OM NAMO
VENKATESAYA

21-01-2026
Total pilgrims: 74,056
Tonsures: 27,517
Hundi kanukalu: 3.98CR
Waiting Compartments...17
Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens).. 18H

VOL No. XIV | ISSUE No. 21
FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2026 | P-8 | ₹.5/- | PRGI No. KARENG/2012/43253
KOCHI I VIJAYAWADA I CHENNAI I BENGALURU I HYDERABAD
THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES
Essence of the South
NATIONAL DAILY NEWSPAPER
www.thesouthindiatimes.com /facebook/thesouthindiatimes.yahoo.in /thesouthindiatimes.yahoo.in /@thesouthindiatimes

TO BOOK
YOUR ADS
CALL
99484 80279, 73307 78889

NATION | NEWS

Fight Will Continue Till MGNREGA Is Restored: CM Siddaramaiah

WORLD | NEWS

US ALLIES WON'T FORGET TRUMP GREENLAND CRISIS

SPORTS | NEWS

Shubman Gill Fails On Ranji Trophy Return, Dismissed For Two-Ball Duck For Punjab

INBRIFS

We won't play in India but still hopeful of justice from ICC: Bangladesh

DHAKA: (Jan 22) Bangladesh on Thursday refused to send its national cricket team for the T20 World Cup in India, effectively paving the way for Scotland to take its place in the tournament roster after the ICC dismissed the country's demand for a change of venue. Bangladesh had been served an ultimatum by the world body on Wednesday to either agree to travel to India or risk being replaced as there was no credible threat to the safety of their players, officials or fans there. The country was given time till Thursday to make its decision. However, taking a defiant position Bangladesh's sports advisor Asif Nazrul, after a meeting with national team players, announced that the ICC's position was not acceptable to them.

10 soldiers killed as Army vehicle falls into gorge in J&K's Doda

Jammu (TSIT) An Army vehicle skidded off the road and plunged into a deep gorge in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday (January 22, 2026), killing 10 soldiers and injuring 11 others, officials said. The accident took place at the 9,000-feet-high Khanni top along the Bhaderwah-Chamba interstate road around noon when the driver of a bulletproof Army vehicle heading towards a high-altitude post lost control and the vehicle plunged into a 200-foot-deep gorge. A joint rescue operation by Army and police was immediately launched and four of the soldiers were found dead on the spot and 11 others were rescued in an injured condition, the officials said. The Army vehicle was badly mangled. Later, six more injured soldiers died of injuries. One of the injured is under observation in Bhaderwah sub-district hospital while 10 soldiers were airlifted to Udhampur command hospital for specialised treatment while one is under observation in Bhaderwah sub-district hospital.

WEF eyes partnership with Telangana Rising Vision

Hyderabad (TSIT): The World Economic Forum has come forward to partner in the Telangana Rising 2047 vision, aimed at making the state a $3 trillion economy. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday met Jeremy Jurgens, Managing Director, World Economic Forum (WEF) and Manju George, Head of Strategic Impact and Integration, C4IR Network, at the Telangana Pavilion during the WEF 2026 in Davos.

The Chief Minister presented the Telangana Rising 2047 vision, the roadmap and strategy being implemented towards reaching the goal of becoming a $3 trillion economy.According to the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) here, Jeremy Jurgens said the various facets of the vision open up various opportunities for mutual cooperation. "We would like to partner in the Telangana Rising vision and be a part of the journey. Hyderabad has a great talent base," the CMO quoted him as saying. The

Chief Minister proposed to host an annual follow-up WEF in the month of July or August. The idea is to facilitate a platform for follow-up on the discussions or decisions made during WEF in January, considering that a time gap of one year is quite long in the context of modern business lifecycles of today.

The WEF team responded very positively to the Chief Minister's idea, despite similar proposals from several countries. Jeremy Jurgens told the Chief Minister that they would take this forward soon. He mentioned that the 'Summer Davos' is being held annually in China, and that there is strong interest from Saudi Arabia.The two sides reflected upon the journey of C4IR Telangana (Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution), which was launched in Hyderabad at BioAsia 2024. It was launched as the WEF's first thematic centre for healthcare and life sciences in India, aiming to drive health-tech innovation, policy, and workforce skilling through strategic partnerships with industry and academia.

