



NATION | NEWS

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



WORLD | NEWS

Helicopter crashes in Arizona mountains, killing 4 people aboard

SPORTS | NEWS

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



INBRIF

ECI details 91.46 lakh logical discrepancy cases in Bengal SIR

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

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

Drugs worth Rs 33.18 crore seized in Mizoram

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

Expected KCR to attend House, offer suggestions: Revanth



Hyderabad (TSIT):

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

VENEZUELA-US CONFLICT

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



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

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

At least seven explosions and low-flying aircraft

were heard around 2 am local time on Saturday, January 3, in Caracas, the capital of Venezuela, with President Nicolás Maduro declaring a national state of emergency.

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

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

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

14 Maoists neutralised in Chhattisgarh

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

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



exchanges that lasted several hours.

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

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



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

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

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

"It reflects the impact

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

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

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



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

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

deployed to the border, along with all available assistance resources in case of a mass influx of refugees. The

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

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

Modi govt weakened village power: CM Siddaramaiah



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

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

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

The Chief Minister said the UPA government had empowered citizens through landmark legislations such as the Right to Employment, Right to Information and Right

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

ployment, reduce women's workforce participation, and undermine rural livelihoods.

He said he has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking repeal of the new law, restoration of the MGNREGA Act, and protection of panchayat self-governance.

CDSL IPF and BSE IPF in association with SEBI and IEPFA organize 'Niveshak Shivir' in Bengaluru to facilitate investor claims for unpaid dividend and shares

Bengaluru : CDSL Investor Protection Fund (CDSL IPF) along with BSE Investor Protection Fund (BSE IPF) under the aegis of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA), Ministry of Corporates Affairs, jointly organised the Niveshak Shivir in Bengaluru on 3rd January, 2026. This outreach initiative aimed to assist shareholders in reclaiming unpaid dividends and unclaimed shares, thereby reducing the volume of unclaimed investor assets in the system, while empowering investors to safeguard their investments.

The awareness drive, themed 'Niveshak Shivir', focused on guiding participants through the process of reclaiming unpaid dividends and unclaimed shares. The Shivir was organized in collaboration with leading Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs) including BSE,



NSE, NSDL and the Registrar and Transfer Agents (RTAs) - KFin Technologies Limited, MUFG Infoline Private Limited, CAMS, Integrated Registry Management Service and Purva Shareregistry (India) Private Limited.

To provide holistic assistance, the event featured 17 dedicated service desks offering end-to-end support on:

- Claiming dividends and shares that have remained unclaimed for over six years;
- On-the-spot updating of

KYC and nomination details;

- Prompt resolution of claim-related queries;
- Processing of pending claims submitted to IEPFA.

The day-long event witnessed more than 892 investors and claimants from Bengaluru and surrounding locations. Attendees included retail investors, entrepreneurs, and corporate professionals. The event was graced by Smt. Anita Shah Akella, CEO, IEPFA and Joint Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs;

Krishnanand Raghavan, Chief General Manager, Binod Sharma, General Manager, SEBI; Lt. Col Aditya Sinha, General Manager, IEPFA; Shri C.S. Harisha, Asst. Vice President, CDSL; Shri Vinay Kumar, BSE along with other senior officials from SEBI, IEPFA, MIIs, and RTAs.

Additionally, IEPFA has launched an insightful explainer booklet titled "A Complete Guide to IEPFA Claims and Investor Services", aimed at enhancing investor awareness and facilitating seamless claim resolution.

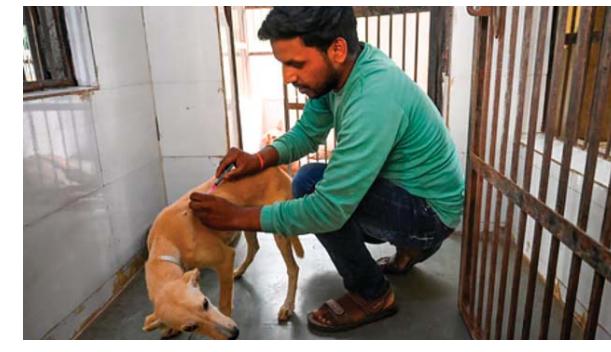
This investor-focused booklet provides a comprehensive, step-by-step guide to understanding unclaimed shares and dividends, including the search facility process, IEPF form filing, required documentation, transmission procedures, claim tracking, and grievance redressal, while also educating investors on timely dividend receipts.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

A few dragging Congress to decline: Jothimani



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

Polytechnic teachers to get skill training



implementation process, before the official launch of the courses to the students, the teachers would undergo mandatory skill development programme programmes, according to the DoTE. It has proposed a comprehensive faculty development programme on 'employability skills' from January 5, 2026, to January 10 for this academic year.

The faculty attendance is mandatory for all days of the training, and upon the successful completion of the post assessment, the teachers will receive the Faculty Development Programme certificates. The financial assistance of Rs 250 per day (subject to attendance) would be provided to the participants.

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

Southern Railway to operate Pongal special trains



No 06054 Kanniakumari - Tambaram Express Special will leave Kanniakumari at 08.30 pm on January 13 and 19 (Monday) and reach

Global economy must adapt to avoid tumult this year



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

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

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

Lower-income consumer resilience can't be counted on. Trade retaliation might increase. Fiscal and monetary policies are loosening. The labour market is cooling, widening the decoupling of employment from economic growth.

China's redirection of trade could cause reprisals from other countries. Add to that a growing divergence in performance among economies, and a picture emerges of a fragile global order. Meanwhile, some of the very narrowly focused AI companies will probably struggle to significantly raise revenues, failing to keep pace with the huge investments made in them.

To come through 2026 in a strong position, governments need to enact sustainable productivity improvements, rather than stimulate the economy via spending and lower interest rates. We need coherent AI adoption policies — ones that attempt to maximise output gains while limiting labour market shocks — designed and carried out in collaboration with leading companies. And investors must make fewer reckless choices if we want to avoid market instability. Pouring money indiscriminately into AI should give way to backing a smaller group of winners in a more disciplined manner.

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

Tamil Nadu: Bus on fire, narrow escape for workers



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

Police said the bus driven by Maheswaran (51) from Kallavi was bound for a shoe manufacturing firm at SIPCOT in Pochampalli in Krishnagiri with workers

DCB Bank Ltd,
650/12, BEE EM Avenue, Dr. Raj Kumar Road, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560 010

DCB BANK

DEMAND NOTICE

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

We, DCB Bank Limited (hereinafter called the "Bank") with our Regional office at No.650/12, BEE EM Avenue, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560 010 had at the request of the below mentioned Borrowers and Co-Borrowers granted Mortgages Loan against the below mentioned Secured Asset for the Loan amount as mentioned herein Vide Sanction Letters and opened Loan account Numbers as mentioned below in their names respectively. Contrary to the said agreements, the Borrower(s) and Co-Borrower(s) have defaulted in repayment of instalments and an amount as mentioned herein is still outstanding from the Borrower(s) and Co-Borrower(s) to the Bank towards the loan amount with interest and other charges.

