



INBRIEF

63 Maoists surrender in Dantewada under Chhattisgarh's 'Puna Margam' campaign

Raipur/Dantewada, Jan 9: In a significant boost to anti-Naxal operations and peace efforts in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region, 63 Maoist cadres, including 36 carrying bounties totalling Rs 1.19 crore, surrendered before security forces on Friday. The surrender ceremony took place at the District Reserve Guard office in Dantewada. The cadres, comprising 18 women and 45 men, were active in Darba Division, South Bastar, West Bastar, Maad Division and parts of neighbouring Odisha. Among them were seven with Rs eight lakh bounty each, seven with Rs five lakh, eight with Rs two lakh, eleven with Rs one lakh and three with Rs 50,000, a police official said. The mass surrender has been attributed to the ongoing 'Puna Margam' campaign, meaning Rehabilitation to Rejuvenation, launched by Dantewada Police to encourage Maoists to abandon violence and join the mainstream.

5.3 intensity earthquake with epicentre in Tajikistan jolts J&K

SRINAGAR: An earthquake measuring 5.3 on the Richter Scale was felt in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, although the epicentre was in Tajikistan, said officials here, adding that there were no reports of any loss of life or damage to property. Mukhtar Ahmad, Director of the local Meteorological (MeT) Department, told IANS that an earthquake measuring 5.3 on the Richter scale occurred at 2.44 a.m. "The epicentre of the earthquake was in Tajikistan, and it occurred 110 km inside the earth's crust. Its coordinates were latitude 38.26 degrees north and longitude 73.42 degrees east. The tremors were felt in J&K, although no casualty or damage to property has been reported from anywhere so far," the MeT department director said. People living in some parts of Kashmir's Ganderbal district said they were awoken by the rattle of kitchen utensils when they noticed that an earthquake had occurred.

ED RAIDS ON I-PAC: TMC MPs Derek and Moitra dragged away by cops at Amit Shah's office

'Assaulting elected representatives to crush democracy,' TMC reacts to the incident....



New Delhi (TSIT) Following Enforcement Directorate (ED) raids at Indian Political Action Committee I-PAC, a political consultancy and election management company, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) has stepped up its offensive against the Union Government. In this regard, several party leaders, led by Derek O'Brien and Mahua Moitra, staged a protest today outside Union Home Minister Amit Shah's office at Kartavya Bhawan.

The protesting leaders were, however, whisked away by the police. Reacting to the Delhi Police action, Moitra wrote in a post on X, "The protest leaders were, however, whisked away by the police. Reacting to the Delhi Police action, Moitra wrote in a post on X, "Democracy is punished. Criminals are rewarded. Agencies are manipulated. Elections are manipulated."

democracy".

"Is this how dissent is silenced in your India?" the TMC wrote on X. The party said that Shah was "rattled" and accused him of being "arrogant". "First, the shameless misuse of the ED. Now, an attack on the peaceful dharna of our eight MPs. This desperation exposes your fear. You may try to choke democracy, but Bengal will not be cowed," the party stated.

Senior party leader Abhishek Banerjee, too, slammed the Home Minister for ED's action. He said, "Democracy is punished. Criminals are rewarded. Agencies are manipulated. Elections are manipulated."



Telangana wants water, not disputes: CM Revanth

HYDERABAD (TSIT): Amid the ongoing row between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh on sharing of river waters, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said that the state prefers water over disputes. He called for rising above politics to find a solution to the disputes between the two Telugu states over the sharing of Krishna and Godavari River waters.

"If you ask whether Telangana state needs a dispute or water, I will choose water. If asked whether we want conflict or a solution, I will choose a solution," he said while speaking at a programme at Maheshwaram in Rangareddy district.

Revanth Reddy appealed to his Andhra Pradesh counterpart, N. Chandrababu Naidu, not to create obstacles for the Telangana projects across the Krishna River. "I appeal to him from this platform. Do not create obstacles for permissions to those projects on the Krishna River, which were proposed in the undivided Andhra Pradesh," he said.

He noted that due to these obstacles, Central government funds are not being released, and the state is facing a financial burden. Revanth Reddy stated that for Telangana to get port connectivity, cooperation from the neighbouring state is necessary. "If the two states cooperate with each other, the problems will be resolved. Discussions with the neighbouring state will continue for this purpose," he said.

He also stated that he favours resolving the prob-

lems through talks and not through the courts.

He made it clear that the Congress has no intention of gaining political mileage from the water dispute. "I appeal to all parties to rise above politics and cooperate for a solution. Let's resolve our problems amicably," he said. "We are thinking not about political gains, but about the interests of the people and the farmers," he added.

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The Chief Minister stated that Telangana does not want disputes with neighbouring states, whether it is Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, or Maharashtra. "We seek mutual cooperation," he added. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Naidu, on January 7, had appealed to Telangana not to indulge in politics over river water sharing issues.

Concerned for our community in US: India on Minneapolis shooting

New Delhi (TSIT): India on Friday, January 9, voiced concern over the killing of a woman by a federal immigration agent in Minneapolis in the US. "We are closely following the developments," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. "We are concerned as we have a large Indian community in the US, including students, professionals and others," he said at his weekly media

a group of ICE agents on a snowy street in Minneapolis, where they had moved last year from Kansas City, Missouri.

Following the incident, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin claimed the woman "weaponised her vehicle, attempting to run over our law enforcement officers in an attempt to kill them."

However, a video taken by



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briefing.

Renee Nicole Good was shot dead by a federal immigration agent on Wednesday, January 7, during an inspection, which she did not appear to be the target of. She was a US citizen born in Colorado and appears to have never been charged with anything involving law enforcement beyond a traffic ticket.

Her former husband, who asked not to be named out of concern for the safety of their children, said Good had just dropped off her six-year-old son at school on January 7 and was driving home with her current partner when they encountered

bystanders posted to social media shows an officer approaching her car, demanding she open the door and grabbing the handle. When she begins to pull forward, a different ICE officer standing in front of the vehicle pulls his weapon and immediately fires at least two shots into the vehicle at close range. It is unclear what operation the ICE was conducting at the time of the incident. The shooting resulted in major outrage from the public, and Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey accused the DHS of spinning the narrative and asked the ICE agents to leave the state.

Why disputes on water flowing waste into sea, asks CM Naidu



Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, on Friday, asked why should there be disputes between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana over the utilisation of water flowing waste into the sea.

He said that there was no meaning in disputes between the two southern states over utilising the surplus water of Godavari flowing into sea.

The Chief Minister was speaking at a public meeting after distributing 'pattadar' passbooks among farmers at the Rayavaram village in East Godavari district. Referring to

anyone. "If 300 TMC water flowing into the sea is utilised, there will be no drought. If Polavaram is completed, there will be no water problem in the region. We will take water from Polavaram to Visakhapatnam and from there to Vamsadhara," he said.

The Chief Minister said that if Polavaram project is completed, Telangana can also utilise the surplus water. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said that Godavari water diverted to Krishna river through Pattiseema lift irrigation project and the water was supplied to Rayalaseema and as a result the region was emerging as a horticultural hub.

Telangana's objection to Polavaram-Nallamalla Sagar project and the controversy over Rayalaseema lift irrigation project, Chandrababu Naidu remarked that some people want conflicts and not water. He made it clear that there will be no compromise on the state's interests, adding that disputes will not benefit

advocates for joining the TVK, while others favour a DMK.

O Panneerselvam is expected to announce his next course of political action on his birthday, January 14th. After suffering 'humiliation' at the hands of the NDA, Panneerselvam's supporters don't want him to return to the same front; instead, they prefer TVK or DMK.

Expelled from the AIADMK, Panneerselvam's independent journey has turned listless of late. After contesting and losing the Ramanathapuram seat in the last Lok Sabha elections as part of the NDA, he exited the alliance, citing a lack of respect. He subsequently set a deadline for EPS to decide on his re-entry into the AIADMK, which passed without action.

defeat Edappadi K Palaniswami, O Panneerselvam would find it hard to accept the offer to join the same alliance led by EPS. Panneerselvam has been discussing his next move with supporters, including former ministers. Discussions reportedly focused on potential alliances. Some aides

Trump signals control of Venezuelan oil reserves, drawing global attention

Washington, Jan 9 : President Donald Trump is framing the US intervention in Venezuela not as a short-term military action but as a long-range economic and geopolitical reset—one that he says reclaims control of oil assets, deters rivals, curbs drug trafficking and sends a signal well beyond Latin America.

In a sit-down interview on Fox News' Hannity, Trump laid out a sweeping rationale for the operation that led to the capture of Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro, repeatedly return-

ing to oil as the central lever of US power. "They took the oil from us years ago," Trump said, referring to the nationalization of American ener-

gy assets in Venezuela. "We just took it back."

The president said the United States has already secured large quantities of Venezuelan crude under sanctions enforcement. "We've taken \$4 billion worth of oil in one day," he said, adding that the total would rise over time.

Trump said major American companies would now rebuild Venezuela's collapsed energy sector. "The top 14 companies are coming," he said. "They're going to rebuild the whole oil infrastructure."

EXTREMELY SADDENING:

PM Modi, other leaders express grief over Himachal bus tragedy

New Delhi (TSIT): Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi, and others on Friday expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives in a tragic road accident in Himachal Pradesh's Sirmaur district, where a private bus skidded off the road and plunged into a deep gorge in a remote mountainous area.

"The loss of lives due to a bus mishap in Sirmaur, Himachal Pradesh, is extremely saddening. Condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. Praying for the speedy recovery of those injured," PM Modi said in a post on X. He announced an ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh from the PMNRF to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given Rs 50,000 each. Terming the



incident extremely heartbreaking, Union Minister J.P. Nadda said he had asked BJP state president Rajeev Bindal and Leader of the Opposition Jairam Thakur to closely monitor the relief and rescue operations.

Hydroponic ganja valued at Rs

14 crore seized at Hyderabad Airport

Hyderabad : Customs authorities at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) here seized hydroponic ganja (cannabis) worth about Rs 14 crore on Friday. According to officials, the contraband was recovered from two passengers who had arrived from Qatar. The seized hydroponic Ganja, cultivated without soil, is estimated to be worth around Rs 14 crore in the international market. On suspicion, Customs officers intercepted two passengers who arrived from Qatar.

Vijay or Stalin, NDA or not: OPS at crossroads



CHENNAI (TSIT): AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami (EPS) has categorically ruled out the possibility of re-inducting former Chief Minister O Panneerselvam, making a definitive statement after meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi, effectively shutting the door on the expelled leader.

Disappointed by a categorical statement after meeting the BJP top strategist, OPS has been left with limited options: either ally with the actor Vijay-led fledgling Tamilaga Vettai Kazhagam (TVK) or join the DMK-led front.

The only solace the former Chief Minister could find was that the BJP was persistently asking him to rejoin the NDA. After taking a grand stand last month, announcing his intention to influence the 2026 elections to

advocate for joining the TVK, while others favour a DMK.

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Only Supreme Court can rein in ED: Sibal wafter raids on I-PA

NEW DELHI: A day after the ED conducted searches at the office of political consultancy firm I-PAC and the residence of its director Pratik Jain in Kolkata, Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal on Friday said federalism is at ED's mercy and asserted that only the Supreme Court can rein in the probe agency.