Jurgens said the launch of C4IR Telangana at BioAsia was a very positive role model for WEF in India.The WEF MD explained about C4IR's research work on best practices in planning industrial clusters and offered to share information on that front with C4IR Telangana.

Industry Minister D. Sridhar Babu explained about "CURE, PURE, RARE" -- the state's new economic development strategy, as well as the Bharat Future City, the net-zero greenfield smart city project, which is set to be a role model for sustainable urban development in India. The delegation, including Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, detailed Hyderabad's leading capabilities in aerospace, defence, bio-design, software, and pharma.

India among those absent at signing ceremony of Trump's 'Board of Peace'

NEW DELHI (TSIT): (Jan 22) India was among the countries not present in Davos on Thursday when US President Donald Trump unveiled his "Board of Peace" that seeks to work towards bringing lasting peace to Gaza and possibly resolve global conflicts.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among numerous global leaders that the US President has invited to join the board that was announced under the second phase of a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza strip. France, the United Kingdom, China, Germany and many other leading nations also skipped the signing ceremony for Trump's "Board of Peace".

Trump hosted the ceremony on the margins of annual World Economic Forum in the Swiss mountain resort.India is yet to take a call on it, people familiar with the matter said when asked about Trump's invite to PM Modi. New Delhi is considering various aspects as the initiative involves sensitive issues, it is learnt. India has been pushing for a "two-State solution" to the Palestine question

with Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security within recognised borders.The countries that joined the Board of Peace included Argentina Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Egypt, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam.A number of countries including Germany, Italy, Paraguay, Russia, Slovenia, Turkiye, and Ukraine have remained non-committal on the invitation.Trump's "Board of Peace" is being projected by Washington as a new international body to usher in peace and stability in Gaza and beyond, triggering speculations that it could throw a challenge to the United Nations.

CM Stalin inaugurates twin bridge at Okkiyam Thoraipakkam on OMR

The existing bridge will be demolished, and construction of two additional one-lane bridges and metro train lines will begin adjacent to the already constructed two-lane road bridges.

CHENNAI (TSIT): Chief Minister MK Stalin inaugurated the newly constructed twin bridge at Okkiyam Thoraipakkam on Old Mahabalipuram Road (OMR) on Thursday.

As part of the larger infrastructure push, the Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) has constructed this four-lane bridge at a cost of Rs 60 crore. Since August 2024, discussions have been under way to either expand the existing bridge or construct a new one. As the existing bridge has a restricted waterway of 90 meters and low vertical clearance, it triggered floods during Cyclone Michaung in December 2023.

Hence, CMRL, in consultation with the state government and the Water Resources Department (WRD), decided to construct a new bridge with an expanded waterway of about 205 meters and an additional 1.5 meters of vertical clearance. Steel structures have been used for rapid construction. The existing bridge will be demolished, and construction of two additional one-lane bridges and metro train lines will begin adjacent to the already constructed two-lane road bridges.

The Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone for the construction of an integrated multi-modal transport and commercial complex at the existing Mandaveli bus depot and terminal at an estimated cost of Rs 167.09 crore. The multi-modal facility will be constructed by the Chennai Metro Asset Management Limited (CMAML), which is a joint venture between CMRL and the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO). The integrated facility will consist of tower 1 and tower 2, which will include two basements, a ground floor and seven upper floors.

Davos visit useful to promote branding of Andhra: Chandrababu Naidu

Amaravati, Jan 22 : Andhra Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has said that his visit to Davos has been useful to promote branding of Andhra Pradesh on a global platform. Winding up his visit on Thursday, he said that the World Economic Forum platform helps understand the changing trends in the global industrial sector and the perspectives of industrial giants worldwide.