As the Borrower(s) and Co-Borrower(s) have committed repeated defaults in observing the financial discipline under the Loan agreement, the mentioned Loan accounts have been classified and declared as Non-Performing Asset (NPA) on the dates as mentioned therein in accordance with the directions and the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from time to time.

The Borrower(s) and Co-Borrower(s) are aware that the said Loan against properties are secured by mortgage over the said properties owned by them (the "secured asset" as detailed and mentioned below).

RAICHUR

Name of Borrower(s) & Co-Borrower(s): 1) Mr. MOHAMMED JUNAID ALI (Borrower) 2) Mrs. SABIHA SULTANA & 3) Mr. ABDUL MAJEED (Co-Borrower)

Loan Account No(s) | Sanction Date | NPA Classified Date | Demand Notice Date

DBLRIC00523468 | 28-Feb-21 | 02-Nov-25 | 24-Nov-25

Total Outstanding amount mentioned in notice in Rs. (Numbers and Words)

Rs:24,15,185/- (Rupees: Twenty Four lakh Fifteen Thousand One Hundred and Eighty Five Only)

Schedule of the Immovable Property : A) Malgi bearing Municipal No. 3-5-61 (Old) 3-5-89 (New) measuring (12' 9" x 13' 6")2' East-West and 22' 6" North-South along with Common stairs attached towards Western Side and situated in Bercon Quilla, Raichur, and bounded on EAST -Malgi of Channappa S/o Siddappa; WEST- Common Stairs of Vendors and Omprakash and thereafter the property of said Omprakash S/o Y. Suganya Shetty; NORTH - Road from Kali Danawala Bus Stand; SOUTH - The Room which is under Alienation to the purchasers under this deed out the house property bearing Municipal. No. 3-5-79/1 (Old) 3-5-111 (New) of the vendors. This Malgi is more fully shown in Red colour in the sketch map annexed to this deed and the common stairs are shown in Blue colour therein; B) One Room measuring 14' 6" North-South and 18' East-West, out of the Northern Portion of the House bearing Municipal No. 3-5-79/1 (Old) 3-5-111 (New) situated in Bercon Quilla, Raichur and this room under Alienation is bounded as under: EAST- House of Batarli S/o Marenna; WEST - House of Siddappa S/o Buddangouda; NORTH - The Malgi of Vendors herein under Alienation and shown above; SOUTH - This room is also more fully shown and delineated in Red colour in the Sketch Map annexed to this deed"

Name of Borrower(s) & Co-Borrower(s): 1) Mr. K. SURESH (Borrower) & 2) Mrs. K. SUGAMMA (Co-Borrower)

Loan Account No(s) | Sanction Date | NPA Classified Date | Demand Notice Date

DBLRIC00495562 | 31-Oct-19 | 02-Dec-25 | 12-Dec-25

Total Outstanding amount mentioned in notice in Rs. (Numbers and Words)

Rs.16,94,787/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Ninety Four Thousand Seven hundred and Eighty Seven Only)

Schedule of the Immovable Property : All the piece and parcel of the Mortgagor is the absolute owner of all that The Residential House Property bearing House property consisting of Ground Floor and First Floor with Mgt. No.8-11-79/3 totally Measuring: totally measuring 30' x 40' x 2200 Sq. ft, in which pinth area of Ground Floor is 66.50 Sq. mtrs. & plinth area of First Floor is 66.50 Sq. mtrs. and in N.G.O. Colony, in Sy. No.819, 820 & 821, Near Jamallamma Temple, within City Municipal Limits of CMC Raichur, East: 3rd Road; West: Remaining half portion of the plot; North: Road; South: Plot No.9.

We hereby call upon the Borrower(s) and Co-Borrower(s) to discharge their liabilities in full to us within a period of 60 (sixty) days from the date of issue of this publication notice, failing which we shall be exercising the powers under section 13 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter called as "Securitization Act"), against the secured asset mentioned above.

The powers available to us under section 13 of the Securitization Act, interalia, includes (i) power to take possession of the secured asset including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset; (ii) take over the management of the secured assets including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale and realize the secured asset and any transfer of secured asset by us shall vest in the transferee all rights in or in relation to the secured asset transferred as if the transfer had been made by the Borrower(s) and Co-Borrower(s).

The amount realized from exercising the powers mentioned above, shall first be applied in payment of all costs (including legal costs and lawyers fees and expenses), charges and expenses which in our opinion have been properly incurred by us or any expenses incidental thereto, and secondly applied in discharge of our dues, as mentioned above with contravention interest from the date of this notice till the date of actual realization and the residue of the money if any shall be paid to the Borrower(s) and Co-Borrower(s).

Please take note that after the date of issue of this notice, the Borrower(s) and Co-Borrower(s) shall not transfer or part with possession by way of sale, lease or otherwise the secured asset referred to in this notice, or any part or right thereof, without our prior written consent.

We also inform the Borrower(s) and Co-Borrower(s) that if our dues are not fully satisfied with the sale proceeds of the secured asset, we reserve our right to proceed against the Borrower(s) and Co-Borrower(s) (jointly and severally) before an appropriate Court/Statutory/Regulatory Authority, for recovery of the balance amount due from the Borrower(s) and Co-Borrower(s).

Kindly note that a total amount as mentioned above is due from the Borrower(s) and Co-Borrower(s) (jointly and severally) along with the date of the notice mentioned therein and we reserve the right to recover the same from the Borrower(s) and Co-Borrower(s) (jointly and severally) along with costs and interest with monthly rests as mentioned herein till the date of full and final payment.

Date: 04-01-2026
Place: Raichur

for DCB Bank Ltd,
Authorized Officer

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

We, DCB Bank Limited (hereinafter called the "Bank") with our Regional office at No.650/12, BEE EM Avenue, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560 010 had at the request of the below mentioned Borrowers and Co-Borrowers granted Mortgages Loan against the below mentioned Secured Asset for the Loan amount as mentioned herein Vide Sanction Letters and opened Loan account Numbers as mentioned below in their names respectively. Contrary to the said agreements, the Borrower(s) and Co-Borrower(s) have defaulted in repayment of instalments and an amount as mentioned herein is still outstanding from the Borrower(s) and Co-Borrower(s) to the Bank towards the loan amount with interest and other charges.