Sibal's remarks came after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) action in West Bengal ignited high drama, with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee unexpectedly storming into the sites during raids, alleging that the central agency was trying to seize



the TMC's sensitive data ahead of the high-stakes state polls.

The ED, which maintained that the searches were part of a money laundering probe into an alleged multi-crore rupee coal pilferage scam,

accused Banerjee of obstructing a lawful investigation and claimed that she and the state police forcibly removed "key evidence" during the raids.

In a post on X, Sibal said, "Only Supreme Court can rein in ED. Every opposi-

tion state, every significant opposition leader is targeted. What is happening in West Bengal is truly disturbing! That too in the midst of an impending election."

"Federalism is at ED's mercy!" the Independent Rajya Sabha MP said.

The confrontation, which unfolded at a politically combustible moment, added sharp electoral overtones ahead of the elections to the 294-member West Bengal Assembly, to be held in less than three months, as both the Trinamool Congress and the BJP were locked in an aggressive battle for nar-

rative control.

The standoff also soon took a legal turn, with the ED moving the Calcutta High Court, seeking permission to file a petition, alleging interference in its investigation. The I-PAC also approached the HC, opposing the searches and questioning its legality.

According to the ED, the I-PAC's office in Salt Lake Sector V and Jain's residence on Loudon Street were among about 10 premises, including four in Delhi, that were raided by the federal probe agency in the presence of central paramilitary teams from 7 am, Thursday.

New Delhi: South Central Railway (SCR) added two trophies to its cabinet at the annual Railway Board awards on Friday. Its Carriage Repair Shop, Tirupati, shared the coveted Utkrishta Gunavatta Shield (formerly Best Production Unit Shield) with Motibagh Workshop, Nagpur (South East Central Railway). General Manager Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava received the rolling trophy from Railway Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnav at a function held at Rail Bhavan.

In the individual category, seven SCR employees were conferred the "Ati

Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar-2025".

Anurag Wadhwa – Sr. Divl. Personnel Officer
Nelli Bhanu Surya Prakash – Dy. Chief Engineer
Ramesh Kamulla – Divl. S&T Engineer
Vishal Arjun R G – Divl. Commercial Manager
S. Thirumalai Kumar –

Chief Commercial-cum-Reservation Supervisor
Ch Mahesh Babu – Mail/Express Train Manager
G. R. A. Sravanti – Junior Engineer (Workshop)

The minister praised SCR for exceeding wagon-on-turn targets and achieving the lowest scrap-to-production ratio among all zones.

Yashoda Hospitals Malakpet saves Khammam woman with emergency brain-aneurysm stenting



Hyderabad: Doctors at Yashoda Hospitals, Malakpet, have discharged a 46-year-old Khammam woman who was brought in on 7 November 2025 with a thunder-clap headache, vomiting and blurred vision caused by a ruptured 3-mm aneurysm on the left anterior cerebral artery. An MRI confirmed sub-arachnoid haemor-

rhage and cerebral angiography showed the blister-like sac pointing dangerously downward with early vasospasm. Because the patient also had uncontrolled diabetes and hypertension, open surgery was judged too risky.

On 9 November the neuro-interventional team led by Dr Hari Kishore Kamepalli told reporters at the Khammam Press Club,

micro-catheter through the groin and deployed a 3 x 25 mm "Leo Baby" braided stent from the A-1 to A-2 segment, scaffolding the vessel wall. When immediate in-stent thrombus formed, intra-arterial Tirofiban dissolved the clot within minutes and final pictures showed brisk distal flow with the aneurysm flattened.

The patient spent five days on ventilator support in the neuro-ICU while receiving dual anti-platelets, statins, anti-epileptics and tight glycaemic control. She walked out of hospital on 16 November and is now back to household work, doctors Surisetti Bharath Kumar and Kamepalli told reporters at the Khammam Press Club.

Sabarimala gold loss case: SIT arrests chief priest

T H I R U V A N A N T H A P U R A M: The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the Sabarimala gold loss case arrested chief priest of the Lord Ayyappa temple, Kandararu Rajeevaru here on Friday, sources said.

Rajeevaru was questioned at an undisclosed location in the morning and later shifted to the SIT office in the afternoon, where his arrest was formally recorded, sources said. According to officials, the arrest was made based on statements given by prime accused Unnikrishnan Potty and former Travancore Devaswom Board president Padmakumar.

The SIT found that Rajeevaru had close associations with Potty and had recommended the replating of the Dwarapalaka (guardian deity) plates and the Sreekovil (sanctum sanctorum) doorframe plates at the temple.

Later, when the Travancore Devaswom Board sought his permission for the replating, Rajeevaru had granted his approval, officials said.

SIT officials said Rajeevaru had been questioned earlier as part of the investigation. He is the 11th person to be arrested in the case after the Kerala High Court constituted the SIT to probe the gold loss incident.

PFRDA urges Telangana banks to push Atal Pension Yojana in last quarter

Hyderabad: Chief General Manager Pravesh Kumar on Friday asked banks and Lead District Managers (LDMs) to "treat every unorganised-sector pay-cheque as a potential APY account" while reviewing scheme progress at Union Bank's Staff Training Centre, Gachibowli.

Kumar said India has already added a record one-crore new subscribers in 2025-26, taking the national tally to 8.59 crore. Telangana has clocked 61% of its annual target, enrolling 2.98 lakh people up to 31 December 2025. "With three months left, the State can easily cross the finish line if rural branches and urban CSPs move from awareness camps to on-the-spot account opening," he



added. SBI's Priyabrata Mishra, convenor of the State-Level Bankers' Committee, said lenders are using 820 Financial Literacy Centres, 3,400 branches and 5,100 BC points to advertise the pension product.

NABARD, RBI and Union Bank representatives underlined that APY remains the only small-ticket retirement plan backed by a sovereign guarantee and fixed pension of Rs.1,000/- a month.

KIMS Kondapur cures rare inoperable jaundice



Hyderabad: KIMS Hospitals, Kondapur, has successfully treated a rare and highly complex case of chronic jaundice that was deemed inoperable even at leading international centres, offering a patient permanent relief after eight years of suffering. Sharing the details, Dr. Ravula Phani Krishna, Senior Consultant Surgical Gastroenterologist and Liver-Pancreas Specialist at KIMS Kondapur, said the patient had exhausted all possible treatment options in India and abroad before approaching KIMS as a last resort.

The patient, a 30-year-old software professional from Hyderabad, was diagnosed eight years ago with a rare, slow-growing pancreatic neuroendocrine tumour. Over time, the tumour compressed the bile duct, leading to persistent obstructive jaundice. He suffered from recurrent vomiting, severe indigestion, intense itching, frequent infections, and repeated hospitalisations, significantly affecting his quality of life. The case was further complicated as the tumour encased the portal vein, the main blood vessel supplying blood to the intestines. This led to severe portal hypertension and the formation of multiple fragile collateral blood vessels. Due to the extremely high risk of catastrophic bleeding, several hospitals declared the condition inoperable.

For nearly seven years, the patient depended on metallic biliary stenting to temporarily relieve jaundice. Since these stents last only five to six months, he had to undergo more than 24 ERCP procedures, with

out any lasting benefit. Despite spending several lakhs of rupees on repeated treatments, his condition continued to deteriorate. In search of a permanent solution, the patient travelled to Heidelberg, Germany, a global centre for pancreatic surgery, where a high-risk surgery costing approximately 1.5 crore, with a 20% mortality risk, was suggested. Unable to proceed, he returned to India and approached KIMS Kondapur in a critical condition, with bilirubin levels of 28 mg% and persistent fever.

After detailed evaluation, Dr. Phani Krishna and his multidisciplinary team devised a two-stage surgical strategy. Initially, the patient underwent Percutaneous Transhepatic Biliary Drainage (PTBD) to temporarily control jaundice and stabilise his condition. In the first stage, the team performed an extremely complex shunt surgery, diverting intestinal blood flow to a renal vein. This successfully reduced portal hypertension and caused the dangerously

swollen collateral vessels to shrink, making definitive surgery possible.

In the second stage, a marathon surgery lasting nearly 10 hours was performed to permanently relieve both the bile duct and intestinal obstructions. Remarkably, the procedure was completed without significant blood loss, a rare achievement in such advanced cases and a major milestone in hepatopancreaticobiliary surgery.

The patient made an uneventful recovery with no post-operative complications. Within six months, he resumed his IT job and has since been leading a normal life, completely free from jaundice after eight long years.

"This case demonstrates

Guest lecture and wellness workshop at GITAM Hyderabad

Hyderabad (TSIT) The Department of Physics, School of Science, GITAM (Deemed to be University) Hyderabad, hosted Prof. Achanta Venugopal, Director, CSIR-National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi, for a lecture on "Quantum Metrology and Metrology for Quantum Technologies" on 9 January 2026. Prof. Venugopal explained how ultra-precise measurements underpin quantum computers, sensors and communications, and showcased NPL's Cs-fountain clock, acoustic gas thermometer and single-photon calibration facilities. He urged students to seize India's growing quantum ecosystem and pursue research in nanophotonics, laser interferometry and primary standards for voltage, current and resistance.

Earlier, Prof. B.V.R. Tata intro-



duced the speaker; Dr M. Reza, Principal, School of Science, and Prof. T. Vishwam, Head,

Department of Physics, felicitated Prof. Venugopal. Faculty, research scholars and post-graduate stu-

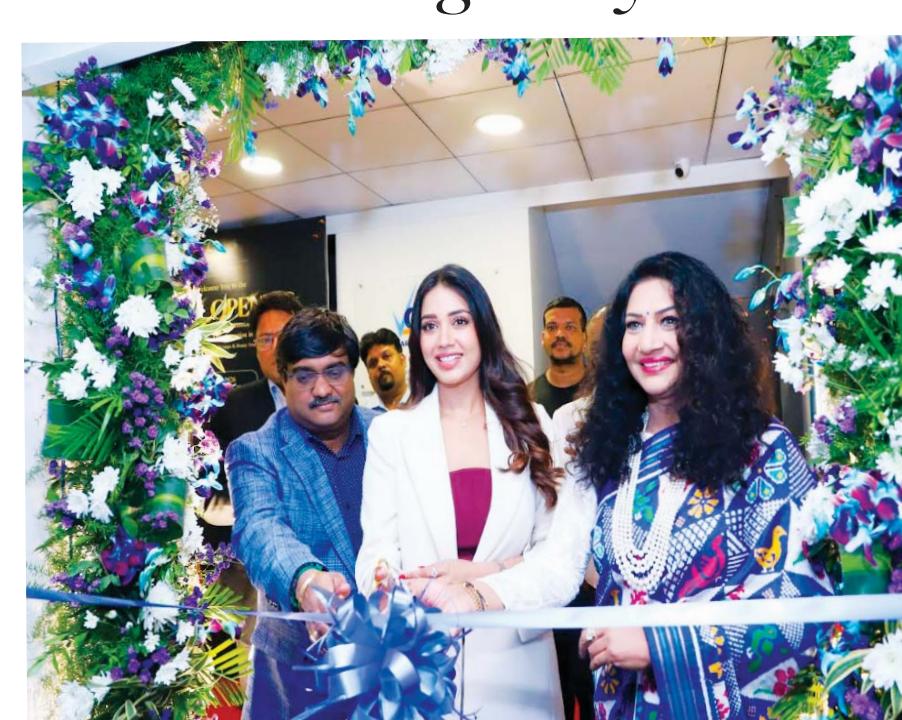
dents attended.