The Chief Minister explained that through various meetings in the last three days, the state's achievements in key sectors such as green energy, technology, artificial intelligence, agriculture, and tourism were effectively presented.According to the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), he stated that now

global corporate giants are showing increased interest in India. He expressed the view that due to youth power, effective leadership, and investor-friendly policies, opportunities for establishing companies across all sectors in India have increased significantly.

Discussions were held on the progress of the TCS Development Centre in Visakhapatnam, the proposed Quantum Valley in Amaravati, and the solar power projects proposed in Kurnool.

During the four-day Davos visit, the Chief Minister attended over 36 meetings. He participated in three meetings with representatives from Israel, the UAE, and Switzerland. At the World Economic Forum venue, the Chief Minister met 16 global industrial leaders. He also attended more than nine sessions and meetings.

The Chief Minister stated that the World Economic Forum was instrumental in assessing the effectiveness of various policies being implemented in the state to further promote the Andhra Pradesh brand globally.

During his visit, the Chief Minister interacted closely with Telugu people living in Europe, boosting their confidence through Telugu diaspora programmes. On the sidelines of the Davos summit, he also gave exclusive interviews to national and international media organisations.

KTR calls phone-tapping probe a 'diversionary tactic' by Congress govt

Hyderabad (TSIT): Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K. T. Rama Rao on Thursday alleged that the ongoing phone-tapping investigation is nothing but a diversionary tactic meant to shield administrative failures and protect Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's position.

Addressing the media at Sircilla, he claimed that the Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted by the government resembled a "daily television serial" rather than a genuine inquiry. He asserted that notices were being issued selectively to opposition

leaders purely for political mileage while senior police and intelligence officials who actually oversaw the system in the past were being kept away from questioning.

According to KTR, every government in the country relies on intelligence agencies for maintaining law and order and safeguarding stability. He argued that surveillance mechanisms have existed since the time of Jawaharlal Nehru and continue even today. Such systems, he maintained, function within the police and intelligence establishment and do not operate at the discretion of ministers or political executives. He questioned why former intelligence chiefs and police directors — including current DGP Shivadhar Reddy, former DGP Mahender Reddy, ex-DGP and Home Secretary Jitender, and Ravi Gupta — were not being summoned by the SIT.

51 medicines, including cough syrups, manufactured in Himachal fail to meet quality parameters

Solan (TSIT): As many as 51 medicines, including cough syrups, manufactured in Himachal's pharmaceutical industries have failed to meet quality protocols as per the investigations undertaken by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).They were among 167 medicine samples which failed quality parameters from across various states and were listed in the monthly alert issued last evening. Six cough and cold syrups were found lacking in quality protocols due to inadequacies in assay, pH and other technical parameters while in several injections samples.

SC refuses to issue omnibus directions on stampede prevention

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Thursday refused to issue omnibus directions on a PIL seeking comprehensive directions to prevent stampedes during large public gatherings, including religious events, political rallies and yatras.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi permitted the petitioner to pursue the matter before the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Election Commission.

At the outset, the CJI raised fundamental questions about the scope of judicial intervention in matters involving crowd management and law and order. The bench noted that the petition filed by Tumbalam Gooty Venkatesh sought a direction to the Centre to frame and implement a binding standard operating procedure (SOP) for crowd management and safety for large public gatherings.

"Similar directions have been

sought to implement SOP in political rallies across the country during the model code of conduct. The petitioner has also sought formulation for national crowd management safety code with real time updates," the bench said, adding, "We find the issues were raised by the petitioner in representation on December 18, 2025."The issue sought to be raised revolves around the responsibility of states and the Centre to maintain law and order in such public events and gatherings, it noted.

"The directions are thus sought for formulation of a policy for which the domain experts of law and order enforcing agencies are more suited. Since petitioner has already approached the MHA, we deem it appropriate to dispose of the plea at this stage to enable the petitioner to pursue representation before Union of India and that he may also furnish a copy of this representation to the Election Commission as well …We leave it for the competent authority to consider the representation if they deem it appropriate," it ordered.

During the hearing, the bench asked, "Can we issue such directions at all?" and expressed reservations about the feasibility of court-mandated, all-encompassing guidelines for crowd control.

