have documented Beijing's deep and sustained capital exposure across the region. That scale is sufficient to generate economic leverage, and more than enough to trigger strategic anxiety in Washington.

Growing American Anxiety

That anxiety has been visible for some time. But the Panama Canal episode brought it into sharp focus. In 2025, US officials openly urged Panama to review or cancel Chinese-linked port agreements near the canal, citing security concerns. Beijing responded by questioning the scrutiny of Hong Kong-based CK Hutchison's assets and demanding explanations. Some terminals came under new management, others under political review. What had once been commercial contracts were suddenly recast as national security threats. The US seemed to tell China that in strategic locations, its investment is no longer treated as business. It is treated as provocation. Once Caracas was out of the way, President Trump and his senior officials began naming other countries in the region, sometimes casually, sometimes threateningly. Colombia was one of the first to feel the heat. President Trump publicly warned his left-wing president, Gustavo Petro, accusing him of allowing drug cartels to "flourish" and hinting darkly that Washington would not tolerate Colombia becoming a problem state.

Indore, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru: Why Your 'Clean' City Doesn't Have Clean Water

Indore, Gandhinagar and Bengaluru often feature at the top of India's urban success stories. Indore has been repeatedly crowned the 'cleanest' city under the Swachh Survekshan rankings. The twin cities of Gandhinagar and Ahmedabad are projected as planned, green and well-governed urban centres, with Gandhinagar set to host the Commonwealth Games in 2030. At the Swachh Survekshan 2024-25 awards in July 2025, Ahmedabad was declared India's cleanest 'big city' (million-plus population category), while Gandhinagar topped the 'Super Swachh League' (3-10 lakh population). Bengaluru, despite its chronic challenges, continues to be branded India's technology hub and boasts one of the highest municipal revenues in the country. Yet beneath these impressive labels lies a disturbing and deadly reality: contaminated drinking water caused by the mixing of water supply and sewage pipelines. Gadgil consistently bridged science and public policy. He helped place people, not just species, at the centre of conservation. People's Scientist Recognition for this kind of science came late, and often from outside India. Over the years, Gadgil received the Volvo Environment Prize, the Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement, and India's Padma Bhushan. In 2024, the United Nations Environment Programme named him a Champion of the Earth, describing him as a "people's scientist" who fused ecological rigour with democratic rights.



eight deaths before the High Court. According to reports, 310 patients from Indore's Bhagirathpura area have been admitted to hospitals since December 24. In Gandhinagar, a sudden surge in typhoid cases has been reported across several localities. Health authorities confirmed 85 active cases, with a total of 144 cases registered as of January 7. Anticipating an influx of young patients, Gandhinagar Civil Hospital opened a 30-bed paediatric ward to treat children suffering from high fever, vomiting and gastrointestinal symptoms. Contaminated water has been identified as the primary cause. In Bengaluru, households in KSFC Layout, Lingarajapuram, have been forced to arrange private water supplies for over a week due to contaminated tap water. Residents reported gastrointestinal issues, vomiting and diarrhoea for months, but the scale of contamination became evident only recently. At its core, access to safe drinking water is neither a luxury nor an aspirational goal; it is a constitutional and moral obligation of the state.

Article 21 of the Indian Constitution, as interpreted by the Supreme Court, includes the right to clean water as intrinsic to the right to life. When people fall seriously ill or die because sewage enters drinking water pipelines, it is not an accident — it is a failure of governance, planning, maintenance and accountability. The tragedy in Indore is particularly stark given the city's reputation. Its cleanliness rankings focus largely on solid waste management, visible sanitation and behavioural campaigns such as segregation and public toilets. Water infrastructure, by contrast, remains largely invisible — buried underground and ignored until it fails catastrophically. Gandhinagar's typhoid outbreak reveals a similar contradiction. Officials have admitted that the problem did not stem from ageing pipelines but from newly laid ones placed dangerously close to existing sewer lines. When high-pressure water began flowing, weak pipes developed leaks, allowing contamination. This represents gross dereliction of public duty and safety, and those responsible must be held accountable. Planned cities are often assumed to be safer, but planning without sustained maintenance is meaningless. Preventive and breakdown maintenance are well-established concepts in urban management. Yet preventive maintenance, in practice, remains confined to paper. Bengaluru's experience highlights another dimension: fragmented governance. Multiple agencies manage water supply, sewage, stormwater drains and roadworks. When one agency damages pipelines during excavation, another is tasked with repairs, while a third monitors water quality — often resulting in no one being held responsible. During monsoons, overflowing drains and flooded streets further exacerbate contamination risks. For a city that projects itself as a global technology hub, residents routinely boil water or rely on expensive private tankers — an irony bordering on the absurd. Why this is alarming: Around 70% of India's surface water is unfit for consumption.

V.B.G. Ramji Act to be fought in courts and on streets: DCM D.K. Shivakumar

Bengaluru : DCM D.K. Shivakumar said, "The Congress party will fight against the central government's V.B.G. Ramji Act in courts and on streets to create awareness among the people. He was responding to the media ahead of a meeting of party ministers, MPs, MLAs and leaders organized at Hotel Lalit Ashoka on Thursday to discuss the party's struggle against the central government's V.B.G. Ramji Act in the coming days.

"This new law of the central government is difficult to implement. The power to select the work in the MNREGA project was with the panchayats. Now the decision is taken from Delhi. No state can afford 40 percent of the grant. The central government should have sought

Prahlad Joshi does not know the history of National Herald newspaper



the opinion of the states before taking a decision on this issue. This decision was taken without seeking the opinion of the states. We will go to the court against this. We will also take to the streets and fight. We will hold meet-

ings in every panchayat. We will create awareness among the people in every taluk and district headquarters," he said. "This is an issue of employment rights. The right to livelihood cannot be curtailed. No panchayat in the entire

country can digest this. A resolution should be taken against this law in all panchayats," he said.

Prahlad Joshi does not know the history of the National Herald newspaper. When asked about Union Minister Prahlad Joshi's statement that it was wrong to advertise in the National Herald newspaper, he said, "Prahlad Joshi does not know the history of the National Herald newspaper. This newspaper was started during the country's freedom struggle. It is a part of the country's history. Neither Prahlad Joshi nor his party has ever believed in the democratic system. He and his party have not fought for the country's freedom. Therefore, they are unaware. It was the Congress party that fought for the freedom of this

country.

The Commission highlighted that the government will prioritize drinking water supply, solid waste management, and ward-level monitoring.

Dr. Narayanaswamy

noted that since the corporation serves a population exceeding 10 lakh, it remains eligible for the Central Government's "Million Plus" scheme grants.

Key infrastructure and development demands

The Commissioner outlined a comprehensive roadmap for the corporation's growth, identifying several urgent funding areas:



including fencing and security, and the development of 303 parks.

Waste Management: Procurement of auto-tippers and compactors, and the establishment of "Kasa Kiosks" and bio-methane gas plants.

Administrative and social requirements: The proposed Rs.1,675 crore grant also covers essential operational costs, including:

Environment: Conservation of 59 lakes, Roads: Asphalt 430 km of unpaved roads and building footpaths in newly integrated areas.

Environment: Conservation of 59 lakes,

Staffing: Addressing the

BDA Recovers property at Arkavathy Layout

Bangalore : Bengaluru Development Authority recovered its encroached property at Arkavathy Layout in an operation conducted on Thursday.

Unauthorized sheds on which had come up in Sy. No. 28/1 & 28/2 of Thanisandra Village, K.R. Pura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk was demolished and an extent of 2



Complete K.R. Market Basement Parking Works at the Earliest: Daljit Kumar

IMPROVEMENT IN CLEANLINESS AT K.R. MARKET DUE TO INTENSIVE CLEANING DRIVES



Bengaluru: The Additional Commissioner (Development) of Bengaluru Central City Corporation, Daljit Kumar, visited K.R. Market in the city and inspected the parking works being carried out in the

basement of the market building. He said that, K.R. Market is a historic and heritage building that attracts thousands of customers every day. As there is no proper parking facility in the surrounding areas, the basement parking facility being developed at K.R. Market will be convenient for the public and will also ensure the safety of vehicles. Further, he stated that the parking project is in its final stage and instructed the engineers and contractors to complete the remaining works at the earliest.

State Police Who Stripped a Woman Like Dushyasana, Hand Over the Case to Judicial Inquiry, Suspend the Police: Opposition Leader R. Ashok Demands

Bengaluru : The incident in Hubballi where police stripped a woman has made the entire state hang its head in shame. Through this, the police themselves have become like Dushyasana. Opposition leader R. Ashok demanded that this case be handed over to a judicial inquiry.