On the same day, the School of Pharmacy held a one-day workshop, "Industry Preparedness: From Sound to Silence – A Journey from Success to Self". Resource persons Ms Lippy Bhalla, tarot healer and mindset coach, and Dr Naveen Kumar Kottakki, Chief Scientist, Princeton Chromatography Inc., guided students through breathing techniques, energy-awareness exercises and reflective sessions designed to sharpen focus and emotional resilience. Participants learnt to balance logical reasoning with self-awareness, a skill the organisers termed "essential for future pharmacists and researchers". Dr Bappaditya Chatterjee welcomed the guests; Dr Srikant Gataki, Organising Secretary, outlined the objectives.

VCare opens Centre of Excellence in Hyderabad, debuts India's first 'single-day facial architecture'

Hyderabad (TDIT) Actor-model Nivetha Pethuraj on Friday inaugurated VCare's Centre of Excellence (COE) at Jubilee Hills, the aesthetic chain's third flagship after Chennai and ahead of Bengaluru. Founder & MD E. Carolin Praba—India's first woman trichologist—and CEO Mukundan Satyanarayanan said the 4,000-sqft clinic will marry Korean 3-D skin science with FDA/CE-approved tech to deliver "glass-skin results before bedtime".

The hero protocol,



trademarked "Single-Day Facial Architecture", combines AI-based diagnostics with same-session laser resurfacing, RF tightening and HIFU lift- ing. Devices include the ISEMCO 3D D9 AI Skin Analyzer—claimed to be India's first 3-D skin imager—the Triton sub-dermal contouring platform, Alma Harmony XL PRO for acne scars, Hollywood Spectra Q-switched toning laser and Ultracel Q+ HIFU for non-surgical lifts. A NASA-grade Dermoscan DSM-4 colorimeter tracks colour change in real time, while EnerJet uses high-pressure oxygen to push hyaluronic acid into the dermis without needles. Satyanarayanan said the COE will also serve as a training hub for VCare's 80-plus centres nationwide. Consultations are priced Rs.1,500; the single-day architecture package starts at Rs.28,000. Appointments: 95519 33333.

EDITORIAL

Kerala's Minerals May Be India's Key To Long-Horizon Strategic Independence

For decades, India has spoken of technological sovereignty, energy independence, and strategic autonomy. Yet one of the most powerful levers to achieve all three lies quietly beneath our feet - specifically, beneath the sands of Kerala's coast. Now that the nuclear "SHANTI" Bill, with all its flaws, is passed, it is time to do something about it.

The Chavara-Neendakara-Kayamkulam shoreline contains one of the world's richest concentrations of thorium-bearing monazite, titanium minerals such as ilmenite, rutile and leucoxene, zircon, and associated rare earth elements (REEs). Few regions on the planet host all three categories at scale. Kerala does. These are among the most accessible rare-earth-bearing sands anywhere, requiring neither underground mining nor the long lead times of hard-rock extraction. Kerala's heavy minerals include monazite, ilmenite, rutile, zircon, and sillimanite - materials indispensable to energy transition, defence manufacturing, electronics, and advanced metallurgy. And yet, India has barely begun to treat this endowment as the strategic asset it is. We continue the irrational practice of exporting rare earth oxides while importing finished magnets. If this cycle is to be broken, Kerala is the logical place to begin.

India Needs Imagination

Handled strategically, these minerals can become the backbone of India's long-term energy security, aerospace capability, and technological self-reliance. The question is not whether Kerala has the resources. The question is whether India has the imagination and institutional will to treat this endowment as a strategic asset. In my view, Kerala should be officially positioned as India's pilot state for strategic mineral exploration. We have the potential to make it a living demonstration that democratic governance, environmental responsibility, and national security can coexist. If Kerala leads, the rest of India can follow. During the nuclear debate in Parliament on the controversial SHANTI Bill, several speakers alluded to India's thorium capacity. India's nuclear establishment has long recognised thorium as the holy grail of energy security. With the world's largest monazite reserves, India sits atop roughly a quarter of global thorium resources. Much of that lies in Kerala. Thorium is not just another mineral; it is a long-duration energy asset capable of powering India for centuries through advanced breeder reactors. Yet today, thorium remains locked in laboratories and policy papers. The three-stage nuclear programme - once a symbol of Indian scientific audacity - has moved at a glacial pace. While other nations race to commercialise next-generation reactors, India's thorium pathway remains a promise deferred. Kerala could change that. A state-level thorium innovation mission, anchored in collaboration between the Department of Atomic Energy, premier research institutions, and private-sector engineering firms, could accelerate reactor component manufacturing, materials research, and safety technologies. The goal need not be immediate commercialisation; it can be demonstrable progress. A pilot cluster in Kerala would send a powerful signal: India is serious about owning the future of nuclear energy. If thorium is the key to energy independence, titanium is the metal of strategic autonomy. Titanium alloys are indispensable for aerospace, defence, naval engineering, hypersonic systems, and space exploration. They offer high strength, low weight, and corrosion resistance - qualities no modern military or spacefaring nation can do without. Kerala's coastal sands contain some of the world's richest ilmenite deposits, the primary ore for titanium. India is the world's largest producer of ilmenite.

Edit

KOCHI
SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2026

4

THE SOUL OF DEMOCRACY LIES IN DIALOGUE



DR. SATYAWAN SAARABH

The Developed India Young Leaders Dialogue (VBYLD) is part of India's long-term vision, in which youth are not merely beneficiaries of policies, but active participants in policy-making and national direction. India is the youngest country in the world, with more than 65 percent of the population under the age of 35. Therefore, it is clear that the dream of a developed India by 2047 can only be realized if the energy, innovation, and leadership potential of youth are channeled and provided the right platform. VBYLD embodies this objective. This initiative empowers youth to shape the nation's future by providing them opportunities for dialogue, discussion, policy suggestions, and leadership development. The soul of democracy lies in dialogue. The Developed India Young Leaders Dialogue serves as a bridge between youth and governance. Traditionally, policymaking was confined to a limited circle, but through this initiative, youth have the opportunity to directly present their problems, aspirations, and solutions. This not only deepens democratic participation but also makes governance more accountable and inclusive. When youth see their voices reflected in policymaking, their faith in democracy and sense of responsibility are strengthened. Empowering youth leadership isn't limited to political leadership. VBYLD prepares youth for leadership in social, economic, technological, and environmental sectors. Through dialogue and discussion, youth develop critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, and long-term vision. This inspires them to rise above immediate gains and consider the broader goals of national interest and sustainable



development. This initiative thus fosters value-based, sensitive, and visionary leadership. Sustainable development by 2047 is both India's greatest challenge and need. Ensuring social justice, environmental protection, and inclusiveness alongside economic growth is a complex task. The Young Leaders Dialogue provides young people with an understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals and empowers them to be part of the solution. Young people share their experiences and innovative ideas on issues such as climate change, resource scarcity, urbanization, unemployment, and inequality. This makes policies more practical, grounded, and future-proof. VBYLD also plays an important role in education and skills development. During the dialogue, youth highlight shortcomings in the education system, skills mismatches, and the need for employable training. This helps the government align education and skills policies with the actual needs of youth. India aims to become a knowledge-based economy by 2047, and this is only possible if youth have access to quality education, digital literacy, and opportunities for innovation. The Young Leaders' Dialogue serves as a thought laboratory in this direction. Social justice and inclusivity are central themes of GS Paper II, and VBYLD contributes to this. India is a country of diversity - across caste, class, gender, region, and culture. The Young Leaders Dialogue promotes inclusive thinking by bringing together youth from diverse backgrounds. When rural, urban, tribal, minority, and women youth communicate together, policy proposals become more balanced and equitable. This initiative helps bring the voices of marginalized groups to the mainstream. Youth are the biggest change agents in the digital age. VBYLD broadens youth participation by using digital platforms and communication. This breaks down geographical barriers and allows young people from remote areas of the country to become part of the national discourse. Digital participation increases transparency, accessibility, and speed, which are essential elements of good governance. This role of youth leadership will be crucial in realizing the vision of Digital India by 2047. Youth participation in policymaking shouldn't be limited to suggestions, but should extend to implementation and monitoring. VBYLD fosters a sense of responsibility among youth, enabling them to become solution-makers, not just critics. When youth are involved in policy development, their participation in its successful implementation becomes natural. This bridges the gap between policy and society. The role of youth leader dialogues is also crucial in economic development. Young people share their experiences and aspirations on topics such as startups, entrepreneurship, innovation, and self-reliant India. This accelerates job creation, MSME empowerment, and innovation-led growth. India aims to become a \$5 trillion economy by 2047, and young entrepreneurs and leaders will play a central role in this. Development is incomplete without environmental sustainability. Young people are inherently more sensitive to the environment, as they bear the greatest price for the future. VBYLD gives young people the opportunity to provide leadership on environmental protection, renewable energy, sustainable consumption, and green development. This helps to strike a balance between development and the environment. Ultimately, the Developed India Young Leaders Dialogue is not just a program, but a vision. It empowers India's youth to dream, ask questions, propose solutions, and lead. To make India a developed, inclusive, and sustainable nation by 2047, it is essential that youth are at the center of policymaking. VBYLD is a powerful step in this direction, empowering young leadership to play a decisive role in ensuring India's future is secure, just, and prosperous.

In the name of education, childhood is snatched away from children



PRIYANKA SAARABH

A small newspaper headline can often unmask an entire society. "Teenagers are leaving home after being asked to study and prevented from making reels"—this sentence isn't just information, but a statement of a profound tragedy of our times. It reveals that home, supposedly the safest place for children, is in many cases becoming center of unbearable pressure for them. Studies, discipline, and worries about the future—all of these are essential, but when they are imposed on children with fear, taunts, insults, and comparisons, the result is not motivation to learn, but escape. This news forces us to pause and consider what we truly want from our children—marks, ranks, and performance, or balanced, sensitive, and healthy human beings? Today's teens are going through unprecedented changes. The digital world has expanded their options—Reels, short videos, online friendships, instant fame, and instant praise. All of this is alluring, but also inherently unstable. In these times, the role of the family becomes even more crucial. Unfortunately, in many homes, communication has been replaced by commands, understanding by comparison, and empathy by expectations. "We are saying this for your own good"—this phrase often strikes children as a fear, as it is not accompanied by a willingness to listen. Society has developed a one-sided view of education. The yardstick for

success has been narrowed to good grades, prestigious colleges, and a so-called secure career. In this race, it's forgotten that not every child is the same. Some are interested in science, some in art; some thrive in sports, some in writing. When everyone is forced into a single mold, many children break down. They begin to consider their failure a personal offense and gradually lose self-confidence. Leaving home is the culmination of that breakdown—a desperate attempt, where the child seeks to escape and find peace. Adolescence is a time of emotional turmoil. The body changes, the mind is filled with questions, and there's a restlessness about establishing an identity. During this time, if the home is filled with scolding, yelling, contempt, and constant surveillance, the child feels isolated and feels unappreciated. They feel their feelings are unappreciated. Parents often mistake their children's silence for discipline, but it's actually a buildup of tension within. It's hard to predict when this tension will explode—leaving home, turning to drugs, or even self-harm. Blaming Reels and social media solely for this problem would be an oversimplification. It's true that excessive screen time impacts children's concentration and patience, but the question is why do children seek refuge in screens? Often, it's because they feel heard, appreciated, or at least not judged. If there's lively communication, shared time, and trusting relationships at home, digital attraction remains balanced. The problem isn't technology, but our relationship with it. Parents' concerns are natural. They want to learn from their own experiences and protect their children from difficulties. But when concern turns into control, it's detrimental. Taking away children's hobbies, preventing them from seeing friends, and constantly comparing them—these methods may seem like discipline in the short term, but they threaten trust in the long run. A child may