Responding to the query, the counsel for the petitioner said the top court previously intervened in policy matters where vulnerable lives were at stake.

He cited an earlier PIL concerning homeless mentally challenged persons, where the Court had directed the formulation of SOP.

Rahul Gandhi, Kharge join 'MGNREGA Bachao Sangram'; Cong plans to make it 'mass movement'

New Delhi: Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday joined the 'MGNREGA Bachao Sangram' in the national Capital, as several Congress leaders launched a sharp attack on the Modi government and announced plans to turn the campaign into a nationwide mass movement.

The programme saw participation from senior Congress leaders, Members of Parliament, MLAs, representatives of civil society organisations and MGNREGA workers from various states.

Speaking to IANS, All India Mahila Congress President Alka Lamba alleged that the BJP-led central government had launched a "dictatorial" attack on the right to rural employment without consulting state governments, stakeholders associated with MGNREGA or the workers themselves.

She claimed that the scheme had been systematically weakened, alleging that jobs were being taken away from rural workers and that even Mahatma Gandhi's name had been removed from the programme.

"Our top leadership has decided that this will not be taken lightly. We will turn this into a national movement. Our workers are active at the ground level, speaking to villagers across the country, and we will not allow the government to destroy the basic structure of MGNREGA," Lamba said.

Fresh encounter breaks out between security forces and hiding terrorists in J&K's Kishtwar

Jammu, Jan 22 : Following a four-day interval since the first gunfight occurred in Singhpora village, located in the Chatroo area of Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, a new encounter started at the same location on Thursday between the joint security forces and the terrorists.

Officials stated that the fresh exchange of firing started this morning in the village after the joint forces engaged the hiding terrorists in gunfire exchanges.

There was no trace of the hiding terrorists in the area till this day, after Sunday, when one paratrooper of the Army was killed and seven others injured in initial contact between the joint forces and the terrorists.

"Intense firing exchanges are now going on in the area," officials said.

Multiple teams of the Army, police, and paramilitary forces, supported by drones and sniffer dogs, have been combing the area for the last four days while maintaining a tight security cordon to ensure that the terrorists are not able to escape.

A group of two to three terrorists allegedly affiliated with the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) are believed to be trapped in the area.

SC allows Basant Panchami worship, Friday namaz at MP's Bhojshala complex

New Delhi, Jan 22 : In a significant order passed on Thursday, the Supreme Court directed that both Basant Panchami worship and Friday namaz be permitted at the disputed Bhojshala Temple-Kamal Maula Mosque complex in Dhar district of western Madhya Pradesh.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant was hearing an urgent plea filed by the Hindu Front for Justice (HFJ), which sought exclusive rights for Hindus to perform Saraswati Puja throughout the day on Basant Panchami, falling on Friday, January 23.

Laying down specific arrangements to enable both communities to perform their respective religious observances, the Bench, also comprising Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Justice Vipul M. Pancholi, ordered that namaz may be offered between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. at a separately demarcated space within the premises.

The apex court further directed that special passes be issued to those offering namaz.

Kejriwal says 'Satyamev Jayate'; Delhi BJP reminds liquor scam trial still pending in court

New Delhi, Jan 22 : Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva said on Thursday that former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is a master of lies, deception, and corruption, and he once again tried to mislead people by responding with "Satyamev Jayate" after a city court dismissed two Enforcement Directorate (ED) pleas linked to his non-appearance for questioning in the liquor scam.

By writing "Satyamev Jayate" on social media platform X, Kejriwal attempted to suggest that he has been acquitted in the main liquor scam case filed by the ED, whereas the court has merely dismissed two ED summons, issued to him prior to his arrest, after finding them not maintainable.

Sachdeva said that "Satyamev Jayate" is a word signifying honour, and by writing "Satyamev Jayate" in a social media post, Kejriwal tried to project as if he has got a clean chit in the main liquor scam.

He added that by using these words after dismissal of a complaint related to his non-appearance before the ED, Kejriwal has also insulted these sacred words.