Speaking at a press conference, he said that in the Congress government, there is no guarantee for women to live. Previously, during the session in Belagavi, a Dalit woman was stripped and assaulted. Recently, a girl was raped in Mysuru. Now in Hubballi, the police themselves have stripped and assaulted a woman. In the Mahabharata, Dhritarashtra was blind, and Gandhari had blindfolded herself. Similarly, here CM Siddaramaiah is blind, and DCM D.K. Shivakumar has blindfolded himself. The police have stripped her like Dushyasana. This is a mirror to the law and order situation, he said. CM Siddaramaiah has given a judgment like a judge saying that she removed her clothes herself. When a shooting incident happened in Ballari, the CM said the investigation is in progress. Later, he said it was fired from a Congress worker's gun. In this case, before giving a statement that she removed her clothes herself, the investigation report should have come. If the Chief Minister gives a judgment before the report comes, the police have to write the report accordingly. There is a conspiracy to cover up this case, he said.

It is not possible for a woman to



remove her clothes when there are 20 police in the van. The local Congress corporator obstructed the revision of the voters' list. The police took action listening to the corporator. They did not show this much enthusiasm to arrest Bangladeshis or the robbers who stole Rs 7 crore from the bank. In the Congress period, 43,053 cases of atrocities against women have been registered. Even during the entire tenure of former Chief Minister Devraj Urs, so many cases did not occur. Yet Siddaramaiah compares himself to this, he said.

The Women's Commission has already condemned it. I have written letters to the Human Rights Commission and the Women's Commission. The police have also registered a case against the victimized woman. The inspector and all police involved in this act should be suspended by 10 AM on January 9. I will go to Hubballi and protest. Otherwise, we will call this the Dushyasana government, he said.

The Women's Commission members have spoken in favor of the opponents. They have given a clean chit without the investigation report coming yet. The police went to raid the house like arresting terrorists. They have not engaged in anti-national activities. The police did this work listening to the Congress corporator. Only the Home Minister and the Chief Minister can hold meetings with police officials. The Deputy Chief Minister does not have such authority. This is unconstitutional, he said.

Engineering the Future: Global Leaders Unite at GITAM for ICTIEE 2026

Bengaluru : GITAM (Deemed to be University) a premier institution driving innovation through multidisciplinary education and impactful research, hosted the 13th International Conference on Transformations in Engineering Education (ICTIEE 2026) at its Bengaluru campus, marking high-impact dialogue and global collaboration.

Hosted in partnership with The Indo Universal Collaboration For Engineering Education (IUCEE Foundation), the flagship event based on the theme "Transforming Teaching and Learning Ecosystems in the AI-Driven World", brought educators and industry leaders together to innovative pedagogical practices and research aimed at improving the quality and effectiveness of engineering and higher education worldwide.

Dr. Vidyashankar, Vice Chancellor Visvesvaraya Technological University, emphasized that transfor-



mation in engineering education is no longer a choice; it is a necessity.

Commenting on the conference, Prof. Basavaraj Gundappa K, Pro Vice Chancellor GITAM University, Bengaluru & conference General Chair Said, "Our goal wasn't just to talk about AI, but to figure out how we keep the student at the heart of the learning process. I believe the roadmaps developed here at ICTIEE 2026 will serve as the foundation for a more creative, resilient, and human-centric approach to engineering education." The keynote sessions at ICTIEE 2026 pushed the boundaries of traditional academia, sparking a series of provocative conversations.

Echoing the same thoughts, Dr. Ashok S. Shettar, Pro Chancellor, KLE Technological University, highlighted the fact that the classrooms must be a lab for ingenuity, not just a hall for information. He also emphasized the importance of multidisciplinary collaborations that will produce the adaptable leaders of the AI-driven

world demands. Experts led deep dives into the 'AI Faculty Lounge,' exploring the shifting dynamics of classrooms where bots act as co-teachers, while other sessions championed a move 'From Passive to Play' through gamified engineering curriculum. Throughout the conference, a singular message emerged: education must be treated as a living system. Speakers emphasized to view AI not as a replacement for the educator, but as a powerful catalyst to reignite student motivation and engagement in a rapidly evolving era.

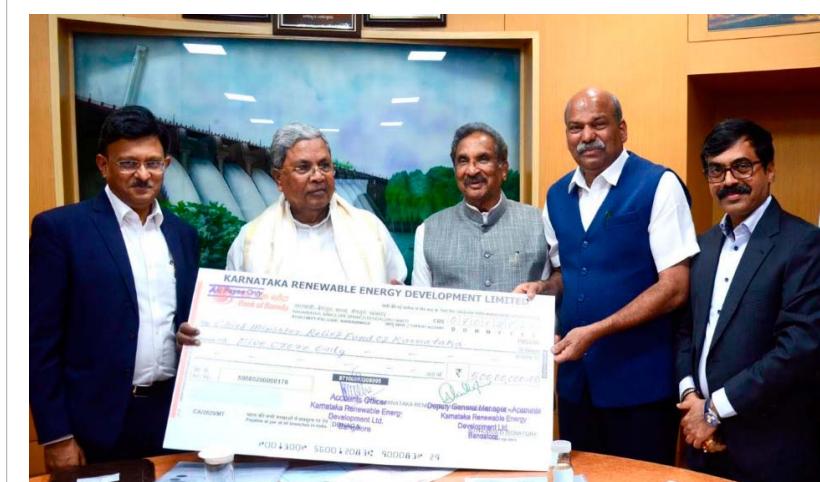
"Our students aren't waiting for the future—they're building it. This year's forum proved that when you combine a young person's empathy with AI's speed, magic happens. We're teaching them to be more than just engineers; we're teaching them to be visionaries who anticipate challenges before they even arrive," said Krishna Vedula, IUCEE Foundation.

Power Supply Disconnected to 66 Advertisement Hoardings within the North City Corporation Limits

Bengaluru: Acting on the directions of the Commissioner of Bengaluru North City Corporation, Pommala Sunil Kumar, a total of 82 unauthorized LED advertisement hoardings were identified within Zones 1 and 2 of the Bengaluru North City Corporation. Out of these, power supply has been disconnected to 66 hoardings. This action was carried out by a team of subdivision officers under the leadership of the Zonal Joint Commissioners. Strict instructions have been issued not to install such unauthorized LED advertisement hoardings in the future, and the said action has been taken in the interest of ensuring smooth and safe movement of the public.



KREDL presents Rs.77.17 cr dividend



BENGALURU – Energy Minister K.J. George presented a dividend cheque of Rs.77.17,50,000 to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah today, marking a successful financial year for the Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (KREDL).

The dividend represents 30% of the net profit earned by KREDL, which reached Rs.257.25 crore for the 2024-25 fiscal year. The presentation took place at the Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) office in the presence of senior state officials.

Key Contributions and Highlights: CM's Relief Fund: In addition to the dividend, KREDL contributed Rs.5 crore to the Chief Minister's Relief

Fund to support state welfare initiatives.

Financial Growth: The company's performance underscores its growing role as the state's nodal agency for renewable energy, showing a significant upward trajectory in its annual net profits. Leadership Presence: The event was attended by KREDL Chairman and MLA T.D. Raja Gowda, Additional Chief Secretary (Energy) Gaurav Gupta, and KREDL Managing Director K.P. Rudrappaiah.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah commended the corporation for its profitable operations and its continued commitment to advancing Karnataka's

Dravidian model looks the technology as a tool for social upliftment: CM Stalin



C H E N N A I : Emphasising that technology must serve society, Chief Minister MK Stalin on Thursday said that the Dravidian model of governance has looked at technology as a tool for the upliftment of the society. He recalled that late Chief Minister Karunanidhi had introduced computer education at the school level and inaugurated the TIDEL Park, laying a strong foundation for the State's technology-driven growth.

Inaugurating a two-day symposium 'U'magine TN' on Information Technology, the Chief Minister said the Dravidian model of governance did not view technology merely as an instrument, but as a tool for the social upliftment of people. Highlighting the role of Chennai, the Chief Minister said the city had emerged as a global capability centre for next-generation industries, including advanced research and

development, fintech, automotive software, and engineering design. Emphasising balanced and inclusive growth, Stalin said the government was ensuring that technological development was not confined to a single city but spread across the State. Citing Union Ministry data, he said that 32 out of the State's 38 districts were now engaged in software exports, reflecting the widespread reach of the sector. He further said Tamil Nadu was among

the few regions globally to have effectively integrated traditional industries along with emerging sectors.