What's Stopping Vijay's Film? 6 'Conspiracy Theories' About Jana Nayagan



In Tamil Nadu, it turns out you don't need a release date for the promise of a blockbuster. Sometimes, just a missing censor certificate is enough. The delay in clearing actor Vijay's Jana Nayagan has now devolved into a full-blown political whodunnit, complete with villains, secret alliances, and strategic silences that are being analysed with more intensity than in the film's actual screenplay. With elections on the horizon and Vijay's political avatar under constant scrutiny, the absence of an official explanation has ensured one thing: imagination is working overtime. Conspiracy Theory 1: BJP Is Targeting Vijay to Force an Alliance. The theory doing the rounds in TVK and fan circles sees the BJP as the 'unseen' hand behind the controversy. According to this version, Jana Nayagan is being held hostage to send Vijay a gentle but firm reminder about "adjustments" in Tamil Nadu politics. Those who subscribe to this theory believe that this is a pressure tactic to arrive at some understanding with the national party to boost its political position in Tamil Nadu and coerce Vijay into an alliance or a tacit understanding. Let's not forget that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has also summoned Vijay in the stampede case. This is also the Congress's allegation: that the BJP is using the film board to put political pressure on Vijay. Conspiracy Theory 2: A BJP-DMK Understanding' Naturally, no conspiracy in the state is complete without a DMK cameo. This theory confi-

dently asserts that there is a BJP-DMK "understanding" behind the scenes - though both parties swear by the fact that they are arch enemies. However, in Tamil Nadu politics, denial often only strengthens belief. The peddlers of this theory claim that this 'understanding' is to ensure that Vijay doesn't have a clear run and that his film doesn't set the political narrative in Tamil Nadu. Conspiracy Theory 3: BJP Is Targeting Vijay - To Help Him In a Plot Twist that's right out of cinema itself, the BJP's targeting of Vijay, many believe, is only to make him stronger. The logic: delay the film, turn Vijay into a martyr, consolidate his base, and simultaneously give the DMK a headache. Here, the BJP is not a villain but a master chess player, allegedly nurturing Vijay as a strategic asset. Whether this is political brilliance or overestimation is left to the audience. Conspiracy Theory 4: Enter Parasakthi. Another theory shifts suspicion away from rival politics to TVK's strategic game plan. The argument is that Jana Nayagan's makers are quietly nervous about Parasakthi, the upcoming Red Giant-distributed film linked to Udhayanidhi Stalin and the DMK. With themes rooted in the 1960s anti-Hindi agitation and heavy doses of Tamil sentiment, Parasakthi is expected to tug at emotional heartstrings and dominate political conversations. The fear, allegedly, is that if Parasakthi lands hard, Jana Nayagan could end up feeling like yesterday's headline. So, a delay may actually fit into Vijay's political script. Conspiracy Theory 5: Delay Now, Dominate Later. This one is a continuation of the earlier theory: let Parasakthi release, let the dust settle, and then bring in Jana Nayagan closer to election time, when political messaging matters more than box-office collections. In this version, timing is everything, and patience is a political virtue. Conspiracy Theory 6: The Boring But Possible Truth. Then there is the least exciting theory of all - nothing is happening. No politics. No pressure. No chessboard. Just a routine certification delay - the kind Vijay's films have seen before. Supporters of this theory point to the loudest evidence of all: silence. The TVK hasn't cried foul. Vijay hasn't hinted at victimhood. Fans haven't taken to the streets. In Tamil Nadu, this level of calm is often a sign that bureaucracy, not politics, is at work. Until clarity emerges, Jana Nayagan is already successful in one department - generating conversation. Whether the delay is a political master-stroke, cinematic strategy, or just paperwork moving at its own leisurely pace is anyone's guess. In the end, the biggest irony may be this: even before the censor certificate arrives, the film has turned into a political thriller in itself, just not in the way it was originally scripted.

India pushes back at Trump aide's claim about US trade deal breakdown

India has pushed back at US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick's claims that the trade deal between the countries stalled because Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not call President Donald Trump. Trump imposed 50% tariffs on Indian goods in August, including a penalty for buying Russian oil, after the talks stalled. Both sides are now back to negotiating a deal but there is no clarity on when it will materialise and several informal deadlines have been missed. Key sticking points remain even now—including agriculture. Washington has been pushing for greater access to India's farm sector but Delhi has fiercely protected it. However, Lutnick suggested the deal was close to completion at the start. "It was all set up. I said [to the Indian side] you got to have Modi call the president. They were uncomfortable doing it, so Modi didn't call," Lutnick said in a podcast released on Friday. The White House has not yet commented on Lutnick's assertions. India, however, said on Friday that the characterisation of the discussions between Delhi and Washington in the remarks made by Lutnick was "not



accurate". "India and the US were committed to negotiating a bilateral trade agreement as far back as 13 February last year. Since then both sides have held multiple rounds of negotiations to arrive at a balanced and mutually beneficial trade agreement. On several occasions, we have been close to a deal," foreign ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal told reporters. He added that Modi and Trump

had spoken on the phone eight times last year, covering "covering different aspects of our wide-ranging partnership". Speaking on the All-In Podcast, a business and technology show hosted by four venture capitalists, Lutnick said that Trump's philosophy of making deals was like a "staircase" - meaning the "first stair gets the best deal". He said that India was the second country to enter into

negotiations with the US for a trade deal after the UK, and that Washington gave Delhi "three Fridays" to close the deal. His role, Lutnick said, was to negotiate the contracts and set up the whole deal but that Trump was the one who closed them - and that India's reluctance to set up the phone call meant the agreement ran into trouble. He added that after that, US closed a slew of deals with

other countries, including Indonesia and Vietnam. He also said that when India got back later saying they were ready to take the initial deal, "the train had left the station". But the terms of the deal that Lutnick claims India missed are unclear. Agriculture, for instance, has been a key sticking point in the negotiations. Washington has been pushing for greater access to India's farm sector but Delhi has fiercely protected it. In December, United States Trade Representative Jamieson Greer told senators in Washington that the US had received the "best ever offer" from India. He also called India a "tough nut to crack". Trump has also made several comments about India and Modi in recent days, including warning of an increase in tariffs if Delhi does not stop buying Russian oil. India ramped up its purchase of cheaper oil from Moscow after the Ukraine war. Delhi had defended its decision saying that it needed to think about the energy needs of its vast population. Since the tariffs kicked in, oil refiners in India have been cutting their purchases from Moscow.

VeCura ReSculpt Launches in Kukatpally, Hyderabad; Redefines Non-Surgical Body Sculpting with Science-First Approach

Hyderabad, Telangana - January 2026: VeCura ReSculpt, a pioneering name in next-generation aesthetic and body sculpting care, has officially launched its state-of-the-art clinic in Kukatpally, Hyderabad. This launch marks the brand's strategic entry into the Hyderabad market, following its successful debut in Chennai, and sets the stage for further expansion into Bengaluru.

The clinic was inaugurated by Chief Guest Ms. Dimple Hayathi, a renowned actress and television personality, in the presence of distinguished doctors, healthcare professionals, industry experts, and media representatives. The event highlighted the growing consumer demand for ethical, medically guided aesthetic solutions in India.

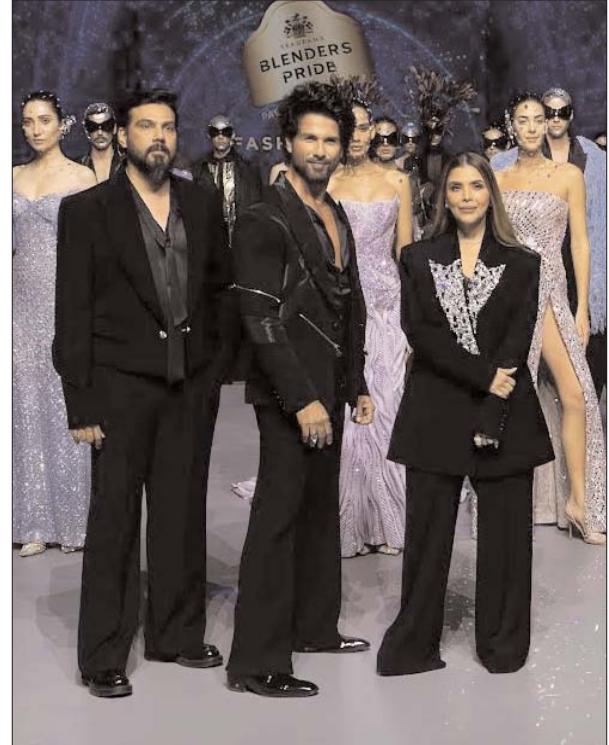


Redefining Body Transformation with Science

VeCura ReSculpt is designed to move beyond generic aesthetic treatments, offering a structured, science-backed approach to body transformation. The clinic prioritises deep understanding and diagnosis before intervention, ensuring safe and personalised care.

Blenders Pride Fashion Tour 2025 Concludes with Groundbreaking Fashion Showcases Across India

09 January, 2025: Blenders Pride Fashion Tour 2025 concluded its spectacular edition, setting a new benchmark for fashion experiences across Gurugram, Jaipur, and Kolkata. Creating 'The One and Only' stage that set the tone for what's next in fashion, the tour presented three groundbreaking narratives that pushed the boundaries of how fashion is experienced, celebrated, and imagined. Each city witnessed how Blenders Pride Fashion Tour made fashion move—Gurugram thrust fashion into the futureverse where technology and couture collided in real-time, Jaipur accelerated fashion onto the fast lane with high-octane motorsport aesthetics, and Kolkata challenged traditional notions of craft, transforming them into a bold, modern form. The tour distinguished itself by setting a new benchmark for immersive, multi-sensorial fashion experiences. Gurugram's 'The Futureverse of Fashion' by designers Falguni and Shane Peacock merged



haute couture with Patni reimagining motorsport aesthetics alongside Miss Universe Harnaaz Sandhu and rapper Raftaar, complete with chrome-wrapped supercars and a three-lap runway experience. The Kolkata finale presented 'Future Is Crafted' through a break-

through narrative that shattered moulds of craft as it was known. Set against the iconic Howrah Bridge, AK | OK Anamika Khanna deconstructed traditional craft through futuristic tailoring, with Ishaan Khatter as showstopper, transforming the Hooghly River into a floating theatre of fashion. Debasree Dasgupta, CMO, Pernod Ricard India, said, "Blenders Pride Fashion Tour powered by FDCI has been Indian fashion's most iconic stage. Guided by our 'The One and Only' ambition, we continue to set new benchmarks shaping the evolution of fashion & style in collaboration with India's finest designers. With 'Making Fashion Move', Blenders Pride Fashion Tour asserts its role as a force shaping the future of fashion—driving ideas, collaborations, and experiences that define what comes next. By placing creativity, culture, and innovation at the centre of its universe, the brand continues to set the course for how fashion evolves, engages, and inspires the next generation."