'Unlikely alliance' in Maharashtra: BJP and AIMIM join hands in Achalpur civic body

Amravati, Jan 22 : In a development that has stunned the political landscape in Maharashtra, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Asaduddin Owaisi-led All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) have joined forces in local municipal bodies. This "unprecedented success" for the AIMIM in recent municipal elections has paved the way for a power-sharing arrangement with the BJP in Achalpur and Akot, sparking intense debate over ideological compromises.

In the Achalpur Municipal Council in Amravati district, the BJP and AIMIM have formed a strategic alliance to secure key positions. Despite being polar opposites in state and national politics, the two parties have come together to govern. As part of this arrangement, a member of the AIMIM has been appointed Chairman of the Education and Sports Committee.

This new alliance comprises BJP as the leading partner, AIMIM with three councillors, NCP (Ajit Pawar faction) with two councillors and Independents with three councillors.

The alliance in Achalpur follows a similar controversial precedent set in the Akot municipality.

Bengal SIR process: CM Mamata calls for united movement against hearing notices to celebrities, intellectuals

Kolkata, Jan 22 : Even on the occasion of the inauguration of the Kolkata International Book Fair, 2026, on Thursday, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee launched a scathing attack on the Election Commission of India (ECI) over the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in the state and called for a united movement by all sections of society against hearing notices served to celebrities, intellectuals and socially acclaimed persons.

"The SIR exercise is going on in West Bengal. Already, 110 persons in the state have died because of reasons directly or indirectly linked to the revision exercise. The ECI should have kept in mind the inconvenience to people because of the manner in which the revision exercise is being conducted. On an average, people have to stand for four to five hours in a queue during hearings on the claims and objections on the draft voters' list," the Chief Minister said in her inauguration address at the Book Fair, which started on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister also claimed that the concept of "logical discrepancy" was never there in the revision exercise in any state in the past. "This has been introduced only in the case of West Bengal.

AAP launches free treatment up to Rs 10 lakh for every family in Punjab

Mohali (Punjab), Jan 22 : The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Thursday fulfilled its promise of free healthcare in Punjab as National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal and Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann launched the 'Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojna' (MMSY) here, extending free treatment of up to Rs 10 lakh to every family in the state.

With the scheme now in force, even the most expensive private hospitals previously accessible only to the wealthy are opened to the poor, marking a decisive shift in public welfare delivery.

Punjab, under the AAP government, now becomes the first state in the country to guarantee free healthcare, free education, free electricity, and free bus travel for women, while Kejriwal asserted that power-hungry Opposition parties remain consumed by internal battles, and that only AAP could secure a safe future for Punjab. On the occasion, Kejriwal and CM Mann handed over Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojna cards to some of the eligible beneficiaries. During the launch of the Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojna, Kejriwal said, "Today is not just a big and historic day for Punjab, but for the entire country. The work that is going to be done in Punjab today should perhaps have been done back in 1950.

"All those who fought for Independence did not struggle so that one day the British would leave and our own governments would be formed, only for those governments to do nothing for the people".

For every $1 world invests in nature, it spends $30 on destroying it: UN report

New Delhi, Jan 22 : For every $1 the world invests in pro-tecting nature, it spends $30 on destroying it. This stark imbalance is the central finding of a new UN Environment Programme (UNEP) report released on Thursday.

It calls for a major shift in global financing of nature-based solutions and phasing out harmful investments to deliver high returns, reduce risk exposure, and enhance resilience.

'The State of Finance for Nature 2026', which uses data for 2023, finds $7.3 trillion in total nature-negative finance flows with $4.9 trillion from private sources highly concentrated in a few sectors -- utilities, industrials, energy, and basic materials and public environmentally harmful subsidies to fossil fuels, agriculture, water, transport and construction of $2.4 trillion in 2023.

"If you follow the money, you see the size of challenge ahead of us. We can either invest into nature's destruction or power its recovery -- there is no middle ground," said Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP.