Hailing the State's human resources, the Chief Minister said the government was providing students with the latest laptops equipped with artificial intelligence capabilities. "This is not an expense but an investment in the future. Technology must be accessible to all," he said. Stating that the State's targets were clear, Stalin said Tamil Nadu aimed to remain at the forefront even as new technologies. He stressed that growth should be inclusive, ensuring that no one was left behind. "Knowledge and technology must be equally available to everyone. The Dravidian model government is building that future for the younger generation," he added.

CM Stalin: Amit Shah lowered HM post's stature by claiming Hindus' rights snatched in TN

DINDIGUL: Chief Minister MK Stalin on Wednesday said Union Home Minister Amit Shah's accusation that the rights of Hindus are being snatched away in Tamil Nadu is completely false and unbecoming of his position.

Addressing a government function here, the chief minister said his dispensation respects the beliefs of people belonging to all religions and protects their religious rights. "In a state such as ours, the Home Minister's accusation that the rights of Hindus are being snatched away is completely false and unbecoming of his position. To tell the truth, it is the mindset of those who wish to create riots and division that has not succeeded in Tamil Nadu," he said.

Such a thing will never happen in the future either, and "we will not allow it to happen."

"As long as this Stalin is here, it will absolutely not happen," the ruling DMK president asserted. At a public meeting in Pudukkottai



on Sunday, Shah had accused the DMK of consistently disrespecting Hinduism and the sentiments of Hindus in the state. The BJP veteran also slammed the Stalin government over "atrocities" on Hindus. He alleged Hindu forms of worship were being "insulted," and claimed that during the Ayodhya Ram Temple bhoomi puja, an "unannounced curfew was imposed" in the state. "Their senior leaders call Sanatan Dharma dengue, malaria. Hindu processions and visarjan (immersion of idols of Hindu deities) have been stayed. I want to tell Stalin: you have broken the constitutional ethos by committing atrocities against Hindus," he had then said. In a state such as ours, the Home Minister's accusation that the rights of Hindus are being snatched away is completely false and unbecoming of his position – MK Stalin, Chief Minister.

Tyagaraja's favourite ragas adds grandeur to aradhana

TIRUCHY: The musicians across the country on Wednesday paid homage to Saint Tyagaraja, one of the trinities of Carnatic music, at Tiruvariyar by rendering the Pancharatna Kritis, the five gems of Tyagaraja's compositions, as an ensemble in a form of musical tribute.

The 179th Aradhana festival commenced on January 3, which was presided over by the Madras High Court Judge R. Suresh Kumar. Subsequently, the music



events were held every day from 9 am to 10 pm. The main function of the "Aradhana" festival was held on the death anniversary on Wednesday. The event commenced with the "Unchavriti" Bhajan from Tirumanjana Veedhi, where the saint composer lived.

Over 9.89 lakh forms for name inclusion alone have been received to date. Even as the poll panel is yet to receive 18% of the forms issued so far, it eyes crossing 15 lakh forms in the State

EC's spl camp route helps garner over 13L revision forms

CHENNAI: The Election Commission of India (ECI) in the State has received over 13.38 lakh filled-out forms, issued for name inclusion, change of address or deletion of duplicate entries, as part of the drive to complete the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), after erasing 97 lakh voters from the draft rolls, published recently.

Over 9.89 lakh forms for name inclusion alone have been received to date. Even as the poll panel is yet



under the three categories. A whopping 82% of the filled-out electoral forms prescribed for name inclusion and deletion in the voter list have been successfully received, thanks to special camps conducted over four days, ever since the claims and objections period began on December 19, the EC said.

The poll panel received an overwhelming response for the special weekend camps conducted on December 27 and 28, and January 3 and 4.

The reception was better in districts such as Coimbatore, Madurai, Cuddalore, and Chengalpattu, though the capital city, Chennai, lagged. "The weekend camps have been very helpful for the public, especially in urbanised districts. A total of 13.38 lakh forms, including 9.89 lakh forms for name inclusion, have been received through these camps. We expect this number to reach 15 lakh by the last date for claims and objections on January 18," ECI officials said.

Should you go foldable?



tion if you're seeking a novel smartphone experience.

We pick four premium foldable smartphones if you're ready to make the switch: Google Pixel Fold: the newest device to join the premium foldable party, the newest Pixel foldable scores on multiple fronts. It includes the latest version

zoom performance (Rs 1,72,999)

Samsung Galaxy Z Fold7: probably the foldable smartphone to beat right now. The Z Fold7 is Samsung's most improved Z Fold. The device scores with its ultra-slim form factor (it weighs about 10% less than its predecessor despite packing the same battery and a larger 8-inch

Many industry observers believe Apple's imminent foldable iPhone launch could shake things up, yet there's no firm launch date yet, with rumours suggesting it might get pushed to Q3 2027.

of Gemini backed by the Google Tensor G5 chipset that gives it's AI creds a serious boost. This elegantly designed foldable features Google's immersive 8.0-inch Super Actua Flex display that hits a peak brightness of 3,000 nits. The rear camera performance is sold with terrific

primary display). Samsung offers an evolved foldable experience with proprietary solutions like DeX that allow you to extend your screen by hooking up wirelessly with a smart display for a desktop-type experience (Rs 174,999 onwards). OnePlus Open: It's been two years

since OnePlus launched its only foldable smartphone, and yet this device still makes it to our list for its all-around appeal. You might be able to score this device under a lakh on many online platforms. The 16GB RAM and 512GB internal storage ensure this device is still a performance beast. The Open's biggest design win is that it feels just like a conventional smartphone in your hand. It combines two immersive displays, while the rear cam snaps terrific portraits thanks to Hasselblad optics. (Rs 99,999 onwards) Vivo X Fold5: At under 220 gm, this is one of the lightest foldable smartphones you can buy right now. The X Fold5 combines a 6.53-inch cover display with a gorgeous 8.03-inch that peaks at 4500 nits. These screens are backed by a massive 6000 mAh battery despite its slim form. Vivo has leveraged its partnership with Zeiss to deliver a terrific camera experience - the triple rear cam also includes a 3x telephoto cam (Rs 1,49,999)

New AI model can predict blood loss in liposuction

NEW DELHI: A newly developed artificial intelligence (AI) model is highly accurate in predicting blood loss in patients undergoing high-volume cosmetic surgery procedures, such as liposuction, according to a study. While liposuction performed in more than 2.3 million patients per year to remove stubborn fat from the face, abdomen, thighs, arms, or neck is generally safe, excessive blood loss is a potentially serious complication, especially when higher volumes of fat are removed.

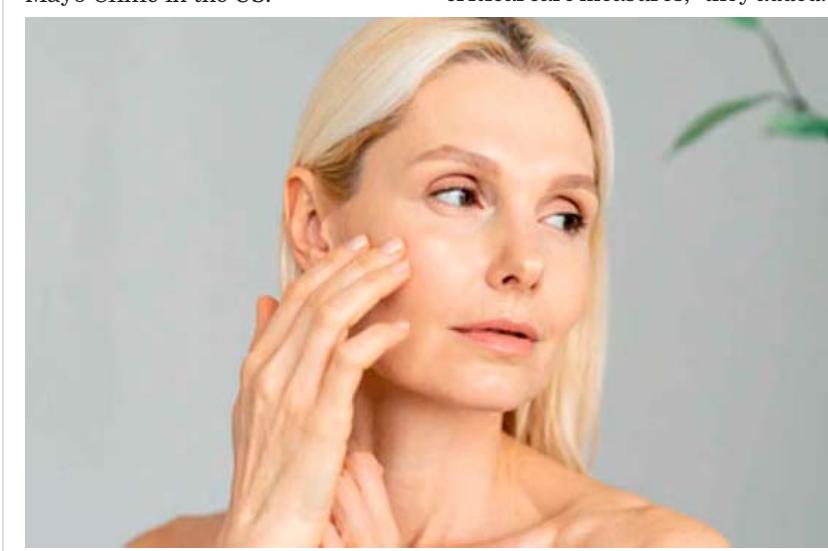
The study reported in the Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery journal called the development of an AI model to predict blood loss in liposuction a "groundbreaking advancement" with the potential to improve patient safety and surgical outcomes.

"By leveraging the power of AI-driven predictive models, surgeons can tailor their interventions to each patient's unique needs, ensuring optimal outcomes and minimising the risk of complications such as excessive blood loss," said the international research team, including those from the Department of Public Health, Health Ministry of Ecuador, and Mayo Clinic in the US.

The team used machine learning technologies to analyse data from 721 patients undergoing large-volume liposuction, with a total volume of over 4,000 milliliters (four liters) of fat and fluid removed. All procedures were carried out at two clinics, one in Colombia and one in Ecuador, following identical liposuction protocols.