Samsung Partners with University of Madras to Launch Samsung Innovation Campus in Tamil Nadu

Highlights

■ Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, announced a strategic collaboration with the University of Madras to launch its flagship tech education initiative, Samsung Innovation Campus (SIC), in Tamil Nadu—strengthening its commitment to building future-ready skills among the state's youth.



Chennai, India - January 09, 2026 - Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, announced a strategic collaboration with the University of Madras to launch its flagship tech education initiative, Samsung Innovation Campus (SIC), in Tamil Nadu—strengthening its commitment to building future-ready skills among the state's youth. The launch event was attended by senior academics from the University of Madras, including Dr. P. S. Manjula, Dean, Students' Affairs; Dr. Rita John, Registrar; and Dr. S. Armstrong, Member, Vice-Chancellor Convenor Committee. Aligned with

state and national skilling priorities, Samsung Innovation Campus equips youth with essential skills in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), Big Data, and Coding & Programming. The programme now spans 10 states, aiming to upskill 20,000 students nationwide in 2025—a six-fold expansion over last year. In Tamil Nadu, 5,000 students will be provided training this year, which is about 25% of the national target—positioning the state as a frontrunner in driving digital empowerment and job-ready talent. In the first phase, the programme will train 500 students within

the University of Madras—one of India's oldest and most prestigious universities—followed by 1,500 students from its affiliated colleges. Samsung Innovation Campus was launched in India in 2022 and by 2024 had trained 6,500 students, training a total of 26,500 students by 2025. It now continues to expand its footprint with a strong focus on underserved and semi-urban communities. Samsung has partnered with the Electronics Sector Skills Council of India (ESSCI) under the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to train students through accredited training partners. Nationally, Samsung Innovation Campus has achieved 44% women participation—reflecting Samsung's focus on inclusive and equitable skilling. Beyond technical learning, participants receive soft skills training and placement support to strengthen employability and workplace readiness. Together with its Samsung Solve for Tomorrow and Samsung DOST initiatives, Samsung Innovation Campus underscores Samsung's long-term commitment to democratizing technology, building talent pipelines, and preparing India's youth for a connected, innovation-driven future.

US job creation in 2025 slows to weakest since Covid

The number of jobs created in the US grew only modestly in December, as a weak year for the employment market in the world's largest economy drew to a close. Employers added 50,000 jobs in the final month of 2025, according to Labor Department data, which was fewer than expected. But the unemployment rate dipped to 4.4%. Job gains last year were the smallest since 2020, when the Covid pandemic led to widespread cuts. Businesses have been operating in an environment marked by US President Donald Trump's dramatic policy changes, including tariffs, an immigration crackdown and cuts to government spending. The US economy has held up in the face of these shifts, growing at an annual rate of 4.3% over the three months to September. But the expansion - driven by steady consumer demand and a growth in exports -



has not been accompanied by significant job creation. On average, the US added just 49,000 roles per month in 2025, down from an estimated gain of two million a month the year before. The Labor Department said the US also added 76,000 fewer new positions in October and November than previously estimated. Retailers and manufacturers were among the sectors reporting losses last month, which were offset by hiring at health care employers, bars and restaurants. The data underscores the mixed dynamics facing

Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Society and Kamala Hospital Research Center to Host Asian Thalassemia Conclave 2026; India's Prevention Strategy in Focus

Hyderabad, 09 January, 2026: Hyderabad is set to host the Asian Thalassemia Conclave (ATC) on January 10 and 11, 2026, bringing together doctors, public health experts, policymakers, researchers, non-governmental organisations and patient groups from across India and Asia to discuss a coordinated response to thalassemia, one of the country's most serious yet preventable genetic blood disorders. Dr. Chandrakant Agrawal, President, Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Society (TSCS), met the Hon'ble Minister for Health, Medical and Family Welfare, Government of Telangana, Shri Damodar Raja Narasimha, to apprise him of the objectives and significance of the Asian Thalassemia Conclave 2026. The Hon'ble Minister welcomed the initiative, expressed his appreciation for its focus on prevention, and conveyed his intent to

attend and formally inaugurate the conclave, reaffirming the government's commitment to prevention-led strategies to address thalassemia. The two-day conclave is being organised by the Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Society (TSCS), Hyderabad, an organisation that has been engaged in thalassemia care, prevention and advocacy for over 27 years and Kamala Hospital Research Center.

TSCS is the world's largest non-governmental organisation working exclusively for thalassemia patients and currently provides comprehensive treatment and long-term support free of cost to more than 4,588 patients, many of whom depend on the organisation for regular blood transfusions and specialised medical care. Over the years, TSCS has built a strong ecosystem that includes patient care services, safe blood transfusion facilities, counselling, diagnostics, research and sustained awareness programmes. It has worked closely with government departments, healthcare institutions and community organisations to strengthen both treatment and prevention efforts. One of its most notable public health interventions has been in Mahabubnagar district of Telangana, which became the first district in the country to achieve 100 per cent prenatal screening of pregnant women for thalassemia. The initiative has been widely cited as a successful model demonstrating how systematic screening and genetic counselling can significantly reduce preventable thalassemia births. The Asian Thalassemia Conclave has been conceived against this background, with organisers seeking to take proven local and national models to a broader platform. The conclave has articulated a clear long-term goal: to work towards making India a thalassemia-free country by 2035. Organisers said, "the Asian Thalassemia Conclave is intended to catalyse sustained national action, building momentum towards prevention-led strategies and a measurable reduction in preventable thalassemia births across India."

More protests erupt in Iran as supreme leader accuses crowds of 'trying to please Trump'

Despite the internet outage, some people in Iran are staying connected through the satellite service Starlink. In the last few hours the BBC received images from someone who was at a protest last night. Cars that were overturned and set alight could be seen at Tehran's Kaaj roundabout. As a reminder, the BBC and most other international news organisations are barred from reporting inside Iran, so social media is relied upon to verify what is happening on the ground. Many protesters in Iran have been calling for the return of Reza Pahlavi, the exiled son of Iran's last shah - so who is he, and how much support does he have? When the 1979 revolution swept away his father's monarchy, Pahlavi and his family was left stateless, but, now 65, he is once again seeking a role in shaping his country's future. From his home in Washington DC, he himself has called on the people of Iran to take the streets



and previously stated he was prepared to help lead a transitional government if the Islamic Republic collapsed. He has since outlined a 100-day plan for an interim administration, telling reporters: "This is not about restoring the past... it's about securing a democratic future for all Iranians." Over the years in exile, Pahlavi has made multiple attempts to build opposition coalitions.



However most have struggled with internal disagreements and limited outreach inside Iran. Now, his supporters see him as the only opposition figure with name recognition and a long-standing commitment to peaceful change, while critics say he remains too dependent on foreign backing. While Iran's government portrays him as a threat and protesters chant in support of him, it is impossible to measure his true support without an open political space and credible polls. Anti-government protests in Iran have continued for the 13th consecutive day as a nationwide internet blackout continues to block communications for people around the country. Here's what to know today: Videos verified by the BBC showing demonstrators gathering in the city of Zahedan, in south-

east Iran - we've also identified 16 more towns that have seen new protests. Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has lashed out at protesters, warning that his regime is committed to cracking down on "troublemakers". His comments come as internet in the country is blocked - data shows the country has been mostly offline for at least 18 hours. In the US, President Trump has vowed to "hit [Iran] very hard" if the regime starts killing protesters. The UK has not explicitly aligned itself with Trump's stance, but urged Iranian authorities to "exercise restraint". Emirati airline flydubai tells the BBC that it has cancelled flights due to the unrest. Our team of reporters and experts are monitoring for updates - we'll bring you the latest here throughout the day. These are certainly the most sustainable and wide-ranging unrest we have seen in many years and that makes

Owner of Swiss ski resort held in custody after deadly New Year's Eve fire



One of the co-owners of the Swiss bar where 40 people died in a fire on New Year's Eve has been detained. Sources told Swiss media that Jacques Moretti, a French national, was a potential flight risk. The blaze at Le Constellation bar in Crans-Montana left 116 people injured. Many of the victims were aged under 20. It emerged this week that the bar in the ski resort had not undergone safety checks for five years. Jacques Moretti and his French wife Jessica, who own the bar together, had been placed under criminal investigation by Swiss prosecutors.

One dead, dozens trapped after giant landfill collapses in Philippines



A mountain of rubbish collapsed at a landfill in the central Philippines on Thursday, killing a 22-year-old woman and leaving more than 30 people missing, authorities have said. Rescuers pulled 12 injured sanitation workers from debris at the Binaliw Landfill in Cebu City, who were later hospitalised. Many of the missing are believed to be workers at the landfill. The mayor of Cebu told news outlet ABS-CBN that it may be difficult to reach survivors because of the potential for further collapse. The cause of the collapse is still unclear, but Cebu City councillor Joel Garganera said it was likely the result of poor waste management practices. Some 300 people from various government agencies and civilian groups have been deployed to the privately-owned landfill. Several excavators, ambulances and fire trucks have also been seen on site. "All response teams remain fully engaged in search and retrieval efforts to be found.

COLOMBIA SEES 'REAL THREAT' OF US MILITARY ACTION



Colombia's President Gustavo Petro has told the BBC that he believes there is now a "real threat" of US military action against Colombia. Petro said the US is treating other nations as part of a US "empire". It comes after Trump said a military operation in Colombia "sounds good". Petro said that the US risks trans-

forming from "dominating the world" to becoming "isolated from the world." He also accused US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents of acting like "Nazi brigades". Trump has significantly expanded ICE operations as part of what the administration says is a crackdown on crime and immigrants who illegally entered the US. The BBC has approached the White House for comment. Following US strikes on Venezuela and the seizure of Nicolás Maduro, US President Donald Trump said a military operation targeting Colombia "sounds good". Trump has also reportedly told Petro to "watch his ass", remarks Petro strongly condemned.

US SEIZES ANOTHER OIL TANKER LINKED TO VENEZUELA, OFFICIALS SAY



US forces have seized another tanker in the Caribbean Sea, officials said, as Washington continues its efforts to control exports of Venezuelan oil. "Once again, our joint interagency forces sent a clear message this morning: there is no safe haven for criminals," US Southern Command said on X. The X post on Friday morning said that Marines and sailors in coordination with the Department of Homeland Security "apprehended" the Olina oil tanker. Homeland security secretary Kristi Noem said the Olina was "another 'ghost fleet' tanker ship suspected of carrying embargoed oil" and was

seized after it "departed Venezuela attempting to evade US forces". Noem posted a video online appearing to show troops dropping onto a ship from a helicopter. The tanker, the Olina, is on multiple coun-

tries' sanctions lists. It is the fifth vessel seized by the US in recent weeks. Maritime risk company Vanguard Tech said the vessel was attempting to break through the US naval blockade in the Caribbean. It

added that the vessel's location tracker was last active 52 days ago, northeast of Curacao, and that "the seizure follows a prolonged pursuit of tankers linked to sanctioned Venezuelan oil shipments in the region".