As the Borrower(s) and Co-Borrower(s) have committed repeated defaults in observing the financial discipline under the Loan agreement, the mentioned Loan accounts have been classified and declared as Non-Performing Asset (NPA) on the dates as mentioned therein in accordance with the directions and the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from time to time.

The Borrower(s) and Co-Borrower(s) are aware that the said Loan against properties are secured by mortgage over the said properties owned by them (the "secured asset" as detailed and mentioned below).

Name of Borrower(s) & Co-Borrower(s): 1)Mr.ANLIKUMAR D T (Borrower) 2)Mr.SUNIL D T 3) Mrs. GIRIJAMATI (Co-Borrower)

Loan Account No(s) | Sanction Date | NPA Classified Date | Demand Notice Date

DRBLSHM00561929 | 13-Jul-18 | 02-Dec-25 | 12-Dec-25 & 30-Aug-22

Total Outstanding amount mentioned in notice in Rs. (Numbers and Words)

Rs.8,04,205/- (Rupees: Eight Lakh Four Thousand Two Hundred and Five Only) & Rs.11,16,904/- (Rupees: Eleven Lakh Sixteen Thousand Nine Hundred and Four Only)

Schedule of the Immovable Property : All that piece and parcel of vacant Gramma Tana Site having its Lingapura Gramma Panchayat Assessment No. 187, PID No. 1510202800100219, measuring 181.16 Sq. Meters, situated in Hanavagai village, Lingapura Gramma Panchayat, Honnall Taluk, Davanagere District and the same is bounded by: East: Property of Lokeshappa; West: Property of Thippesh Rao; North: Gramma Panchayat Road; South: Gramma Panchayat Road.

We hereby call upon the Borrower(s) and Co-Borrower(s) to discharge their liabilities in full to us within a period of 60 (sixty) days from the date of issue of this publication notice, failing which we shall be exercising the powers under section 13 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter called as "Securitization Act"), against the secured asset mentioned above.

The powers available to us under section 13 of the Securitization Act, interalia, includes (i) power to take possession of the secured asset including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset; (ii) take over the management of the secured assets including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale and realize the secured asset and any transfer of secured asset by us shall vest in the transferee all rights in or in relation to the secured asset transferred as if the transfer had been made by the Borrower(s) and Co-Borrower(s).

The amount realized from exercising the powers mentioned above, shall first be applied in payment of all costs (including legal costs and lawyers fees and expenses), charges and expenses which in our opinion have been properly incurred by us or any expenses incidental thereto, and secondly applied in discharge of our dues, as mentioned above with contravention interest from the date of this notice till the date of actual realization and the residue of the money if any shall be paid to the Borrower(s) and Co-Borrower(s).

Please take note that after the date of issue of this notice, the Borrower

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



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

"For the first time in Ballari, our government is constructing a statue of Mahatma Gandhi. Our MLA has taken responsibility for it and post-

ers have been put up across the city. What is wrong in that?" he asked. "BJP workers put up posters even in front of my house. Can I stop them? What problem has this caused to the BJP? Were the posters put up on government land? Why was there a need for Janardhana Reddy to create a confrontation over this?" he questioned.

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

Currently, the district has 9,933 two-wheelers and 18,395 cars whose fitness certificates have expired.

Of these, 6,067 two-wheelers and 11,000 cars are off the roads, but authorities have no clarity on whether these vehicles have been scrapped.

Under the scrapping policy, private diesel vehicles older than 15 years and petrol vehicles older than 20 years must

Karnataka

BENGALURU
SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026

3

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

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

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

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

Currently, the district has 9,933 two-wheelers and 18,395 cars whose fitness certificates have expired. Of these, 6,067 two-wheelers and 11,000 cars are off the roads, but authorities have no clarity on whether these vehicles have been scrapped.

Under the scrapping policy, private diesel vehicles older than 15 years and petrol vehicles older than 20 years must



undergo a fitness test. Vehicles that pass the test can continue operating, while those that fail must be sent for environmentally safe scrapping.

The policy was introduced by the central government in 2021, with state-level rules framed in 2022, and implemented in 2023. Initially, information on government vehicles eligible for scrapping was available through the deputy commissioner's office. Since 2024, the process has been streamlined: government offices can directly register vehicles for scrapping via the VA-SAMP web portal. In the district, 183 government vehicles are eligible

for scrapping. Official records show that 19 vehicles from the health department, one each from the fisheries department and DC office, three from the excise department, two each from the mines and geology department and the animal husbandry department, and one from the Karnataka Rural Road Development Agency have been officially sent for scrapping.

Vehicles sent for scrapping receive a certificate of deposit, and after completion of the scrapping process, a certificate of scrapping is issued. Departments then receive replacement

vehicles. At present, the state operates registered vehicle scrapping centres at Devanahalli, Bengaluru, and Koratagere, Tumakuru.

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

"At the scrapping centres, the RTO first cancels the vehicle registration, after which the vehicle is disposed of in an environmentally safe manner," a transport official explained.

"The certificate of deposit confirms the transfer, and the vehicle scrapping certificate completes the process." Officials warn that while government departments strictly adhere to the rules, the continued operation of private vehicles beyond the prescribed age raises serious concerns about road safety, air pollution, and regulatory compliance.

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

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



to name a replacement player. "The BCCI has instructed KKR to release Bangladeshi pacer Mustafizur Rahman from their squad, while also allowing the franchise to appoint a replacement," Saikia told IANS. The decision reportedly fol-

lowed concerns over violence against members of the Hindu community in Bangladesh in December, as well as criticism from certain quarters opposing Rahman's participation in the IPL. The move has since sparked a wider political debate over nationalism,

religion, and the separation of sports and politics. Reacting to the development, Karnataka Minister Priyank Kharge questioned the rationale behind the decision and the timing of the rule enforcement. "The BCCI and franchise owners framed this rule. Now the BCCI is not explaining anything, and the matter has been left unresolved.

The person who framed the rule is not being called a traitor, while the one who follows it is being labelled a traitor. Why was this rule not introduced earlier?" he added.

Trinamool Congress MP Sougata Roy opposed the move outright, stating that sports should remain free from political influence.

There was no violence until Janardhan Reddy was allowed into Ballari: Shivakumar

Bengaluru : Stating that Ballari was peaceful until Janardhan Reddy stepped into Ballari, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar today said that the culprits of Ballari violence would be brought to justice.

Addressing the joint press conference at CM's Home office Krishna, he said, "There was no violence until Janardhan Reddy was allowed into Ballari. He doesn't have any right to talk about the violence. Our party will stand behind our MLA Bharat Reddy. The investigations will find out the culprits and strict action will be taken against them." "Our government is erecting a statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Ballari for the first time and our MLA had taken the responsibility of that. What is wrong in putting

up banners for the event across the city? BJR erects banners in front of my house too, what's wrong in it? There was no need for Janardhan Reddy to come into the picture. The investigation is going on and I won't interfere in that," he said. "We have formed a committee from the party under the leadership of H M Revanna to study the incident. BJR is not able

to digest Congress' victory in Ballari, he said, "I spoke to the SP immediately after the incident and I know what stage the SP was in. I know what he answered me. I spoke to other leaders too. Sriramulu also called me. Politics is not important, we want peace in Ballari."