Data from a random sample of 621 patients were used to develop a model for predicting estimated blood loss, incorporating a wide range of demographic, clinical, and surgical data.

The researchers then tested their model's performance in predicting the volume of blood loss in the remaining 100 patients. With 94 per cent accuracy, the model was found to help make liposuction safer. "Such accuracy reinforces the model's potential as a decision-support tool in body contouring procedures, where anticipating intraoperative blood loss is crucial for patient safety and operative planning," the researchers said. "Surgeons can use the predicted blood loss estimates to make informed decisions about perioperative management, such as the need for blood transfusions, fluid management, and other critical care measures," they added.



Samsung Unveils World's First 130-Inch Micro RGB TV Featuring Next-Generation Color and Bold New Design

GURUGRAM, India - January 08, 2025: Samsung Electronics today unveiled the world's first 130-inch Micro RGB TV (R95H model) at CES 2026, marking the debut of its largest Micro RGB display and a bold new design direction for ultra-premium displays.

"Micro RGB represents the peak of our picture quality innovation, and the new 130-inch model takes that vision even further," said Hun Lee, Executive Vice President of the Visual Display (VD) Business at Samsung Electronics. "We're reviving the spirit of our original design philosophy introduced more than a decade ago to deliver an unmistakably premium display, engineered with technology for a new generation."

Bold Design That Redefines What a TV Can Be
The Micro RGB TV's commanding scale, next-generation color technology and striking design approach reflect Samsung's longstanding leadership in engineering excellence united with premium aesthetics. With a monumental frame and improved audio perform-



ance, the 130-inch display is intentionally designed to appear less like a television and more like a vast, immersive window that visually expands the room. The TV offers a modern, gallery-inspired aesthetic through the Timeless Frame, a modern evolution of Samsung's 2013 Timeless Gallery design, now with a refined frame that embodies the philosophy of "technology as

art." Inspired by the frame of a grand architectural window, the ultra-large screen appears to float within its borders, transforming the TV into an artistic centerpiece that shapes the room. Sound integrated into the display's frame is carefully balanced to the screen's size, so picture and audio feel naturally connected in a space. Ultimate Viewing Experience To Match Its

Scale The 130-inch Micro RGB model features Samsung's most advanced Micro RGB innovations to date. Powered by Micro RGB AI Engine Pro, Micro RGB Color Booster Pro and Micro RGB HDR Pro, it leverages AI to enhance dull tones and refine contrast, delivering vivid color and subtle detail across bright and dark scenes alike for realism and picture fidelity.

The display elevates picture performance with Micro RGB Precision Color 100, delivering 100% of the BT.2020 wide color gamut. Certified by the Verband der Elektrotechnik (VDE) for precise Micro RGB color reproduction, it produces finely controlled hues that appear true to life on screen. The 130-inch model also includes Samsung's proprietary Glare Free technology, which minimizes reflections, further preserving clear color and contrast across a variety of lighting conditions for the best viewing experience. The product supports HDR10+ ADVANCED1 and Eclipsa Audio to provide an enhanced picture and sound quality, as well as Samsung's enhanced Vision AI Companion,2 enabling conversational search, proactive recommendations and access to AI features and apps such as AI Football Mode Pro, AI Sound Controller Pro, Live Translate, Generative Wallpaper, Microsoft Copilot and Perplexity. The first-of-its-kind display will be showcased at Samsung's Exhibition Zone during CES 2026 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Stock markets trade lower on persistent foreign fund outflows

Mumbai: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty declined in early trade on Thursday amid persistent foreign fund outflows and concerns about potential US tariff hikes. The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 255.86 points to 34,705.28 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty went down by 65.9 points to 26,074.85. From the 30-Sensex firms, Tata Consultancy Services, Asian Paints, Maruti, Tech Mahindra, Infosys and UltraTech Cement were among the biggest laggards. However, ICICI Bank, Adani Ports, Bharat Electronics and Hindustan Unilever were among the gainers. Foreign institutional investors offloaded equities worth Rs 1,527.71 crore on Wednesday, while domestic institutional investors bought stocks worth Rs 2,889.32 crore, according to exchange data. "From the fundamental perspective, there is good news for the economy and markets. Advanced estimates project the FY26 GDP growth at an impressive 7.4%. This reflects the underlying resilience of the economy despite US tariffs and geopolitical tensions. The First Advance Estimates released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on Wednesday put GDP growth in 2025-26 (April 2025 to March 2026 fiscal year) at better than 7.3 per cent forecast by the RBI



and the government's initial projection of 6.3-6.8 per cent. "With both the Nifty and Bank Nifty holding key support levels but encountering stiff overhead resistance, market sentiment remains cautious amid elevated geopolitical tensions, renewed tariff-related concerns, and continued foreign portfolio outflows," Ponnudurai R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said. In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi index and Shanghai's SSE Composite index traded higher, while Japan's Nikkei 225 index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index quoted lower. US markets ended mostly lower on Wednesday. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, climbed 0.40 per cent to USD 60.20 per barrel.

Elon Musk's Grok AI appears to have made child sexual imagery, says charity



The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) charity says its analysts have discovered "criminal imagery" of girls aged between 11 and 13 which "appears to have been created" using Grok. The AI tool is owned by Elon Musk's firm xAI. It can be accessed either through its website and app, or through the social media platform X. The IWF said it found "sexualised and topless imagery of girls" on a "dark web forum" in which users claimed they used Grok to create the imagery. The BBC has approached X and xAI for comment. The IWF's Ngaire Alexander told the BBC tools like Grok now risked "bringing sexual AI imagery of children into the mainstream". She said the material would be classified as Category C under UK law - the lowest severity of criminal material. But she said the user who uploaded it had then used a different AI tool, not made by xAI, to create a Category A image - the most serious category. "We are extremely con-

cerned about the ease and speed with which people can apparently generate photo-realistic child sexual abuse material (CSAM)," she said. The charity, which aims to remove child sexual abuse material from the internet, operates a hotline where suspected CSAM can be reported, and employs analysts to assess the legality and severity of that material. Its analysts found the material by on the dark web - the images were not found on the

social media platform X. X and xAI were previously contacted by Ofcom, following reports Grok can be used to make "sexualised images of children" and undress women. The BBC has seen several examples on the social media platform X of people asking the chatbot to alter real images to make women appear in bikinis without their consent, as well as putting them in sexual situations. The IWF said it had received reports of such images on X, however these had not so far been assessed to have met the legal definition of CSAM. In a previous statement, X said: "We take action against illegal content on X, including CSAM, by removing it, permanently suspending accounts, and working with local governments and law enforcement as necessary. "Anyone using or prompting Grok to make illegal content will suffer the same consequences as if they upload illegal content."

US WILL CONTROL VENEZUELA OIL SALES 'INDEFINITELY', OFFICIAL SAYS



The US will control sales of sanctioned Venezuelan oil "indefinitely" as it prepares to roll back restrictions on the country's crude in global markets, the White House said. Officials said sales were expected to start with 30 million to 50 million barrels of oil and the revenue would be controlled by the US government in order to maintain clout over the Venezuelan government. "We need to have leverage and control of those oil sales to drive the changes that simply must happen in Venezuela," Energy Secretary Chris Wright said. It is not clear what portion of the revenues from the sale - which analysts expect to raise about \$2.8bn (£2.1bn) - would be shared with Venezuela. While White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said the two sides had struck a deal, Venezuela's state-run oil company PDVSA said in a statement that negotiations over oil sales were ongoing within the framework that exists between the two countries. "This process is based on similar rules to those in force with

international companies," it said. The comments came after US President Donald Trump announced on social media on Tuesday that Venezuela would be "turning over" up to 50 million barrels of oil to the US, and it would be sold at its market price. The White House said the money would be deposited into US-controlled accounts, which Trump said he as president would control and use to benefit the people of Venezuela and the US. White House officials said on Wednesday that they had already taken steps to start marketing the oil and the administration was working with key banks and commodity firms to execute the sales. As part of the plan,

leverage to move on the stabilisation front". Analysts said the impact of resuming oil sales would depend on the details. But the plan drew swift criticism from Democrats, with Senator Chris Murphy of Connecticut calling it "insane". "They are talking about stealing the Venezuelan oil at gunpoint for a period of time undefined as leverage to micro-manage the country," he told reporters. "The scope and insanity of that plan is absolutely stunning." Venezuela has some of the world's largest proven oil reserves, but years of disinvestment, mismanagement and US sanctions have left it with output of only about a million barrels per day - less than 1% of global production. That supply, which provided critical resources to the Venezuelan government, in recent years has been going primarily to China. But that too has been disrupted in recent months after the US ramped up strikes and a blockade of Venezuelan tankers as part of its pressure campaign against Maduro.