RUSSIA HITS UKRAINE WITH RARELY USED ORESHNIK MISSILE IN FRESH STRIKES



Russia has used the Oreshnik ballistic missile as part of a massive overnight strike on Ukraine. Four people were killed and 25 others injured in Kyiv on Thursday night, where loud booms could be heard for several hours, setting the sky alight with explosions. It is only the second time that Moscow has used the Oreshnik, which was first deployed to hit the central city of Dnipro in November 2024. Russia's defence ministry said the strike was a response to a Ukrainian drone attack targeting Vladimir Putin's residence in late December, which Kyiv denies carrying out. While the ministry did not specify what had been the Oreshnik's target, shortly before midnight (2200 GMT)

videos began circulating on social media showing numerous explosions on the outskirts of the western city of Lviv. President Volodymyr Zelensky and Ukrainian authorities confirmed that a ballistic missile had struck infrastructure in Lviv, about 60km (40 miles) from the Polish border. The Oreshnik is an intermediate-range, hypersonic ballistic missile, meaning it can potentially reach up to 5,500km (3,417 miles). It is thought to have a warhead that deliberately fragments during its final descent into several, independently targeted inert projectiles, causing distinctive repeated explosions moments apart. "Such a strike close to EU and Nato border is a grave

threat to the security on the European continent and a test for the transatlantic community," Ukrainian foreign minister Andrii Sybiha said. The strike was launched "in response to [Putin's] own hallucinations," he added, referring to the alleged drone attack on the president's residence in December. The EU

had immediately cast serious doubt on whether the drone strike ever happened, and last week Donald Trump said he did not think any such attack had taken place. On Friday EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said Russia's Oreshnik strike was meant as a warning to Europe and the US. "Putin doesn't want peace, he added. He accused the attacks of aiming "against the normal life of ordinary people" during a cold spell and added everything possible was being done to restore heating and electricity. As Lviv and other western regions were targeted on

Thursday night, more than a dozen missiles and hundreds of drones were deployed during the attack on Kyiv. A paramedic was among those killed while arriving at a damaged apartment in Kyiv. The capital's mayor, Vitali Klitschko, and Zelensky said it had been a "double-tap" hit - in which the first strike is followed by a second, killing rescuers who have arrived to help the injured. Two apartment buildings along the east bank of the Dnipro River and a high-rise building in the city's central district were also targeted. The morning after, as the cleanup got underway, the businesses that hadn't been damaged were open. ment was serving customers.

Huge anti-government protests in Tehran and other Iranian cities, videos show



Huge crowds of protesters have been marching through Iran's capital and other cities, videos show, in what is said to be the largest show of force by opponents of the clerical establishment in years. The peaceful demonstrations in Tehran and the second city of Mashhad on Thursday evening, which were not dispersed by security forces, can be seen in footage verified by BBC Persian. Later, a monitoring group reported a nationwide internet blackout. Protesters can be heard in the footage calling for the overthrow of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and the return of Reza Pahlavi, the exiled son of the late for-

mer shah, who had urged his supporters to take to the streets. It was the 12th consecutive day of unrest that has been sparked by anger over the collapse of the Iranian currency and has spread to more than 100 cities and towns across all 31 of Iran's provinces, according to human rights groups. The US-based

Human Rights Activist News Agency (HRANA) has said at least 34 protesters - five of them children - and eight security personnel have been killed, and that 2,270 other protesters have been arrested. Norway-based monitor Iran Human Rights (IHR) has said at least 45 protesters, including eight chil-

dren, have been killed by security forces. BBC Persian has confirmed the deaths and identities of 22 people, while Iranian authorities have reported the deaths of six security personnel. The protests are seen as the biggest since 2009, when millions of Iranians took to the streets of major cities after a disputed presidential election. Dozens of opposition supporters were killed and thousands were detained in the ensuing crackdown. On Thursday evening, videos posted on social media and verified by BBC Persian showed a large crowd of protesters moving along a major road in Mashhad, in the country's north-east.

Second night of US protests over ICE shooting of woman in Minneapolis



People took to the streets of Minneapolis and other US cities for a second night to protest against the killing of 37-year-old Renee Nicole Good, who was shot in her car by a US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent. Demonstrators marched in Houston, Cincinnati, Washington DC, Philadelphia and other cities, some with placards calling for the abolition of ICE. People laid floral tributes where Good's car crashed after the shooting, just blocks away from the place where George Floyd was killed in 2020, sparking weeks of national protests. Meanwhile, two people were injured in another shooting involving federal agents, this time border patrol in Portland, Oregon, on Thursday afternoon. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said the Portland incident happened during a traffic stop of a Venezuelan gang member, who "attempted to run over" agents with his car. The Democratic mayor of Portland cast doubt on their account and people gathered on Thursday night at the city's ICE facility to protest. There were six arrests. ICE is taking the lead in carrying out the Trump administration's mass deportation initiative, which was a central promise. Donald Trump's election campaign. Two wounded in Portland shooting involving federal agents. What is ICE and what are its powers? Officials have offered differing accounts of the fatal shooting of Renee Nicole Good in Minnesota, with the Trump administration claiming the ICE agent was acting in self defence, while local officials say the woman posed no danger. The US Federal Bureau of Investigation said it would investigate the incident.



KHELO INDIA BEACH GAMES 2026:

HARYANA WOMEN, DELHI MEN CLINCH SEPAKTAKRAW GOLD

Diw, January 9: Haryana women and Delhi men put paid to Bihar's hopes of winning a gold medal in Sepaktakraw as they registered contrasting victories in the finals at the Khelo India Beach Games 2026 at the Ghoghla Beach here on Thursday. The Khelo India Beach Games 2026, organised by the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, is being held under the technical supervision of the Sports Authority of India and national sports federations. The second edition of Khelo India Beach Games 2026 is witnessing over 1100 participants compete in eight different sports - volleyball, soccer, sepaktakraw, kabaddi, pencak silat, Open water swimming, mallakhamb and tug-of-war. The first six will be medal sports and 32 gold medals are up for grabs. In the women's sepaktakraw final, Haryana came back strong after losing the opening regu

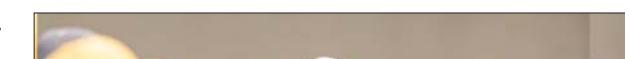


to beat Bihar 2-1 in a match that lasted an hour and 15 minutes while Delhi men inflicted a straight 2-0 defeat on Bihar. In Beach Soccer, defending champions Odisha registered a dominating 7-0 win over debutants Himachal Pradesh to reach the women's final. Srijana Tamang, Satyabati Khadia and Khundongbam Ambalika

scored two goals each for the winners. In the second women's semi-final, Gujarat's rousing start that saw them score four goals in the first quarter was enough for them to register a 6-3 win over Arunachal Pradesh. Skipper Giani Ramching Mara scored one goal each in all the three quarters for the losing side but did not get much support

from the others in front of the Gujarat goal. In Beach Volleyball, Tamil Nadu will have a chance to win both the men and women gold medal. TN's women's team of Deepika and Pavithra came from a set down to beat teammates Swathi and Dharshini 19-21, 21-12, 15-6; Revathi/Swetha (Pdy) bt Manasa/Mounika (AP) 21-10, 21-18 (Men) Sawan/Gauns (Goa) bt Poonthamizhan/Abhithan 21-18, 16-21, 15-12; Bharat/Rajesh (TN) bt R. am a k a r i s h n a a Dawaskar/Nithin Sawant (Goa) 21-13, 19-21, 15-8.

Swetha in the gold medal match. The men's final will be played between Tamil Nadu's Bharat and Rajesh and Goa's Sawan and Gauns. TODAY'S RESULTS Beach Soccer (semifinals) Women: Gujarat bt Arunachal Pradesh 6-3; Odisha bt Himachal Pradesh 7-0 Beach Sepaktakraw Women: Gold - Haryana; Silver - Bihar; Bronze - Uttar Pradesh, Manipur Men: Gold - Delhi; Silver - Bihar; Bronze - Manipur, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu Beach Volleyball (semifinals) (Women): Deepika/Pavithra (TN) bt Swathi/Dharshini (TN) 19-21, 21-12, 15-6; Revathi/Swetha (Pdy) bt Manasa/Mounika (AP) 21-10, 21-18 (Men) Sawan/Gauns (Goa) bt Poonthamizhan/Abhithan 21-18, 16-21, 15-12; Bharat/Rajesh (TN) bt R. am a k a r i s h n a a Dawaskar/Nithin Sawant (Goa) 21-13, 19-21, 15-8.



Meg Lanning Era Kicks Off As UP Warriorz Gear Up For WPL 2026 Opener

UP Warriorz begin their WPL 2026 campaign with their season opener against Gujarat Giants on January 10 at 3:30 PM at the DY Patil Stadium, Navi Mumbai, looking to start strong under newly appointed captain Meg Lanning and head coach Abhishek Nayar. The upcoming season marks a new chapter for the Warriorz with Lanning at the helm, alongside a refreshed squad blend of international experience and emerging domestic talent. The group features proven match-winners including Deepi Sharma, Sophie Ecclestone, Harleen Deol, and Deandra Dottin, supported by exciting young players who add depth and versatility across departments. Captain Meg Lanning spoke about her first season with the Warriorz and building on the foundation already created by the franchise. "We wanted the best leader for this group, and Meg brings exactly that. This format is a captain's format and having her allows the team to play with freedom. Our focus is on creating an environment where players express themselves, enjoy their cricket, and build a legacy for this franchise." All-rounder Deepi Sharma will be central to the Warriorz plans following a strong year interna

tionally, with both bat and ball expected to play a decisive role throughout the season. Sophie Ecclestone continues as a key pillar of the bowling attack, while additions like Harleen Deol strengthen the batting core and fielding unit. Abhishek Nayar also emphasised the team's competitive mindset ahead of the first game: "It's a fresh start for us this year. We have assembled a strong squad with contrasting skill sets that complement each other. The aim is simple, play fearless cricket, stay consistent, and compete deep into the tournament."

SA20: Aiden Markram's Durban's Super Giants Ready For Showdown With Leaders Sunrisers

Aiden Markram is set to face off against his former team Sunrisers Eastern Cape for the first time when Durban's Super Giants host the log-leaders at Kingsmead in Game No 18 of Betway SA20 Season 4 on Friday. Markram was an integral part of Sunrisers' success in the first three seasons, leading the Eastern Cape side to back-to-back championship titles and runners-up position last season. However, the Proteas T20 captain has now embarked on a new challenge at Kingsmead after being picked up at the auction by Super Giants. "New colours, new kit. It's always exciting to start something new, especially it being the start of a new cycle of the three years," Markram said. Markram had particularly forged a close



bond with Sunrisers coach Adrian Birrell, but he is now forming a similar relationship with Super Giants coach Lance Klusener as they look to replicate the success with the Kingsmead franchise. "We didn't know each other that well, but we were together at IPL for a bit, which was cool," Markram said. "The first time I worked with him,

it's a guy you looked up to when you were growing up. You remember all the videos of the World Cups and stuff. "He was always the guy in the middle getting the job done. It's been nice to mingle with a guy like him. He has a lot of value to add on and off the field for us, which is exciting." The Super Giants are currently in fifth place on the

table with just one win from six matches, which includes two washed out clashes, which leaves Markram and his men with an uphill battle to reach the playoffs. But coach Klusener is confident that with Markram's inspirational leadership his charges can get there, starting with a victory over the Sunrisers on Friday. "(Sunrisers) Good team as well. Top of the log. So yeah, we're going to have to play well. But again, if we have any dreams of winning this competition, we're going to have to beat the best teams in the league," Klusener said. "There's still a little bit of wriggle room. Not much anymore, but we've got a little bit of wriggle room. And we're just going to have to find a way of getting on the right side of the result now."