Janardhan Reddy is a drama master

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

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

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even a single disturbance. There was no untoward incident, not even a minor FIR. Violence broke out only after his arrival. Therefore, he has no moral right to speak on this issue. The Congress party will stand firmly behind our MLA Bharat Reddy. We have lost our party worker. Who is responsible for this will emerge through the investigation. The law will take its course, and those who are

guilty will be punished," Shivakumar said. "For the first time in Ballari, our government is constructing a statue of Mahatma Gandhi. Our MLA has taken responsibility for it and posters have been put up across the city. What is wrong in that?" he asked. "BJP workers put up posters even in front of my house. Can I stop them? What problem has this caused to the BJP? Were the posters put up on government land? Why was there a need for Janardhana Reddy to create a confrontation over this?" he questioned. "We have lost our party worker, and the BJP is responsible for it."

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



Bengaluru : Bengaluru-based entrepreneur Purushotham Reddy was honoured with the "Inspirational Entrepreneur of the Year" award by the Governor of Kerala, Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, at the annual day celebrations held at Saraswati Vidyalaya, Vattiyoorkavu, Thiruvananthapuram.

The award, instituted by Saraswati Vidyalaya under the title "Inspiring Entrepreneur of the Year," was conferred in recognition of Purushotham Reddy's outstanding achievements in the business sector. According to Saraswati Vidyalaya, Purushotham Reddy was selected for the honour for his exceptional entrepreneurial success, contributions to society, and generous support for social service initiatives. His commitment to socially responsible business practices and philanthropic activities has made him a source of inspiration for aspiring entrepreneurs. The award ceremony was part of the institution's annual celebrations and was attended by dignitaries, faculty members, students, and guests.

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

Bengaluru : The Chief Commissioner, Maheshwar Rao, has directed all concerned departments and 5 city corporations to place nature-based and eco-friendly principles at the core of all developmental activities. Speaking at a

meeting with officials held today at the GBA head office, he stressed that priority should be given to environmentally sensitive developmental works, and effective flood mitigation measures. The Chief Commissioner instructed the concerned officers to coordinate with the Tourism Department to develop lakes as public attractions while preserving their ecological balance. It was clearly directed that diesel or fuel-based boats shall not be permitted in any lake. Only non-polluting alternatives shall be introduced, and the boating system shall be designed to ensure zero pollution and minimal disturbance to aquatic life. Feasibility of introducing Ducks in Lakes: The Chief Commissioner directed officers to examine the feasibility of introducing ducks in lakes as ducks are natural aerators and contribute to the improvement of water quality. The entire responsibility of duck rearing and maintenance shall be entrusted through tendering for accountability and legality purpose. In view of recurring urban flooding, the Chief Commissioner directed that flood-prone locations be identified and valley-wise appropriate nature-based flood mitigation solutions be prepared. Immediate precautionary measures, including desilting of storm water drains, removal of blockages, and restoration of natural drainage systems, shall be taken up on priority.

DCB Bank Ltd,
650/12, BEE EM Avenue, Dr. Raj Kumar
Road, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560 010

DCB BANK

DEMAND NOTICE

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

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As the Borrower(s) and Co-Borrower(s) have committed repeated defaults in observing the financial discipline under the Loan agreement, the mentioned Loan accounts have been classified and declared as Non-Performing Asset (NPA) on the dates as mentioned therein in accordance with the directions and the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from time to time.

The Borrower(s) and Co-Borrower(s) are aware that the said Loan against properties are secured by mortgage over the said properties owned by them (the "secured asset" as defined and mentioned below).

KOLAGULU
Name of Borrower(s) & Co-Borrower(s): 1) Mr.P HUSSAIN (Borrower) 2) Mr. RASOOL SAB & 3) MRS GHOSIYA BEGUM (Co-Borrower)

Loan Account No(s) | Sanction Date | NPA Classified Date | Demand Notice Date

DRBLHUB00467169 | 31-Oct-18 | 05-May-24 | 10-Dec-25

Total Outstanding amount mentioned in notice in Rs. (Numbers and Words)

Rs. 9,31,667/- (Rupees: Nine Lakhs Thirty One Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Seven Only)

Description of Mortgage Properties: "All the piece and parcel of the property bearing Corporation Ward No. 06, C.M.C. Ward No. XB, C.T.S. Ward No. 06, Block No. 10, T. S. No. 95/28/1 part, R.S. N. 774/C, City Municipal House No. 92/C2, Assessment No. 10138/C2, Plot No. 102, measuring East-West: 20 feet, North-South: 30 feet in total 600 sq. feet, in which constructed area Ground Floor 450 sq. feet, First Floor 225 sq. feet, situated at (Bommanahalli Road), R.K. Mill Road, (Kanekal Road), Ballari, within the Registration District of Ballari and Sub-Registrar of Ballari. BOUNDARIES FOR SCHEDULE: East:Plot No. 103; West:Plot No. 101; North:Road; South:Plot No. 133."

HUBLI
Name of Borrower(s) & Co-Borrower(s): 1) Mr.SHIVARAJ ASHOK DEMBE (Borrower) 2) Mrs. SAVITRI ASHOK DEMBE & 3) Mr.ASHOK RAJAPPA DEMBE

Loan Account No(s) | Sanction Date | NPA Classified Date | Demand Notice Date

DRBLHUB00591450 | 10-Jun-23 | 02-Oct-25 | 10-Dec-25

Total Outstanding amount mentioned in notice in Rs. (Numbers and Words)

Rs. 4,96,170/- (Rupees: Four Lakhs Ninety Six Thousand One Hundred Seventy Only)

Description of Mortgage Properties: "All the piece and parcel of the property situated Corporation Ward No. 06, C.M.C. Ward No. XB, C.T.S. Ward No. 06, Block No. 10, T. S. No. 95/28/1 part, R.S. N. 774/C, City Municipal House No. 92/C2, Assessment No. 10138/C2, Plot No. 102, measuring East-West: 20 feet, North-South: 30 feet in total 600 sq. feet, in which constructed area Ground Floor 450 sq. feet, First Floor 225 sq. feet, situated at (Bommanahalli Road), R.K. Mill Road, (Kanekal Road), Ballari, within the Registration District of Ballari and Sub-Registrar of Ballari. BOUNDARIES FOR SCHEDULE: East:Plot No. 103; West:Plot No. 101; North:Road; South:Plot No. 133."