BIG FREEZE CAUSES TRAVEL CHAOS ACROSS WESTERN EUROPE



A spell of freezing weather bringing heavy snowfall and ice has caused transport disruption across western Europe. Hundreds of flights have been cancelled at several airports, while Eurostar services and haulage have also been affected. More than 700 flights were cancelled at Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam, a major regional transport hub, on Wednesday. Meanwhile, France's civil aviation authority has asked airlines to cut 40% of flights scheduled for the main international airport in Paris. At least six people have died in weather-related incidents across Europe this week - five in France and one in Bosnia. Dutch national airline KLM warned Schiphol Airport was close to running out of de-icing fluid after days of freezing conditions. Spokesperson Stephan Donker told news agency Reuters that it was an "exceptional situation"

at the Dutch airport, where more than 1,000 travellers spent the night. A few hundred beds have been set up there before and after security checks with food and drinks also provided, he said. Donker warned of knock-on effects from the disruption, with further delays and cancellations possible in coming days. In Paris, more than 100 flights were cancelled at Charles de Gaulle airport and 40 more at Orly. Dozens of flights have been delayed or cancelled in and out of Heathrow and Brussels. Some

VCare Launches State-of-the-Art Centre of Excellence in Hyderabad; Unveils India's First 'Single-Day Facial Architecture'



Hyderabad 08 January 2026: VCare, a leading name in aesthetic and trichology care, has announced the grand launch of its Centre of Excellence (COE) in Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad. This launch marks a significant milestone in the brand's expansion across South India, following its success in Chennai and preceding an upcoming launch in Bengaluru. The new facility was inaugurated by Chief Guest Ms. Nivetha Pethuraj, a versatile actor and model, amidst a gathering of leading doctors, healthcare professionals, industry experts, and media representatives.

Visionary Leadership Driving Global Excellence
Leading the philosophy behind this expansion is the Founder & Managing Director of the VCare Group, E. Carolin Praba, India's first woman trichologist, visionary entrepreneur, and wellness trailblazer, who has built and leads a network of 80+ clinics across India. She is joined by the CEO of the

VCare Group, Mukundan Satyanarayanan. With over 22 years of distinguished leadership across trichology, cosmetic sciences, nutraceuticals, and the wellness industry, Mr. Satyanarayanan is widely recognised for integrating research-driven innovation with traditional healing sciences. Speaking on the

launch, Mr. Mukundan Satyanarayanan, CEO of VCare Group, said: "Global aesthetic standards are evolving - and so are we. With the Centre of Excellence, our vision is to move beyond surface-level treatments and create a destination that addresses skin through a structured, multi-layered approach, aligned with global beauty excellence while remaining deeply personalised."

Redefining Aesthetic Care with 'Single-Day Facial Architecture'
The Hyderabad Centre of Excellence is designed to bridge the gap between global clinical validation, FDA clearance, and demonstrated results."

alised skin care. The facility introduces a pioneering concept: India's first Single-Day Facial Architecture. Rooted in Korean-inspired aesthetic principles, this one-day, glass-skin-focused protocol integrates advanced laser technologies with a three-dimensional approach. The treatment is designed to deliver visible results from Day 1, with progressive improvements over the following weeks, catering to the modern demand for immediate yet sustainable beauty solutions.

World-Class Aesthetic Technologies
The VCare Centre of Excellence features some of the world's most advanced FDA-approved and CE-certified aesthetic platforms. Speaking on this technological approach, E. Carolin Praba, Founder & Managing Director of the VCare Group, said, "Each technology we introduce is carefully chosen through global clinical validation, FDA clearance, and demonstrated results."

Donald Trump withdraws US from key climate treaty and dozens of other groups

US



President Donald Trump has withdrawn the US from dozens of international organisations, including many that work to combat climate change. Nearly half of the 66 affected bodies

ies are UN-related, including the Framework Convention on Climate Change - a treaty that underpins all international efforts to combat global warming. Groups working on development, gender equality and conflict - areas the Trump administration had repeatedly dismissed as advancing "globalist" or "woke" agendas - are also included. The White House said the decision was taken because those entities "no longer serve American interests" and promote "ineffective or hostile agendas". The memorandum was signed on Wednesday after a review into causes that the White House said were "a waste of taxpayer dollars". "These withdrawals will end American taxpayer funding and involvement in entities that advance globalist agendas

US
President Donald Trump has withdrawn the US from dozens of international organisations, including many that work to combat climate change.

over US priorities," it said in a statement. It added that many of the organisations promoted "radical climate policies, global governance and ideological programs that conflict with US sovereignty and economic strength". As well as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the US has also withdrawn from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) - the world's leading authority on

climate science. Non-UN organisations affected include those focused on clean energy cooperation, democratic governance and international security, such as the International Solar Alliance, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance and the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum. Trump has already stripped many multilateral organisations he dislikes of funds and previously rejected the scientific consensus of man-made climate change as a "hoax". While the US constitution allows presidents to join treaties "provided two thirds of Senators present concur", it does not specify what happens if they were to withdraw, which means Trump's move could face legal challenges. These latest withdrawals come after the president

withdrew the US from the Paris Climate Agreement for a second time last year, and declined to send a delegation to the COP23 climate summit in Brazil. The US has also already withdrawn from the World Health Organization, the UN Human Rights Council and the UN's cultural agency, Unesco. European leaders have criticised this latest decision, warning it would weaken global cooperation. EU climate commissioner Karmenu Vella said the UNFCCC "underpins global climate action" and called the US retreat "regrettable and unfortunate", while the EU's clean transition vice-president Teresa Ribera said the administration showed little concern for the environment, health or human suffering. A member of a US-based non-profit advocacy group, the Union of Concerned Scientists, described the step as a "new low".

Vance criticises Denmark and Europe's handling of 'critical' Greenland



US Vice-President JD Vance says Greenland is "critical" for the defence of the US and the world against possible Russian or Chinese missile attacks - and that Europe and Denmark have "not done a good job" in securing the area. Vance told Fox News that they had not only under-invested in Greenland's defences, but also failed to engage with President Donald Trump's argument over the issue. US officials are "actively" discussing a potential offer to buy Greenland - a semi-autonomous Danish territory - the White House said on Wednesday, a day after suggesting military action to annex it to the US was also an option. Denmark, a fellow Nato member, has warned this would spell the end of the alliance. Both Greenland and Denmark have repeatedly stressed the island is not for sale. Despite being the most sparsely populated territory, Greenland's location between North America and the Arctic makes it well placed for

early warning systems in the event of missile attacks, and for monitoring vessels in the region. Pituffik Space Base, formerly known as Thule Air Base, has been operated by the US since World War Two. In recent years, there has also been increased interest in Greenland's natural resources - including rare earth minerals, uranium and iron - which are becoming easier to access as its ice melts due to climate change. Scientists think it could also have significant oil and gas reserves. "People do not realise that the entire missile defence infrastructure is partially dependent on Greenland," Vance said in his interview on Wednesday. "If God forbid the Russians and the Chinese - not saying they're going to - but if, God forbid, somebody launched a nuclear missile into our continent, they launched a nuclear missile at Europe, Greenland is a critical part of that missile defence.

'We are not for sale': Greenlanders express fear and indignation as Trump eyes territory



"The people of Greenland do not want to become American," Mia Chemnitz tells the BBC. "We are not for sale." The 32-year-old business owner in the Greenlandic capital Nuuk reflects the sentiments of many who spoke to the BBC about how they felt about recent rhetoric from the Trump administration. The White House has said it was "actively" discussing an offer to buy the territory that has for centuries belonged to

Denmark. US President Donald Trump and his officials had earlier intimated a willingness to take it by force if necessary. This has been met with nervousness and opprobrium among Greenlanders - both on the world's largest island and elsewhere. This nervousness has only grown since the US took Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro from his residence in Caracas to New York on drug-trafficking and narco-terrorism charges in an unprecedented military move. "That's when it stopped feeling abstract," says Tupaarnaq Kopeck, 40, who moved to Canada - another place Trump has threatened to annex - for family and work.