MACCLESFIELD'S 'MASCINE OCCASION' TINGED WITH SADNESS



It is the stuff of dreams for the lowest-ranked team left in the FA Cup to take on the holders in the third round. When Macclesfield host Crystal Palace on Saturday it will be one of the biggest days in their recent history, but one also tinged with sadness. On 16 December, Silkmen forward Ethan McLeod died in a car accident while travelling back from Macclesfield's National League North match at Bedford Town. Rather than travel on the team bus back to Cheshire, McLeod was driving himself back to the Midlands after the 2-1 victory in which he was an unused substitute. The rest of the squad were held up in gridlocked traffic after the crash on the M1, but it wasn't until the next day they learned their teammate was involved. Macclesfield's first game after McLeod's death was postponed, but the club have played three league

matches since. Saturday's FA Cup tie is a huge occasion for a club that reformed in 2020 after Macclesfield Town were wound up in the high court. But manager John Rooney said recent events have put things into perspective. Rooney took it upon himself to contact every member of the squad when the news was confirmed. "Nothing can prepare you for that," Rooney told BBC Sport. "When you have to ring every player individually and tell them, I can't explain what it felt like. I wanted to take that on. I didn't want people ringing different players. I wanted to be the one to tell that news. I thought that was the right thing to do at the time. I don't think many managers will ever have to speak to the lads and let them know what happened with their friend. It is the hardest thing I have ever done and will ever have to do."

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SA20: Faf Du Plessis And James Vince Shine Before Lightning Strikes At The Bullring

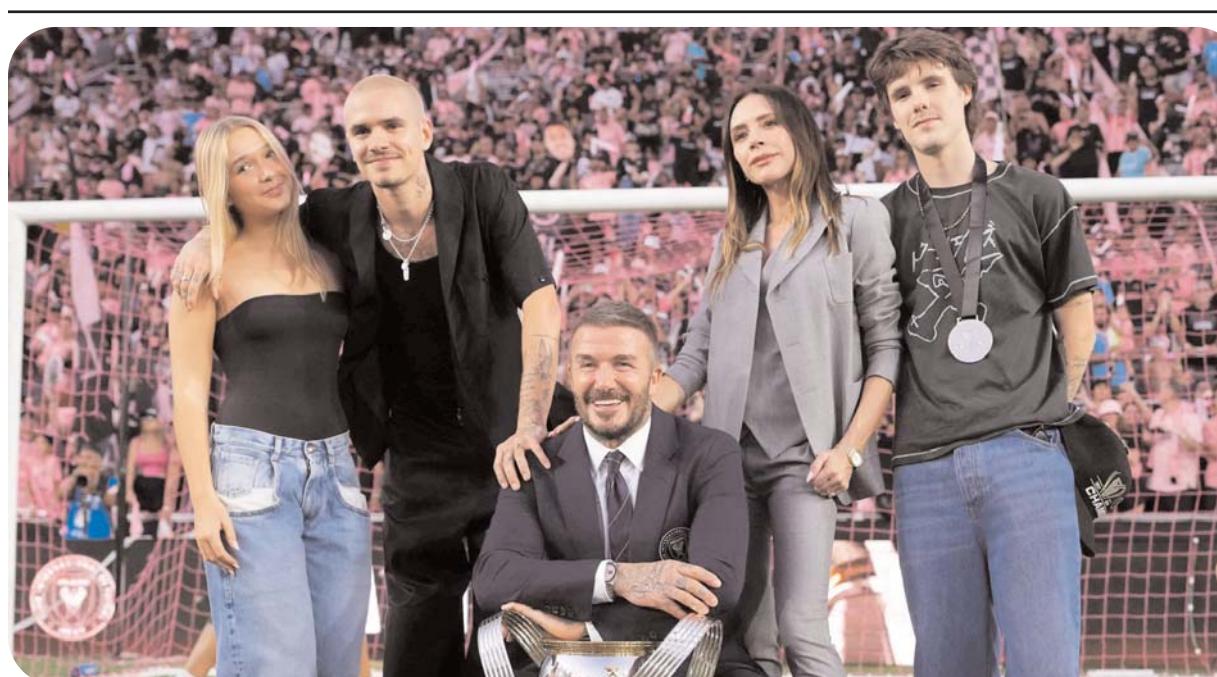


from 39 deliveries for the second wicket. De Villiers upstaged his senior partner, who had settled into the anchor role after reaching his maiden SA20 50 off 33 balls, with a rapid 30 off 22 balls. At this stage JSK were targeting a total in the region of 200 before Raza (2/26) intervened again, having De Villiers caught on the long-off boundary, to pick up his ninth wicket of the competition in just three matches. The JSK innings fell away a bit from hereon, especially after Wiaan Mulder, Vince and Shubham Ranjana all fell in quick succession before a floodlight failure further halted their momentum with Donovan Ferreira also perishing immediately after the resumption.

made an immediate impact with his very first ball of his spell when he clean bowled Du Plessis with a gorgeous off-spinner that drifted in the air before gripping and turning through the gate to crash into the stumps. The dismissal did not stem JSK's momentum though with Matthew de Villiers and Vince adding a further 56

raced to 64 without loss when the Powerplay drew to a close. Faf du Plessis, James Vince, Sikandar Raza and Matthew de Villiers all made an impression at Wanderers before inclement weather intervened. But the Royals tossed their ball to their golden arm Sikander Raza in the seventh over and the Zimbabwe T20 captain

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David Beckham, Victoria Sent Legal Notice By Son Brooklyn, Contact Only Through Lawyers

"COUSINS THOUGHT I DIED":

Women's World Cup 2025 Hero Jemimah Rodrigues Reveals Near-Death Experience



she'd been playing a game of 'chappal' (slipper) fight with her cousins and friends, when things went south. "Once, we were at an auditorium for a church programme. As narrated by her, she fell from the first floor of the auditorium, and was lucky to escape without any major injuries. In a recent interview, Jemimah shared

eight or ten at that time," Jemimah narrated, speaking on 'Breakfast with Champions'. "My cousin Rachel threw her crocs, and it went over to a wooden thing, and you had to jump and get it. "I, (like a) full hero, said 'wait guys, I will go!'. There

was a box there. I put my leg on it, and fell down from there. I fell from the first floor," she recalled. However, a moment of fortune meant that the fall did not end up hurting Jemimah much. "Luckily, there was someone downstairs sitting and eating food, and I fell on her head. My cousins thought I died, because I fell down, and you couldn't see anything," Jemimah said. Now 25, Jemimah shot to superstardom with a sensational knock of 127 against Australia in the Women's World Cup 2025 semi-final in October, helping India script the highest-successful run chase in the history of women's cricket.

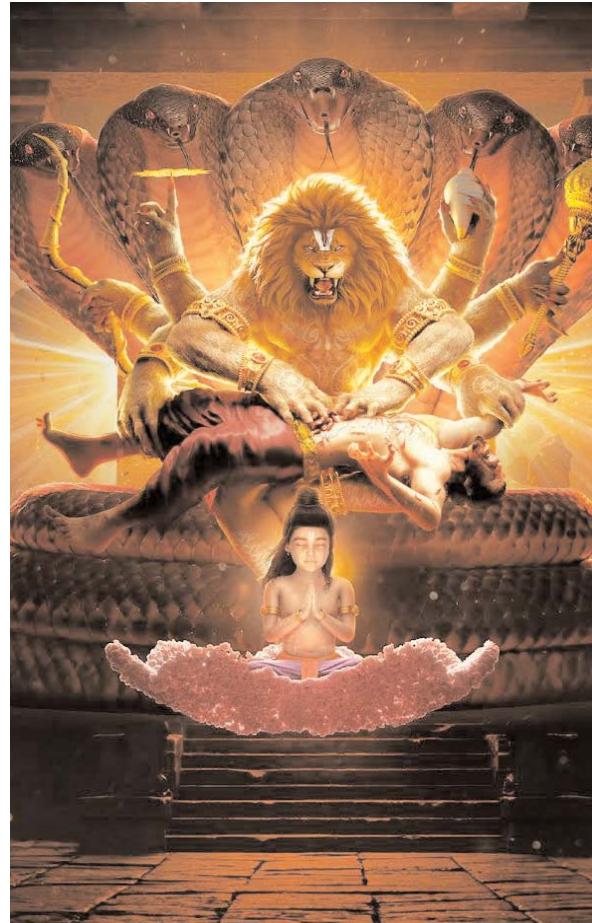
Littler signs sponsorship deal worth reported £20m



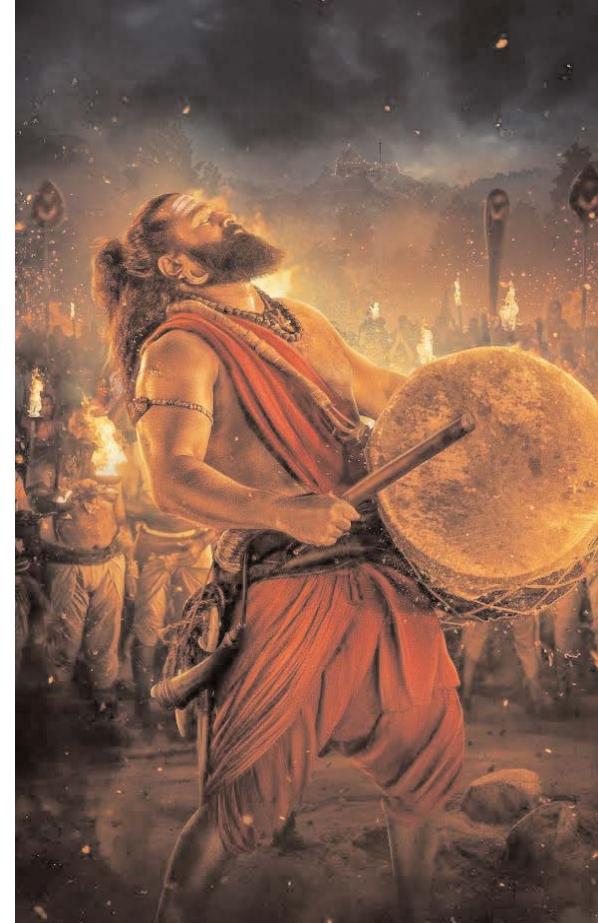
World number one Luke Littler has signed a record sponsorship deal for a darts player worth a reported £20m. The 18-year-old, who claimed the £1m prize for winning the World Championship earlier this month, has signed a 10-year agreement with Target Darts. Target has described the deal as "the largest agreement in darts history between a brand and a player" and PA Media reports that it is worth up to £20m with potential bonuses and add-ons. BBC Sport has contacted Littler's representatives and Target Darts for comment. Littler has won two world titles and already has 10 major titles to his name. "Target has believed in me from day one," said Littler, who is also managed by the company. "From my

playing career to my product range, we've built everything together and I'm really excited to commit to our partnership long-term and see where we can take this next." Littler burst on to the scene at the 2024 World Championship, reaching the final but coming up short against Luke Humphries. He won the Premier League title in 2024 and went on to lift his first world title in January 2025 before retaining his crown. Only Phil Taylor, with 14, and Michael van Gerwen, on three, have won more PDC world titles than Littler, who is also just the fourth player to triumph in successive years. Target chairman Garry Plummer said: "I met Luke at the BDO Youth World Championship Qualifier when he was 12.