"While financing nature-based solutions crawls forward, harmful investments and subsidies are surging ahead. This report offers leaders a clear road map to reverse this trend and work with nature, rather than against it," Andersen said. Since reforming and repurposing private and public capital flows is the most powerful tool to shift markets toward sustainability, the report introduces a new Nature Transition X-Curve, a framework designed to help policymakers and businesses sequence reforms and scale up high-integrity nature-based solutions (NbS) across all sectors of the economy.

Shaktisinh Gohil's nephew, wife found dead; police probing murder or accident

Ahmedabad, Jan 22 (IANS) Authorities on Thursday intensified their probe into the deaths of Yashrajsinh Gohil -- nephew of senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Shaktisinh Gohil -- and his wife, Rajeshwariba.

The couple was found dead with gunshot wounds at their residence in the Bodakdev area of Ahmedabad late Wednesday night.

Police said the bodies have been sent for forensic post-mortem examinations to determine the sequence of events and establish whether the shooting was accidental or deliberate.

ACP (A Division) Jayesh Brahmbhatt said preliminary findings, supported by the statement of Yashrajsinh's mother, indicate a possible accidental discharge of the firearm.

"Although the initial probe and the mother's statement suggest the bullet was fired by mistake and not intentionally, the forensic post-mortem will help ascertain the truth," Brahmbhatt said.

Honey Trap: An Organized Web of Fear, Infamy, and Crime

- DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH

The exposure of an organized gang in Rajasthan's Bhilwara district that honey-trapped and blackmailed civilians not only exposes a criminal network but also raises serious questions about the deepening fear, silence, and stigmatization of society. This case demonstrates how certain gangs are systematically exploiting human vulnerabilities, social inhibitions, and legal fears to destroy people financially, mentally, and socially.

Police investigations have revealed that some of the women involved in this gang systematically approached ordinary citizens, cultivated friendships and emotional intimacy with them, then trapped them in compromising situations and threatened to falsely implicate them in rape, kidnapping, assault, or other serious criminal cases, extorting large sums of money. This was not a random crime, but an organized crime conducted under a well-planned strategy. According to investigating agencies, the gang's modus operandi was highly planned and phased. In the first stage, the accused women befriended potential victims through social media, phone calls, or personal contact. Gradually, they developed emotional or personal intimacy, ensuring that the victims felt no danger.

In the second stage, the victim was lured into a situation where compromising material or circumstances could be created against them. Then, in the third and most dangerous stage, the fear game began—blackmailing through threats of false cases, police action, social stigma, and damage to the family's reputation.

In many cases, it has also emerged that the accused women were not alone. Their husbands, boyfriends, or other male associates played an active role in the conspiracy—sometimes as intimidators, sometimes as false witnesses, and sometimes as facilitators of the alleged kidnapping or assault.

According to the police, these cases have been registered under serious sections such as blackmailing, illegal confinement, kidnapping, assault, robbery, and criminal conspiracy. This makes it clear that this crime is not limited to the moral or social realm, but is a direct challenge to the law and order.

The investigation also revealed that some of the accused women have previously been jailed for honey trapping, while others are currently under investigation in other criminal cases. This suggests that this crime is not the result of a single incident, but rather part of a long-standing network that repeatedly sought new victims.The ost worrying aspect of this entire matter is that most victims did not come forward for a long time due to fear of social stigma. Indian society still has deep sensitivity regarding personal relationships, morality, and honor. These gangs exploit this mentality and force people to remain silent.Victims fear that contacting the police will damage their reputation in society, family, or at work. Using this fear, the accused repeatedly extort money. In many cases, victims have been extorted for lakhs of rupees, yet the threats persist.The police clearly state that silence in such cases empowers the perpetrators. The longer a victim remains silent out of fear, the more they become controlled by the perpetrator. This is why Bhilwara District Superintendent of Police Dharmendra Singh has appealed to the public not to be afraid in any such case and to contact the police immediately.

The police have also assured that the victim's identity will be kept strictly confidential and that her safety and dignity will be respected throughout the investigation. No accused, whether male or female, will be left unpunished. This case raises another sensitive question—the misuse of the law. Laws designed to protect women are essential to society, but when these same laws are used for false accusations and blackmail, the real victims suffer the most.