US IMMIGRATION AGENT FATALLY SHOOTS WOMAN IN MINNEAPOLIS



A US immigration agent has shot dead a 37-year-old woman in the city of Minneapolis, sparking protests overnight. Federal officials said the woman, Renee Nicole Good, had tried to run over immigration agents with her car but the city mayor said the agent who shot her had acted recklessly. Videos of the incident show ICE agents approaching a car which is in the middle of the street. As it attempts to drive off, one of them points his gun at the driver and at least two shots are heard. The FBI is investigating. Hundreds of ICE agents have been deployed to Minneapolis, in the state of Minnesota, as part of the White House's crackdown

on illegal immigration. Using an expletive, the city's Democratic Mayor Jacob Frey urged the agents to leave the city, following the fatal shooting. Minneapolis shooting live updates Videos posted to social media by onlookers appear to show the moment of the shooting, which occurred around 10:25 local

time on Wednesday morning. From various vantage points, a maroon SUV can be seen losing control and crashing into a car parked nearby along the street. In a post on Truth Social, Trump said an ICE officer was "viciously" run over. "It is hard to believe he is alive, but is now recovering in the hospital," he wrote.

Saudi-led coalition says UAE helped smuggle separatist leader out of Yemen



The Saudi-led coalition in Yemen has alleged the United Arab Emirates helped smuggle a separatist leader out of the country after he was expelled from Yemen's presidential council and accused of treason. A coalition spokesman said Aidarus al-Zubaidi, head of the UAE-backed Southern Transitional Council (STC), fled Aden on Tuesday night in a boat to Somaliland. He was then flown by a cargo aircraft to Abu Dhabi via Mogadishu under the supervision of UAE officers, he added. There was no immediate comment from the UAE or STC. The STC insisted Zubaidi was still working from Aden on Wednesday,

after the coalition said he had failed to fly to Riyadh for talks and had fled to an unknown location. The coalition also accused Zubaidi of moving STC forces from bases in Aden to his home province of al-Dahle and said it had carried out air strikes on them in response. The

STC said the strikes, which reportedly killed four people, were "unjustified" and "inconsistent" with calls for dialogue with Yemen's internationally recognised government, which is overseen by the presidential council and backed by Saudi Arabia. On Thursday, coalition

spokesman Maj Gen Turki al-Malki said it had "reliable intelligence" showing Zubaidi and his associates fled from Aden's port on the early hours of Wednesday on board a St Kitts and Nevis-flagged passenger ship. The vessel sailed across the Gulf of Aden to Berbera in the breakaway region of Somaliland, where a Ilyushin Il-76 cargo aircraft was waiting, he added. Malki said Zubaidi and his associates "boarded the aircraft under the supervision of UAE officers" and flew first to Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, before heading towards the Arabian Sea "without a declared destination".

US halts assistance to Somalia over claims food aid was illegally seized



The US has suspended all assistance to the government of Somalia, alleging that officials destroyed a UN World Food Programme (WFP) warehouse and seized "donor-funded food aid". "The Trump administration has a zero-tolerance policy for waste, theft, and diversion of life-saving assistance," said a US state department statement on X. The message, posted on the account of the under secretary for foreign assistance, said reports had been received about officials illegally seizing 76 tonnes of food intended for "vulnerable Somalis". Any resumption of assistance would depend on the Somali government "taking accountability for its unacceptable actions and taking appropriate remedial steps", it said. Although the US has withdrawn from several UN organisations under President Donald Trump, it remains by far the largest contributor to the WFP, paying \$2bn (£1.5bn) in 2025 - almost a third of its total funding. The Somali government, which has long been battling al-Qaeda-linked Islamist militants as it tries to rebuild the country after a devastating civil war and years of drought, has yet to comment. This is the latest example of the deteriorating relations between Washington and Mogadishu. Last month, Trump lashed out at Somali migrants living in the US, telling reporters they should "go back to where they came from" and "their country is no good for a reason". Communities have been targeted in immigration raids as the government alleges large-scale benefit fraud in Minnesota, the US state with the largest Somali community in the US. The recent recognition by US ally Israel of the breakaway republic of Somaliland, which Somalia considers to be part of its territory, has further angered Mogadishu.

FOOTAGE SHOWS VIOLENT CLASHES AS IRAN PROTESTS SPREAD TO MORE AREAS



There were violent clashes between anti-government protesters and security forces in several locations in Iran on Wednesday, as a wave of unrest sparked by the country's economic crisis continued for an 11th day. Iran's semi-official Fars news agency, which is close to the Revolutionary Guards, said two policemen were shot and killed by armed individuals in the south-western town of Lordegan. Videos posted on social media showed a tense stand-off between protesters and security forces, with the sound of gunfire in the background. In footage from several other areas, security forces appear to fire guns and tear gas towards crowds of protesters, some of whom are throw-

ing stones. The protests have so far spread to 111 cities and towns across all 31 provinces, according to the US-based Human Rights Activist News Agency (HRANA). It has reported that at least 34 protesters and four security personnel have been killed during the unrest, and that 2,200 protesters have been arrested. BBC Persian has confirmed the deaths and identities of 21 people, while Iranian authorities have reported the deaths of five security personnel. The protests began on 28 December, when shopkeepers took to the streets of the capital, Tehran, to express their anger at another sharp fall in the value of the Iranian currency, the rial, against the US dollar on the open market.

The rial has sunk to a record low over the past year and inflation has soared to 40% as sanctions over Iran's nuclear programme squeeze an economy also weakened by government mismanagement and corruption. University students soon joined the protests and they began spreading to other cities, with

crowds frequently heard chanting slogans against the country's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and sometimes in support of Reza Pahlavi, the exiled son of Iran's late former shah. On Wednesday, videos verified by BBC Persian showed crowds protesting in Qazvin, north-west of Tehran, and

chanting slogans including "Death to the dictator" - a reference to Khamenei - as well as "Long live the shah". Footage from the Gulf port of Bandar Abbas, showed protesters chanting "Police force, support, support" before security forces disperse them. In the Shia holy city of Mashhad, in the country's north-east, protesters were seen clashing with security forces and forcing them to retreat. Another video showed people chanting in support of the Pahlavi dynasty, which was overthrown by the 1979 Islamic revolution. In the late afternoon, a large demonstration also took place in the south-western city of Abadan, near the border with Iraq, according to footage verified by BBC

Influential China church reports arrests as crackdown on Christians intensifies



An influential Protestant church in China says prominent leaders were arrested in what appears to be a growing crackdown on the underground church movement. Nine people were detained on Tuesday after police raided their homes and the church office in Chengdu, the Early Rain Covenant Church said. Five of them had been released by Wednesday. More than 1,000 miles away in Wenzhou, authorities began demolishing the Yangang Church building, as seen in video obtained by the non-profit ChinaAid, which monitors religious persecu-



DUBOIS EYES BAUMGARDNER IN 'BIGGEST WOMEN'S FIGHT'

Briton Caroline Dubois believes a future showdown with Alycia Baumgardner would be "the biggest fight in women's boxing." The 24-year-old WBC lightweight world champion shared heated words with Baumgardner in December when both fighters appeared on the undercard of Jake Paul v Anthony Joshua. Dubois - who turned professional in 2022 - has repeatedly called out the experienced American unified super-featherweight world champion. "Let's be real - she wants to become a superstar, but you need a superstar fight," Dubois told BBC Sport. "You need two to tango. We both need each other. When it happens, I believe it will be the biggest fight in women's boxing." Dubois, a highly rated southpaw long touted as the future of women's boxing, expects the match-up to take place in 2027. "That's one more year of building and making things happen," she says. "I hope she sees the benefit of that. I wouldn't want her to run



away from that fight." Before that, however, Dubois wants a unification fight with Doncaster's WBO lightweight champion Terri Harper later this year. In her first fight in America and under the Most Valuable Promotions (MVP) banner, Dubois outclassed Camilla Panatta in Miami last month. The Londoner feels the exposure has already strengthened her pro-

file across the Atlantic Ocean. "I have noticed that a lot more Americans know who I am now," she says. "I've got a lot more messages from people from that side of the world and a lot more positivity. I'm becoming a name that people will recognise now, and I appreciate that." Meanwhile, 31-year-old Baumgardner claimed a hard-earned points victory

over Leila Beaudois as chief support. Tensions had already spilled over earlier in the week when Baumgardner called Dubois "a puppy" who should wait her turn. "I was trying to read her energy and I'll be honest - she seemed a bit intimidated by me. I would say very intimidated," Dubois adds. "She didn't want the confrontation. She wanted it to

Joshua pays tribute to friends Ghami and Latz



Anthony Joshua has paid tribute to close friends Sina Ghami and Latif "Latz" Ayodele, who were killed in a car crash in Nigeria, saying he is "finding it tough" to process their deaths. Ghami and Ayodele died when the vehicle they were in, alongside heavyweight boxer Joshua and another passenger, collided with a stationary truck on a major road near Lagos. Joshua sustained minor injuries in the crash before flying home to United Kingdom and attending the funeral at a mosque in London on Sunday. "Thank

you for all the love and care you have shown my brothers," Joshua posted on Instagram on Thursday, external. "I didn't even realise how special they are. I'll just be walking with them and cracking jokes with them, not even knowing God kept me in the presence of great men. "100% it's tough for me, but I know it's even tougher for their parents. I have a strong mind, and I believe God knows their hearts. May God have mercy on my brothers." Ghami was Joshua's full-time sport and exercise rehabilitation coach and worked with him for more than 10 years. Hours before the crash, Joshua posted a video on Instagram of him playing table tennis with his long-time friend Ayodele, a personal trainer. On Sunday, Joshua posted two pictures on Instagram, one showing him sitting alongside his mother and family members of the victims including the mothers of Ghami and Ayodele, and one with him holding a photograph of Ghami. Driver Adeniyi Mobolaji Kayode, 46, was charged at Sagamu Magistrates' Court on Friday.