Hombale Films creates history with two films on the Oscar general entry list



Hombale Films, a leading production house that has been taking Indian cinema to the international level, has achieved another pres-



tigious milestone. The blockbuster films 'Mahavathar Narasimha' and 'Kantara: Chapter 1', released in 2025, have offi-

cially made it to the Oscar general entry list. This is a proud moment for Indian cinema and Hombale Films. 'Kantara: Chapter 1', pro-

duced by Vijay Kiragandur and directed by Rishab Shetty, as well as 'Mahavathar Narasimha' (presented by Hombale

Films) directed by Ashwin Kumar, were not only huge box office successes, but also received special praise for their excellent story, cultural authenticity, technical prowess and visual grandeur. By joining the Oscars general entry list, these two films have qualified for Academy consideration in major categories such as Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Producer, Best Director, Best Original Screenplay/Writing, Best Production Design, and Best Cinematography. Notably, two of the five Indian films that made it to the Oscar general entry list this year were Hombale Filmway. Standing up for powerful stories, crossing creative boundaries, and establishing Indian cinema on international platforms...all of this has been proven once again in the journey of Hombale Films. At a time when Indian cinema is gaining more recognition worldwide, this achievement by Hombale Films stands as a symbol of the creative power of the Indian film industry. This is a proud moment for Hombale Films and for Indian cinema.

Star Director Buchi Babu Sana Released Fun-filled Teaser Of Purushaha



The upcoming entertainer Purushaha has already stirred plenty of buzz, thanks to its humorous first-look posters and quirky promotional lines. The film marks Pavan Kalyan's debut as a lead actor, supported by an energetic ensemble featuring Saptagiri, Kasireddy Rajkumar, Vaishnavi Kokkura, Vishika and Hasini Sudheer. Presented by Battula Saraswathi under the Kalyan Productions banner and produced by Battula Koteswara Rao, the film is directed by Veeru Ulavala. It is gearing up for a lively theatrical release. Adding to the excitement, star filmmaker Buchi Babu Sana of Uppena and Peddi fame unveiled the

film's teaser. The teaser starts on an intriguing and amusing note, backed by a dramatic voiceover that introduces the three protagonists: "Three valiant warriors continue their relentless battle to conquer the world. Their code of war leaves us in awe. Yet, no matter how many battles they win, there always remains a lingering sense that somewhere... a fragment of the enemy still survives..." The narration takes a hilarious turn, revealing that these so-called mighty warriors are, in fact, tossed around like footballs by their wives. Completely exasperated, the trio heads to court seeking a divorce, setting the stage for a hilarious ride. Director Veeru

'Bharta Mahasayaluku Wignyapthi': A Relatable Family Entertainer with a Pleasant Surprise

Bharta Mahasayaluku Wignyapthi' is a good family entertainer that everyone can relate to. There is a good surprise in the movie. This is a movie that everyone can connect to. Heroines Dimple Hayati, Ashika Ranganath Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja, Kishore Tirumala is directing the family entertainer Bharta Mahasayaluku Wignyapthi', which is being produced by Sudhakar Cherukuri under the banner of SLV Cinemas. The film, starring Dimple Hayati and Ashika Ranganath, has already created a huge buzz with its teaser, trailer and songs. The film is set to release grandly on January 13. On this occasion, heroines Dimple Hayati and

Ashika Ranganath shared the film's highlights at a press conference. Ashika Ranganath said... We had planned to do a project with director Kishore Tirumala earlier. But due to some reasons, it didn't work out. Later, he told me the story of 'Bharta Mahasayaluku wignyapthi'. When I heard the story, I thought of playing the role of a modern girl in it. He also said that he wanted the same role. This is a completely different character compared to my Samiranga. It will definitely be something new in my career. My character's name in this is Manasa Shetty. It's a character that today's girls can relate to. It is very difficult to match Ravi Teja's energy. Even then, I don't know

Telugu very well. But the director was very supportive. He is a very sensible director. He designed our characters very carefully. He also took a lot of care in the costumes. The director portrayed my character very beautifully. In commercial films, there are no mistakes in the characters of the heroes. However, now there are many changes in the stories. Every character has some mistake or flaw. The audience is interested in seeing such characters. There are many conflicts in the current relationships. The director has handled such issues wonderfully in a way that everyone can relate to. Ravi Teja is a wonderful performer. He has cultivated a wonderful sense of fun and emotion. It was a great pleasure to work with him. In this, Satya will be seen in the character of my P.A. It is a very good laugh-out-loud character. Ravi Teja garu, Sunil garu, Vennela Kishore, Satya are all actors with excellent comedy timing. It seemed like a challenge to match their timing. I want each of my films to be different, and the audience will definitely feel something new after watching this film. Sudhakar Cherukuri garu produced this film in a very grand manner. He supported us in every way. We shot for this film in Spain. The film is visually very rich. Chiranjeevi coming onto the sets while performing the mass song was a memorable

experience. I am currently doing 2 films, Vishwambhara and Sardaar. I am also doing another film called 'Adhi Naa Pillara'. I feel lucky to have the opportunity to work with big stars at the beginning of my career. Dimple Hayati said... As soon as director Kishore Tirumala told me this story, I liked it. As soon as I heard this story, I wanted to play the role of Balamani, the wife character in it. Because I had already played the role of a modern girl in Ravi Teja's film. I felt that the role of Balamani would be new to me. I was happy that the director also thought of the role of Balamani. After telling the story, it was even more enjoyable to say that Ravi Teja is the

hero in this. This is my second film with Ravi Teja. It is always a pleasure to work with him. I have a very strong independent character in this. Director Kishore has designed the character very wonderfully. Appearing in the role of Balamani is a new experience. A lot of care was taken in the costumes. The colors were chosen according to the character. Also, the songs feature good colorful costumes. All the visuals are vibrant. All the girls will relate. There is a surprise element in this movie. You have to see that in the movie itself. The director shows everything by acting. His dialogues are also very unique. This story will connect with everyone.

Nari Nari Naduma murari is a perfect family entertainer with a new conflict between Murari. The content is very fun. Everyone will enjoy it: Director Ram Abbaraju



Charming Star Sharva and Ram Abbaraju are starring in the wholesome family entertainer 'Nari Nari Nadu Murari' directed by Ram Abbaraju. Produced by Anil Sunkara and Ramabrahmam Sunkara in association with Adventures International Pvt. Ltd. under the banner of AK Entertainments, the film stars Samyukta and Sakshi Vaidya as the female leads. The promotional content has already created a good buzz. The film will hit the theatres on January 14. On this occasion, director Ram Abbaraju shared the film's features at a press conference.

Looking at the promotional content of this film, a Sankranthi vibe is visible. Is this a film made just for Sankranthi?

This is a festival-like film. Otherwise, Sharva Garu's Biker film was supposed to be released. But due to some reasons, it was postponed. This gave us a good opportunity to come for Sankranthi. This is good, youthful, fun entertainment. I grew up watching many films for Sankranthi since childhood. Now, as a director,

Printed, Published and owned By Vuppla Sujatha, Printed at: Kottenkaavu Temple Rd, Arakkakadavu, Kochi, Kerala 682028 Published At Kottenkaavu Temple Rd, Arakkakadavu, Kochi, Kerala 682028. Editor: Chiluka Venugopal Reddy. E-Mail: info.southindientimes@gmail.com, Contact :9000657700, RNI Regd No: KARENG/2012/43253.

Farah Khan says her watchman's house is 'worth Rs 15 crore'



Mumbai: Farah Khan, the renowned filmmaker, recently made headlines with her humorous comment about the luxury of her Mumbai home. While joking about the value of her watchman's quarters, Farah revealed that even the watchman's house in her building is worth Rs. 15 crore. The remark took place during a candid vlog with Rakhi Sawant.

A Humorous Exchange with Rakhi Sawant

When Rakhi arrived at Farah's apartment in an auto rickshaw, she asked the security guard how much an apartment in the building would cost. The guard casually mentioned Rs. 15 crore. Rakhi, clearly surprised, said, "My house is bigger than yours. Yours is worth Rs. 15 crore and mine is Rs. 50 crore." Farah

responded with a playful tone, "Mera ghar 15 crore ka nahi hai bhai, tu mere ghar ki market down kyun kar rahi? Voh toh watchman ki kholi 15 crore ki hai humari building mein" (My house isn't worth Rs. 15 crore, brother! Why are you bringing down my property's market value? The watchman's house in our building is worth Rs. 15 crore). When Rakhi asked about the actual cost of Farah's home, the filmmaker jokingly said, "I can't tell that. I have two more floors and a swimming pool too." Farah's playful response and light-hearted vibe continued as Rakhi teased her about Bollywood, saying that all the money in the industry goes to Farah. Farah's cooking vlogs, which she started in 2024, have gained immense popularity.

Another Historic Feat by Veteran Producer Thummalapalli Ramasatyanarayana



Renowned producer Thummalapalli Ramasatyanarayana, who has created history by producing over a hundred films, has once again set a new benchmark in the film industry. Trailers of 7 films released on a single day Trailers of the remaining 8 films to be released soon Having produced more than 114 films in a span of 20 years, Thummalapalli Ramasatyanarayana is known for his extraordinary journey as a filmmaker. It is well known that on August 15 last year, he launched 15 films simultaneously, creating a world record. Now, after completing the shooting of 7 films from that line-up, he has once again showcased his remarkable efficiency by unveiling all seven trailers on the same day at a

single venue. The trailers of the movies include: "Mahanaga" - Directed by Uday Bhaskar "Yandamoori Kathalu" - Directed by Ravi Basara "Maa Nanna Hero" - Directed by Vijay Erramsetti "Robo-47" - Directed by Nutan "Mahabaludu" - Directed by Nutan "Rudra Thandavam" - Directed by Harsha "Manam-2036" - Directed by Sai Ramesh The grand trailer launch event was held amidst great enthusiasm at Prasad Labs, Hyderabad. Eminent personalities such as Suman, Saikumar, V. Vijayendra Prasad, K. S. Rama Rao, Relangi Narasimha Rao, Yandamoori Veerendranath, J. K. Bharavi, Veera Shankar, Chandra Mahesh, K. L. Damodar Prasad, T. Prasanna Kumar, K. Ashok Kumar, Kavitha, Kalva Sujatha Gupta, and V. Vijay Kumar attended the event as chief guests and extended their best wishes to the film teams. The directors of the seven films were felicitated by the dignitaries, along with music director duo Dr. A. J. Sandhyavarshini and Dr. V. R. A. Pradeep, who are composing music for all 15 films. PRO Dheeraj Appaji, who is handling publicity for all the films, and Creative Head Thallada Sai Krishna were also honored. Cast and crew members from all 15 films under the Bhimavarapu Talkies banner participated in large numbers.