KOLAGULU
Name of Borrower(s) & Co-Borrower(s): 1) Mr.SHIVARAJ ASHOK DEMBE (Borrower) 2) Mrs. SAVITRI ASHOK DEMBE & 3) Mr.ASHOK RAJAPPA DEMBE

Loan Account No(s) | Sanction Date | NPA Classified Date | Demand Notice Date

DRBLHUB00620437 | 29-Mar-24 | 02-Dec-25 | 10-Dec-25

Total Outstanding amount mentioned in notice in Rs. (Numbers and Words)

Rs. 14,92,675/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Ninety Two Thousand Six Hundred and Seventy Five Only)

Description of Mortgage Properties: "All that in respect of Non-Agricultural residential plot / open space its piece & parcel of land bearing E-Swatti No. 17-509-101 measuring 55.74*54 Sq Mtrs, which is bearing Old Property No. 454/64/7 situated at Basaveshwar Nagar Kalaghataj Taluk, Dharwad District, within the limit of taluk Municipal corporation, Kalaghataj, the same is bounded under: Towards East: Property of Jagadish Hebbalmath; Towards West: Property of Ratnava Mahadevappa Kanteppanavar; Towards North: Govt Road; Towards South: Property of Shantavna Walker".

We hereby call upon the Borrower(s) and Co-Borrower(s) to discharge their liabilities in full to us within a period of 60 (sixty) days from the date of issue of this publication notice, failing which we shall be exercising the powers under section 13 of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter called as "Securitization Act"), against the secured asset mentioned above.

The powers available to us under section 13 of the Securitization Act, inter alia, includes (i) power to take possession of the secured asset including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset; (ii) take over the management of the secured assets including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale and realize the secured asset and any transfer of secured asset by us shall vest in the transferee all rights in or in relation to the secured asset transferred as if the transfer had been made by the Borrower(s) and Co-Borrower(s).

The amount realized from exercising the powers mentioned above, shall first be applied in payment of all costs (including legal costs and lawyers fees and expenses), charges and expenses which in our opinion have been properly incurred by us or any expenses incidental thereto, and secondly applied in discharge of our dues, as mentioned above with contractual interest from the date of this notice till the date of actual realization and the residue of the money if any shall be paid to the Borrower(s) and Co-Borrower(s).

Please take note that after the date of issue of this notice, the Borrower(s) and Co-Borrower(s) shall not transfer or part with possession by way of sale, lease or otherwise the secured asset referred to in this notice, or any part or right thereof, without our prior written consent.

We also inform the Borrower(s) and Co-Borrower(s) that if our dues are not fully satisfied with the sale proceeds of the secured asset, we reserve our right to proceed against the Borrower(s) and Co-Borrower(s) (jointly and severally) before an appropriate Court / Statutory / Regulatory Authority, for recovery of the balance amount due from the Borrower(s) and Co-Borrower(s).

Kindly note that a total amount as mentioned above is due from the Borrower(s) and Co-Borrower(s) to us as on the date of

Madhya Pradesh water contamination tragedy: Clash erupts between Congress, BJP workers; 45 detained

Around 45 Madhya Pradesh Congress functionaries were detained on Saturday as a "precautionary measure" after a clash with BJP workers when a fact-finding committee of the opposition party was at Indore's Bhagirathpura area, where water contamination has claimed six lives.

The Congress committee under former state minister Sajjan Singh Verma, which includes MLAs Mahesh Parmar and Pratap Grewal, was on its way to meet affected families when BJP workers gathered at the spot carrying black flags and shouted slogans, eyewitnesses said. Congress workers too replied with slogans denouncing the ruling party, following which the two sides clashed, scuffled with each other and threw slippers, they added.

A police team that arrived at the spot escorted the Congress' fact-finding committee members and workers out of the area and took them to the central jail, they said.

"To maintain law and order in Bhagirathpura, 45 people, including 10



women, were detained as a precautionary measure. They were later released on bail," Deputy Commissioner of Police Rajesh Vyas told PTI. Congress leaders alleged the police acted at the behest of the ruling BJP and prevented the fact-finding committee from meeting the affected families.

This was, however, rejected by BJP leaders who said the Congress was indulging in "dirty politics" over the water contamination tragedy.

According to officials, six people have died and more than 200 were hospitalised in an outbreak of vomiting and diarrhoea caused by contaminated drinking water in Bhagirathpura, which has a large population from low and middle-income groups. The death figures, however, vary, ranging from 10 to 16. While Indore Mayor Pushyamitra Bhargava had said on Friday that he had information about 10 patient deaths linked to the outbreak, residents put the figure at 16, including that of a 6-month-old child.

HKMCF signs MoU with ICAR-IIMR to promote millet nutrition

Hyderabad, January 3, 2026:

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

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



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

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

held at HKMCF, Kokapet, was presided over by His Grace Sri Satya Gaura Chandra Dasa Prabhuj, President, HKMCF and Regional President, Akshaya Patra Foundation (Telangana and AP), in the presence of Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director, ICAR-IIMR. Senior officials from both organisations also attended the event. As per the agreement, the two institutions will collaborate on developing and standardising millet-based recipes for large kitchens, conducting training and awareness programmes, sharing best practices on millet pro-

cessing and nutrition, and promoting millets as climate-resilient and sustainable food options.

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

Rare Tumor in the Frontal Part of the Brain

* SYMPTOMS INCLUDED VOMITING, SEIZURES, AND MEMORY LOSS

* EMERGENCY ENDOSCOPIC SURGERY PERFORMED

* KIMS DOCTORS IN KURNOOL SAVE YOUNG MAN'S LIFE

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

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



Emergency Department of KIMS Hospital, Kurnool.

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

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

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

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

The patient recovered rapidly

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

'Vikalpa'; A new 'picture' between reality and illusion

Sankalp' that touches the hearts of the audience through 'Vikalpa'

Bengaluru: 'Vikalpa', a psychological-thriller story-line produced by almost new talents, is getting ready to hit the screens. The film team, which has already completed most of the post-production work of the film 'Vikalpa', has now brought the film before the censor. Meanwhile, the film team, which has slowly started the promotional work of the film 'Vikalpa', recently released the first teaser of 'Vikalpa'. Senior Kannada film director Nagathihalli



Chandrashekhar has virtually released the teaser of the film 'Vikalpa', the film's team shared a few things about the special features of their film. First, the film's lead actor-cum-director Prithviraj Patil, who was mentioned as 'Vikalpa', explained, 'As we have been saying since the beginning, this

is a psychological-thriller story. We are bringing the hidden emotions, turmoils and angst of the human mind to the screen through this film. 'Vikalpa' means a state between reality and imagination. Although the title of our film suggests that this is a story related to mental health, what is special is that it is a complete thriller film. Along with psychological-thriller elements, the entire story of the film has been woven with great emphasis on gentle humor and entertainment. The story of the film is the hero of this film. Here, every character speaks. Every

character touches the hearts of the audience.'