Snubbed From T20 World Cup, Tristan Stubbs Predicted To Do Impress All In SA20 By JP Duminy

When South Africa announced their T20 World Cup squad, the most notable omission was Tristan Stubbs. In 42 T20I matches, Stubbs has scored 822 runs. He is also the captain of the SA20 team Sunrisers Eastern Cape, who are currently leaders on the points table. South African great JP Duminy backed him to do amazing things in the ongoing tournament. Stubbs, 25, has been rated as one of the most exciting young batters in the cricketing world and has slowly become a mainstay in all formats for South Africa, as well as being a proven finisher for Delhi Capitals (DC) in the Indian Premier League (IPL). But his recent lean run in T20Is meant Jason Smith was picked ahead of him for the T20 World Cup, to be held in India and Sri Lanka from



February 7 to March 8. Despite the surprising omission, Stubbs has excelled as a captain for the first time in the SA20 league, though his run tally stands at just 28 runs in five games. "Again, I think it's a great opportunity to shift focus. There's no doubt there'd be disappointment for him. He's been part of pretty much all formats for a period of time,

and to miss out would be really disappointing for him. But I think the opportunity from a leadership standpoint is that it shifts focus onto other people and other teams," Duminy said in a session facilitated by SA20. "It's great to see him in that leadership role. I think he's got great leadership qualities, and the leadership quality that stands out for me and I

know he hasn't put in major performances just yet. But he's certainly somebody who comes to mind as leading through performance. Like, follow me, I'll show you the way, and that's a great leadership quality to have. I have no doubt that he'll do some amazing stuff in this SA20." Duminy also felt Stubbs would be ready to fire with the bat if a chance to come in as a replacement player arises in next month's mega event. "Hopefully, if an opportunity arises, we've often seen in times past where injuries occur. We've certainly seen it as a South African team as well. Obviously, there are some last-minute call-ups, and he certainly wants to give himself the best chance to make sure he's ready for that, if any," he said.

Sarfraz Khan Achieves Huge Record, Slams Top India Star For 30 Runs In One Over In Vijay Hazare Trophy



Ignored Indian cricket team star Sarfraz Khan scripted history by slaming the fastest half-century in the history of the Vijay Hazare Trophy. Sarfraz, who was not included in the India squad for the ODI series against New Zealand, reached the milestone in just 15 deliveries. The Mumbai batter broke the record previously held by Baroda's Atit Sheth, who slammed a half-century in 16 balls against Chhattisgarh in 2020-21. Sarfraz looked in devastating form as he went after the bowlers from the very first ball, even smashing Abhishek Sharma for 30 runs in a single over. The Mumbai batter's innings against Punjab finally came to an end at 62 off 20

What Is Testicular Torsion That Forced Tilak Varma, India's Asia Cup Final Hero, To Undergo Immediate Surgery - Explained

Tilak Varma, whose gritty 69 in the Asia Cup 2025 final took India to victory against Pakistan, has undergone surgery for a groin issue that triggered acute pain. He is set to miss the upcoming T20 International series against New Zealand and is in serious doubt for the first couple of matches in next month's T20 World Cup. The 23-year-old was rushed to a hospital after complaining of acute pain in Rajkot, where he is with the Hyderabad team for the ongoing Vijay Hazare Trophy One-Day Championship. The five-match T20 series against New Zealand begins on January 21 in Nagpur. "Tilak Varma reported acute testicular pain in Rajkot, where he is part of the Hyderabad team for the Vijay Hazare tournament. He was taken to Golki Hospital



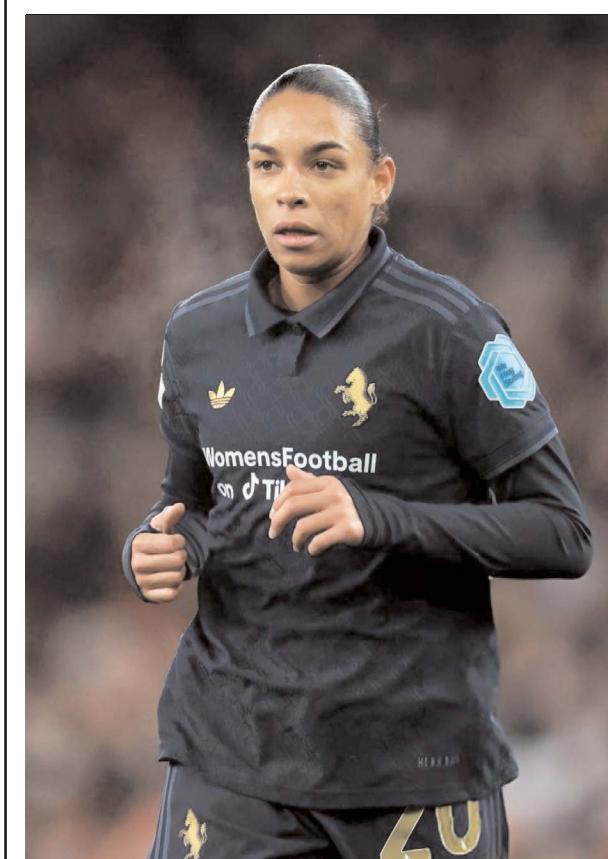
and, after a scan, was diagnosed with testicular torsion (sudden, intense pain) and was advised immediate surgery," a BCCI official told PTI. "We got an opinion from our specialists who agreed with the diagnosis. Tilak underwent successful surgery and is doing well now. We will update you as soon as we have more information on his recovery and expected

timeframe for his return to play, following discussions with the medical panel," he added. What Is Testicular Torsion According to my.clevelandclinic.org, "Testicular torsion is a painful condition where the testicle twists and loses its blood supply. It requires emergency care. If the blood supply doesn't return quickly (within six hours), a healthcare provider may need to surgically remove the testicle." The website adds that testicular torsion is rare, affecting about one in 4,000 men under age 25. "It's usually a spontaneous event, meaning it occurs without any apparent cause. It almost always affects only one testicle. It more commonly affects the left testicle than the right," the report noted. What About Tilak Varma's Return to Cricket It is reliably learnt that Varma is certain to miss the series against New Zealand. The World Cup, jointly hosted by India and Sri Lanka, starts on February 7 with India taking on the USA in their opening game in Mumbai. The co-hosts will play their next game on February 12 against Namibia in Delhi.



Neymar Flaunts Rs 525 Crore Luxury Fleet - A Batmobile Replica, Private Jet, Airbus Helicopter

West Ham sign Juventus defender Cascarino on loan



West Ham have signed defender Estelle Cascarino on loan from Manchester United in 2023, making two appearances. She has also played for Paris St-Germain, Bordeaux, Paris FC and Lyon. "I'm a technical player who is aggressive in my defending," she said. "I'm here to bring my leadership and experience to help the team on and off the pitch. I'm proud of what I have achieved so far in my career and I'm looking forward to this next chapter at West Ham, in the best league in the world."

'Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu' a Sankranthi Festival Treat; Chiranjeevi–Venkatesh Combo Wins Hearts at Pre-Release Event



The combination with Venkatesh is amazing. It is a festival-like film. Everyone will enjoy it a lot: Megastar Chiranjeevi at the pre-release event

Chiranjeevi and I both had a blast. We will definitely enjoy it a lot: Victory Venkatesh 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 worldwide on January 12 as a Sankranthi gift. On this occasion, the makers organized a grand pre-release event. Megastar Chiranjeevi said at the pre-release event.. Heartfelt greetings to all mega fans. Happy New Year to everyone, Happy Sankranti in advance. I want this

Sankranti to be not just Shankara Varaprasad's.. but the entire Telugu film industry. Prabhas Rajasab, my younger brother Ravi Teja's film, Sharwanand Nari Nari, who grew up in our house with fun since childhood, Murari, Naveen's film, who considers me a teacher and is my disciple.. I hope that all the films become super hits this Sankranti and that the Telugu film industry will

be prosperous. I have a deep belief that the audience will give them such successes. The Telugu film industry should not forget Sankranti 2026. Every film is a perfect Sankranti film, a film that you like. It is your responsibility to make all the films play this Sankranti, go to the theaters and watch all the films. Enjoy it in the theaters and bless them. Raghavendra Rao said many years ago that if I do a film with Anil, it will be a hit. He started the film by clapping his hands. He told me many times that I should achieve the same success as Gharana Mogudu. When Anil came to me after Sankranti, he said.. There are family touch, sentiment, heart touching scenes. When I told him that we would make this film different.. 'No need for any difference.. Donga Mogudu, Gharana Mogudu, Rowdy Alludu Annayya, Chantabhai.. I would like to have all these films like that,' he said. People saw all those films back then. They are all grown up.