Actress Harini Srikant said, 'I have played the role of a psychiatrist in this film. Although the entire film crew is new, they have made the film very professionally. Director Prithviraj has prepared a lot and directed this film. She expressed her hope that all the mature Kannada film audiences who expect story and writing to be important for a film will definitely like this film.'

The film's heroine Nagashri Hebbar said, 'I have played a character named Samudiyatha in this film. Although I

have deep anxieties inside, I am a calm character on the surface. This film has given me a new experience, having acted in theatre so far.' Senior journalist and author Jogi, who arrived as the chief guest at the teaser launch of the film 'Vikalpa', said, 'I have already seen some parts of this film. 'Vikalpa' is a film made by people who are passionate about the film. Such new films should be made in Kannada. The story, teaser, and songs of this movie are promising. May the expectations raised after the release of the movie come true.'

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

Bengaluru : Sir M. Visvesvaraya Institute of Technology (Sir MVIT), Bengaluru, organised INNOVISTA-2026, a final-year students' Projects, Prototypes and

Innovation Demonstration Competition, under the aegis of the Institution's Innovation Council (IIC), providing a platform for students to showcase innovative solutions to real-world problems. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from final-year students across all engineering branches, who exhibited a wide range of projects and prototypes demonstrating technical expertise, creativity, and social relevance.

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Name of Borrower(s) & Co Borrower(s): 1) Mr.BADHRINATH K G 2) Mrs Nethra H A (Co-Borrower)

Loan Account No(s)	Sanction Date	NPA Classified Date	Demand Notice Date
DRHLRJN00552051	30-Apr-22	04-Apr-25	28-Nov-25

Total Outstanding amount mentioned in notice in Rs. (Numbers and Words) Rs. 52,31,765/- (Rupees Fifty Two Lakh Thirty One Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Five Only)

Description of Mortgage Properties: "SCHEDULE 'A' All that the piece and parcel of Residential property bearing House List Katha no.46/1, property Site No.6, situated at PUTTENAHALLI VILLAGE, Ultaahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, now comes under the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Ward No.187, ARO Arekere, Bangalore, measuring East to West : 165-00 feet and North to South : 35-00 Feet, in all measuring 5775 Square Feet, and bounded on the East by : Private property; West by : Road; North by : Private property; South by : Road and Property No.5. Together with Car parking in the Still Ground, First, Second, Third and fourth Floor of Residential Apartment known and called as "KUSHI APARTMENT". SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY - 300 Square Feet of undivided share, right, title and interest in land comprised in the schedule 'A' Property. SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY - Flat bearing No.GF-1 on the GROUND FLOOR, of the building named "KUSHI APARTMENT", having measurement of 1450 square feet of super Built Up Area, Consisting of Three Bedrooms, One Common Bath, Hall, Modular Kitchen, Vitrified Flooring, Passage Balcony, all electrical fittings and with all civic amenities thereon and ONE COVERED CAR PARK SPACE IN STILT FLOOR and bounded on: East by: Road; West by: Flat No.GF-2; North by: Passage, South by: Road".

Name of Borrower(s) & Co Borrower(s): 1) Mr. HARSHA P(Borrower) & 2) Mrs. Sandhya Rani K(Co-Borrower)

Loan Account No(s)	Sanction Date	NPA Classified Date	Demand Notice Date
DRHLRJN00559789	31-Jul-22	04-Mar-25	28-Nov-25

Total Outstanding amount mentioned in notice in Rs. (Numbers and Words) Rs. 33,25,438/- (Rupees Thirty Three Lakh Twenty Five Thousand Four Hundred and Thirty Eight Only)

Description of Mortgage Properties: SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY - All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing House List No.7, which is a part of the BBMP Katha No.625/5, formed in Sy.No.5, which is duly converted for residential purpose by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore vide his Official Memorandum No.A.L.N.S.U.S.R/135/11-12, dated: 16/05/2012, situated at Marasandra Village, Subramanyapura Dhakale, Ultaahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West: 73-00 feet and North to South: 46-00 feet, totally measuring 3382 Sq.Ft., and bounded as hereunder: East by : Private Property, First, Second, Third and fourth Floor of Residential Apartment known and called as "KUSHI APARTMENT", having measurement of 1450 square feet of super Built Up Area, Consisting of Three Bedrooms, One Common Bath, Hall, Modular Kitchen, Vitrified Flooring, Passage Balcony, all electrical fittings and with all civic amenities thereon and ONE COVERED CAR PARK SPACE IN STILT FLOOR and bounded on: East by: Road; West by: Flat No.GF-2; North by: Passage, South by: Road".

Name of Borrower(s) & Co Borrower(s): 1) Mr.MANIKANTA V (Borrower) & 2) Mr. PRAMESHKANTA V & 3) Mrs. Sandhya Rani K(Co-Borrower)

Loan Account No(s)	Sanction Date	NPA Classified Date	Demand Notice Date
DRHLBLR00427907	15-May-17	02-Nov-25	11-Dec-25

Total Outstanding amount mentioned in notice in Rs. (Numbers and Words) Rs. 11,45,662/- (Rupees Eleven Lakh Forty Five Thousand Six Hundred and Sixty Two Only)

Description of Mortgage Properties: SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY - All that piece and parcel of property bearing HASB Katha No.84/4/306, situated at K.R.Garden, Murugesapalya, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, earlier Bangalore South Taluk, presently within the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, having Katha No.12, P.D.No.73-12-1, measuring East to West: 31 feet, on Northern side: 31 feet, on Southern side 27 feet, North to South: 60 feet along with private common passage on Eastern side measuring East to West: 3 feet North to South: 60 feet, in all measuring 1920 square feet and bounded as East by: Property of Vijaya Chandra, West by: Lakshminarayanas Property and Road, North by: Property of Siddaraju, South by: Property of Sathyanandran. SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY - 120 square feet of undivided share, right, title, interest, ownership in the land out of Schedule "A" Property which is proportionate to the super built up area of Residential Flat No.G-001, in the ground floor of the multistoried building constructed in Schedule "A" Property, having super built up area of 400 square feet, including common area and two Wheeler parking space in the Ground Floor and common right over the open space, staircase, passages, corridors, lobbies, etc. with civic amenities. The building is constructed with brick and cement wall, RCC roofing, jungle wood doors, steel framed windows, vitrified tiles flooring, with civic amenities."