'PANDAGA KI ALLUDU VASTUN-NADU' - ANAGANAGA OKA RAJU - Theatrical Trailer Out Now!



The trailer of Anaganaga Oka Raju opens on a majestic note with King Akkineni Nagarjuna Garu lending his powerful voice. The young sensation gets the voice of King, his narration instantly elevates the trailer and perfectly sets the tone for this festive entertainer. Star performer Naveen Polishetty once again proves why he is one of the most loved entertainers today. His exceptional comic timing, effortless humor, and energetic screen presence dominate the trailer. Every punchline lands with precision, making it clear that this is just a glimpse of the full-throttle entertainment the film promises. The trailer assures pure fun that will resonate with audiences across all age groups. Meenakshi Chaudhary impresses with her innocence and charm. The fun surrounding her character is neatly executed, and her chemistry with Naveen Polishetty stands out. The love track, family emotions, and situational comedy are well balanced, adding depth to the narrative. Debutant director Maari deserves special appreciation for presenting Naveen Polishetty in a refreshing and engaging manner. Supported by a strong ensemble cast including Rao Ramesh and others, the film feels rooted and wholesome. Mickey J Meyer's background score enhances the trailer with a solid blockbuster vibe, while the already released songs have emerged as chartbusters. Anaganaga Oka Raju is produced by Suryadevara Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya under the banners of Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas, with SriKara Studios presenting the film. With the catchy line "PANDAGA KI ALLUDU VASTUN-NADU", the film promises to be a perfect Sankranti family entertainer, inviting everyone to celebrate together on the big screens this January 14th, 2026 Worldwide.

'ONE/4 (ONE BY FOUR)' SET FOR WORLDWIDE RELEASE ON JANUARY 30



Tejas Gunjal Films and Rohit Gunjal Films proudly present the action crime drama 'ONE/4 (One by Four)', starring Venkatesh Peddapalem, Aparna Mallick, and Heena Soni in the lead roles. The film is directed by Bahubali Palani K, who previously worked as an Associate Director on the blockbuster Baahubali. Produced jointly by

Ranjana Rajesh Gunjal and Rohit Ramdas Gunjal, ONE/4 is gearing up for a grand worldwide theatrical release on January 30 across 200 theatres. Speaking on the occasion, the film unit shared "ONE/4 (One by Four) is a gripping action crime entertainer with a fresh concept. In real life, we often underestimate the

consequences of a simple tongue slip, but its impact can be life-changing. This film explores what happens when one small mistake triggers a chain of unexpected crimes. The movie features intense action episodes, powerful performances by the cast, energetic choreography by Sagar Master, and engaging music by Subhash Anand.



"Phule" movie instills a spirit of service in everyone - Producer and renowned journalist Ponnam Ravichandra



"Phule" is a film based on the life story of Mahatma Phule and Savitribai Phule, two great social reformers of India. The film stars Prateek Gandhi and Patralekha Pal in the lead roles. Directed by Ananth Mahadevan, the film was released in Hindi last year and was a huge success. Renowned journalist Ponnam Ravichandra is bringing the film "Phule" to the Telugu audience. Recently, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, several ministers and public representatives attended the screening of the film. Producer and journalist Ponnam Ravichandra held a press meet to express his gratitude for the grand success of the program. Other film crew who worked on the film "Phule" participated in the program. The program Producer and renowned journalist Ponnam Ravichandra said - The reason why our girls are getting educated and going to great heights today is because of the efforts made by Savitribai Phule many years ago. The Phule couple fought to eradicate many evils in the society and dedicated their

lives for the good of the society. Their efforts to save women from superstitions and evils are amazing. They performed widow remarriages. We are bringing the film "Phule" to Telugu to inform our people about the life history of such great people through the medium of cinema. In the past, like Padi Jayaraj, I have received international awards and accolades through many documentaries. Even if this is a Hindi translation, you will not get that feeling anywhere. It will be like a Telugu film. We have taken those precautions regarding the dialogues and

songs. MM Srilekha has provided the music. Poorna Chandra and Dr. Thangella Sridevi Reddy have written the songs. Chetan Kathi has provided the dialogues. We are going to successfully present the movie "Phule" to the Telugu audience under the supervision of Tirupati and Janani Productions. Currently, the censor procedures are going on. We will release the movie "Phule" by the end of this month. We also want the government to support our movie. He said. Other film crew members participated in the event and said that they felt honored to work on the film "Phule".

Vijay Varma's reply to his net worth reports

Mumbai: Vijay Varma is currently one of the most happening and sought-after actors in Indian cinema, widely admired for his fearless choice of roles and commanding screen presence. After years of working in independent films and supporting roles, he rose to mainstream prominence with his breakout performance in Gully Boy, where his portrayal of the volatile Moen earned both critical acclaim and widespread audience recognition. Since then, Vijay has delivered a string of standout performances across films and OTT platforms, including Darlings, She, Lust Stories 2, and Jaane Jaan, consistently showcasing his versatility and depth as an actor. His ability to effortlessly transition between intense, dark characters and layered, nuanced roles has made him a favourite among filmmakers and viewers, firmly cementing his place as one of the most exciting actors of the current generation.

Vijay Varma's net worth
Along with his professional success, Vijay Varma's net worth and remuneration have also been a frequent topic of discussion in the media. According to sever-



al online reports, the actor's net worth as of 2025 is estimated to be around Rs 20 crore. However, Vijay recently reacted to these claims in his own trademark style with a pure Hyderabad twist. The actor, along with his Gustaakh Ishq co-star Fatima Sana Shaikh, appeared on the latest episode of Mashable India's The Bombay Journey, where he addressed the reports humorously while leaving the host in splits.

'Raakaasaa' Revealed as the Title of Niharika Konidela's #PEP2, Confirming April 3, 2026 Release with Title Announcement Poster

The makers of 'Raakaasaa', a fantasy-comedy produced under Pink Elephant Pictures and Z Studios, have officially unveiled the film's title announcement poster, confirming a worldwide theatrical release on April 3, 2026. Presented as A Niharika Konidela Production, the announcement formally introduces the identity of #PEP2 and signals its steady movement toward release. The title announcement poster establishes the film's tonal world with striking clarity. Centred around the imagery of a solar eclipse emerging through dense, storm-laden clouds, the visual language leans decisively into myth and fantasy. The title 'Raakaasaa' appears sculpted in an organic, root-like form, glowing subtly from within, evoking folklore and elemental force. Notably, the poster avoids overt comedy cues, suggesting that humour in the film emerges organically from character and narrative rather than surface-level visual treatment. 'Raakaasaa' features an ensemble cast that includes Sangeeth Shobhan, Nayan Sarika, Vennela Kishore, Brahmaji, Tanikella Bharani, Ashish Vidyardhi, Getup Srinu,

Sukwinder Singh, Annapurnamma, Anoopsinghakur, Rama Bhargav, Vasu Inturi, Rohini (Jabardast), Rohan (90's), among others. The casting reflects a balance between familiar performers and character-driven roles, aligning with the film's fantasy-comedy framework. Written and directed by Manas Sharma, the film carries a unified creative vision, with Story, Screenplay, Dialogues, and Direction handled by her. Mahesh Uppala contributes as Additional Screenplay writer. The technical crew includes Anudeep Dev as music composer, Raju Edurolu as cinematographer, Anwar Ali as editor, and Vijay as action choreographer. Production design is led by Ramjaneyulu, with Pilla Vishnu Vardhan serving as art director and Sandhya Sabbavarapu overseeing costume design. The project progressed through a major action-heavy schedule, choreographed by Vijay, who has earned strong industry recognition for his recent work on They Call Him OG. Following the completion of this action block, the team filmed comedy-driven sequences and other crucial narrative portions that strengthen the film's humour and character dynamics.