Name of Borrower(s) & Co Borrower(s): 1) Mr.BHARATH H S (Borrower) & 2) Mrs. GAYATHRIACHAR (Co-Borrower)

Loan Account No(s)	Sanction Date	NPA Classified Date	Demand Notice Date
DRBLBLR00500719	31-Dec-19	02-Nov-25	10-Dec-25

Total Outstanding amount mentioned in notice in Rs. (Numbers and Words) Rs:16,29,648/- (Rupees: Sixteen Lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Six Hundred and Forty Eight Only)

Description of Mortgage Properties: "All that piece and parcel of the property bearing site No.17A, Katha No.883/64/17A, House List No.680, P.D. No.052-W0413-6, situated at KR Puram Village, K R Puram Hobli, BBMP Ward No.52, Near Venkateshwara School, BBMP Bangalore East taluk, measuring East to West 20 feet and North to South 12 feet totally measuring 240 square feet and measuring 5/20 of Common Passage and bounded on: East: By: Remaining Property of Site No. Belonging to Sri Madhu N K and Sanju N K; West: By: Road

EDITORIAL

Can Innovation Happen Only with Science and Engineering?

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

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

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

Edit

BEYOND THE FARM:

How Bihar's Women are Reimagining Livelihoods From the Margins



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

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

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

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

Usman Khawaja's Retirement Presser Shows Sportspersons the Moral Compass



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

she asks. A strong smell, reminding me of tear gas - so familiar from the famous protests of 2017 - seeps through my window. I'm in a high-rise building, in the eastern part of the capital, Caracas. My mother notices it too. Earlier, on the balconies of nearby buildings, there was an outburst of euphoria minutes after a message began circulating on social media from President Donald Trump announcing the capture of Nicolás Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores.

But the shouts lasted only seconds. A supermarket that also operates 24-hours kept its shutters down for most of the morning, with a line of people waiting for it to open. Although it had been a possibility for months, what happened today has come as a shock to Venezuelans. For the opposition to Nicolás MaSimeón early this morning, BBC Verify have been working through a number of videos showing explosions, in

fire and smoke in various locations around Caracas to identify which sites have been targeted. So far, we have confirmed four locations. Generalissimo Francisco de Miranda Air Base aka La Carlota - footage filmed at a distance shows two plumes of smoke and an explosion close to this military airfield in Caracas Port La Guaira.

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

What we know about Maduro's capture



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

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



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

Craig the beer-ambassador elephant dies aged 54

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



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

POLICE IDENTIFY FIRST FOUR VICTIMS OF SWISS SKI RESORT FIRE



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

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

Zelensky names spy chief to head presidential office after corruption row



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

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

negotiations. "Kyrylo has specialist experience in these areas and sufficient strength to deliver results." The president added that he had already instructed his new office chief to update and present key documents regarding "the strategic foundations" of Ukraine's defence. The chief of presidential staff in Ukraine is historically a very powerful position. There was a time

Missile attack on Kharkiv kills two including child, authorities say



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

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

TRUMP WARNING OVER IRAN PROTESTS 'RECKLESS' SAYS FOREIGN MINISTER



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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

most expensive Bangladeshi player in the league's history.

"Due to the recent developments that are going on all across, BCCI has instructed the franchise KKR to release one of their players, Mustafizur Rahman of Bangladesh,

from their squad," Saikia said in a chat with news agency ANI. BCCI has also said that if they ask for any replacement, BCCI is going to allow that replacement."

What BCCI's Directive Means For KKR The BCCI's directive to release

Mustafizur represents a significant tactical and financial setback for Kolkata

Knights. By committing Rs 9.20 crore to the Bangladeshi pacer, KKR had clearly designated him as their premier death-over specialist. His world-class "cutters" and ability to exploit the slower nature of the Eden Gardens pitch provided a unique left-arm angle that is difficult to replicate.

Losing him this close to the season leaves a gaping hole in their bowling attack and places immense pressure on Matheesha Pathirana to shoulder the burden of the final overs alone. From a strategic perspective, KKR's overseas balance has been thrown into disarray.

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

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



Apart from the T20 World Cup, Gill also missed out on the spot for the T20Is against New Zealand. However, he is reportedly set to lead India in the ODIs against the

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

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



ing over the ropes, while the final ball was hit for a boundary. Pandya's innings included only 31 singles as he launched the counter-attack, hitting most of his sixes in the midwicket region and over-long-on. A few also went flying over long-off, showcasing his incredible strength and reach. A maiden List A brought up in some style Hardik Pandya was on 66 off 62 balls against Vidarbha...and then he went berserk in the 39th over to complete his 100, smashing five sixes and a four. Pandya's domination could also be judged with the fact that the next best batter in Baroda's innings was Vishnu Solanki, who made 26.

In a breathtaking display of raw power and clinical hitting, India all-rounder Hardik Pandya on Saturday clobbered nearly half a dozen sixes, including five in an over, on way to a 93-ball 133, for Baroda against Vidarbha in their Vijay Hazare Trophy contest here. Pandya hit an overall 11 sixes and eight fours to turn the tables on Vidarbha, who had taken control of the game by reducing Baroda to 71 for five at one stage and then 136 for six in the first half. Batting as low as No 7 in his first match of the competition, Pandya came out all guns blazing to bring up his maiden List A century in his 119th match, taking Baroda to a competitive total of 293 for nine in

their 50 overs. This milestone

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

ting. In the 39th over, Pandya

went after Vidarbha spinner Parth Rekhade to collect a

total of 34 runs, which includ-

ed five sixes and a four.

The atmosphere at the

ground was electric as

Rekhade struggled to find a

length that Pandya could not

exploit. The first five balls of

the left-arm spinner went fly-

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



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

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

the Black Caps on Saturday, and Pant's inclusion is the major talking point. "It is an open secret that at least one member in the Indian team management doesn't exactly like Pant's high-risk, high-reward batting template and would like him to employ a more traditional way of batting," the report by news agency PTI stated.

"But dropping a second-choice glovesman without giving him a fair go could obviously lead to more questions being asked without tangible answers being provided," the report added. In 2025, Pant didn't play a single ODI, although he was part of the Champions Trophy squad as well as the series against South Africa last month. While Ruturaj Gaikwad, a specialist opener, was tried at No. 4, Pant was left cooling his heels during all three games.

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



Indian football is in a crisis. There is still no clarity on whether the national football league (the ISL) will happen at all. With the future of the Indian Super League (ISL) still uncertain, Indian footballers, along with international stars, have urged the sport's global governing body, FIFA, to step in and resolve the lingering state of the franchise-based tournament. Leading figures of Indian football, including Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Sandesh Jhingan, and Sunil Chhetri, have publicly appealed to FIFA to intervene amid the ongoing crisis facing the sport in the country. "It's January, and we should be on your screens as part of a competitive football game in the Indian Super League," Gurpreet said in a video featuring other players as well. "Instead, here we are, driven by fear and desperation, to say aloud something we all

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

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

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

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



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

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

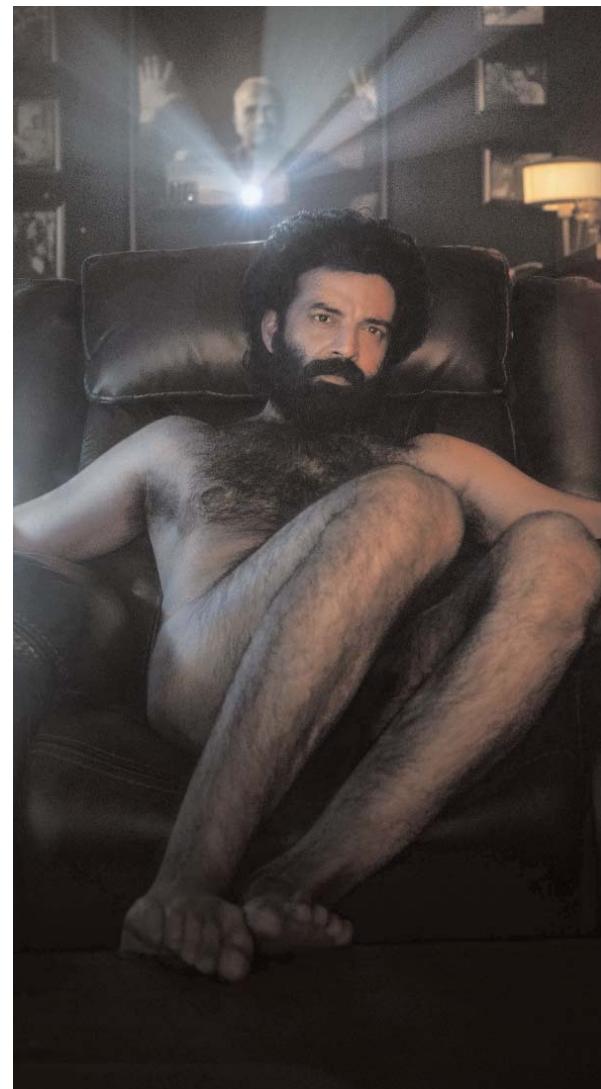
played a lot of golf and ended up with back spasms) were legitimate. England have been questioned about their prep too," Gillespie wrote on X (formerly Twitter). I respect Usman and have really enjoyed his career, love how he speaks his mind. I felt the questions re his preparation before Perth (where he played a lot of golf and ended up with back spasms) were legitimate. England have been questioned about their prep too. During the 50-minute press conference, Khawaja stated he is still battling stereotypes in his final season.

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



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

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



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

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

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

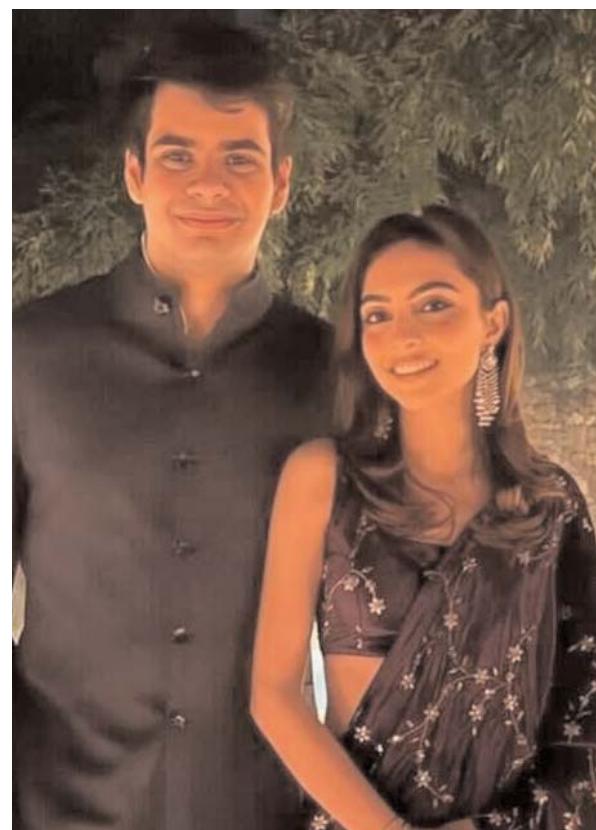
"Ramam" Movie Team Extends Birthday Wishes to Young Star Hero Bellamkonda Sai Sreenivas

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



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

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



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

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



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



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

soulful lyrics penned by Prudhvi Pericherla and is beautifully rendered by Vaishnavi. Music director Shiva Prasad has composed a melodious and soothing tune that perfectly captures the essence of love. The song expresses deep romantic emotions through lines that reflect longing, devotion, and heartfelt affection. Earlier songs from Sky "Tapane Telupag a...," "Poyekalal Neeku..." and "Ninu Choosina..." have already turned into chartbusters, crossing million-plus views. The makers are confident that "Ninu Kasirina Samayana..." will also receive a warm response from music lovers.

The shoot of Mandaadi, the 16th production from RS Infotainment, is racing ahead under the director Mathimaran Pugazhendhi, shaping into an intense sports-action drama starring Soori and Suhas. Mounted on a grand scale with a strong regional flavour, the film boasts striking visuals, and compelling performances. Suhas, in particular, is making headlines for playing a full-fledged antagonist for the first time. The team has already completed 70% of the shoot. Scheduled for a Summer 2026 theatrical release, Mandaadi is positioned as one of the major attractions of the season, with industry buzz growing steadily. It also stands as the

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

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

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



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

view in the backdrop. Sharing the milestone moment with their parents, Nupur and Stebin were also on a video call with them after the proposal. Dressed in a pretty floral dress, Nupur also flaunted her giant engagement ring. Stebin opted to wear blue formal for the special occasion. In one of the pictures, a female figure was seen hugging the happy couple. While her face is not visible, it is most likely Kriti expressing her excitement for the lovebirds. Speculations were going around for some time that Nupur and Stebin will be tying the knot in Udaipur soon. The singer is often seen spending time with Nupur's family. Recently, Stebin was seen celebrating Christmas with Nupur and her elder sister, Kriti. The "Tere Ishq Mein" actress took to her Instagram account and posted a couple of sneak peeks into her Christmas celebration. The photos showed Kriti with her parents, sister Nupur, and Stebin. "Late Christmas Post.. was busy celebrating," Kriti wrote in the caption. Nupur and Stebin have been reportedly in a relationship since 2023. In the recent past, the lovebirds have been spotted together on various occasions, from dates to family gatherings.



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

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

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