It's important to clarify that exposing cases like honey traps isn't an act against women, but rather an act against the misuse of the law. The justice system can only maintain its credibility if it approaches every case impartially—whether the accused is a woman or a man.

Organized crimes like honey traps cannot be completely eradicated through police action alone. This requires a shift in society's mindset. Victim-blaming, character-criticism, and the fear of slander—these are the criminals' greatest weapons.

It is the responsibility of the administration to take swift, fair and transparent action in such cases, while it is the responsibility of the society to stand with the victim and not put him in the dock.

The honey trap ring uncovered in Bhilwara district serves as a warning—both for ordinary citizens and for the system. This case demonstrates that crime is now committed not only with weapons, but also through psychological pressure, fear, and social vulnerability. In times like these, what's most important is awareness, courage, and trust in the law. Only when victims break their silence will this network of criminals weaken. Police appeals and action will only be successful when society supports truth rather than fear.Honey traps are not just a personal tragedy, but a social and legal challenge. Its solution lies in collective courage, sensitive thinking, and impartial justice.

Fight Will Continue Till MGNREGA Is Restored: CM Siddaramaiah

Bengaluru: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday strongly criticised the Governor, alleging violation of constitutional provisions by not reading the Cabinet-approved address during the first joint session of the Legislature this year. He said the move amounted to an insult to the Assembly of people's representatives and was aimed at shielding the Centre's "mistake" of repealing the MGNREGA Act.

Speaking to the media at Vidhana Soudha, the Chief Minister said Articles 176 and 163 of the Constitution clearly mandate that the Governor must read the speech prepared by the State Cabinet during the first joint session of the year or when a new government is formed. "Reading any other speech is unconstitutional and against established democratic practice," he said.Siddaramaiah said the State Government is firmly opposed to the Centre's decision to repeal the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and replace it with the new 'VBJ Ram Ji – Developed India Employment and Livelihood Mission (Rural)' Act. He pointed out that MGNREGA guaranteed the right to work for at least 100 days a year, benefiting Dalits, women, workers and small farmers.He alleged that the new Act offers no assured employment, removes the role of Gram Sabhas and Panchayats, and centralises decision-making. "Earlier, work could be provided throughout the year and even on farmers' own land. That right has now been taken away," he said.

Accusing the opposition of deliberately justifying the new Act, Siddaramaiah said the State Government and ruling party have decided to continue the struggle until MGNREGA is restored, similar to the withdrawal of anti-farmer laws in the past. He added that legal options, including approaching the Supreme Court, would be discussed after legislative deliberations.

The Governor who has defamed the Constitution should take moral responsibility and resign and step down: S Manohar

Bengaluru: KPCC General Secretary S Manohar has demanded that the Governor should immediately take moral responsibility and resign and step down.The Governor's actions, which have defamed the Constitution, have created a constitutional crisis in Karnataka today. Speaking after participating in a protest organized by the Congress Party against the Central Government and the Governor with slogans of "Go Back, Go Back Governor, Go Back", he urged the Central Government to recall Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot, who has behaved like a BJP agent by defying democracy and insulting Article 176 of the Constitution by not reading it in the Legislative Assembly.

This scheme, which was implemented in the name of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, who sacrificed his life for the country, was providing employment to crores of people in the country today. The unemployed BJP government has said that it will condemn the cowardice of the central government for stopping this scheme and increasing unemployment and stopping the scheme in the name of Mahatma Gandhi and abandoning the Mahatma Gandhi scheme in the name of VB Ramji.

Today, followers of Mahatma Gandhi are condemning the move of the BJP in the entire country. The BJP can only erase Mahatma Gandhi's ideas. But he warned that these cowards of the BJP cannot erase his path of non-violence and sacrifice. He said that the Central Congress government had earlier brought the Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Scheme, which provided daily work to farmers and the unemployed, and this scheme was helpful in developing local villages and urban areas. Congress party leaders A. Anand, Chandrashekhar, Kushal Puttaraj, Sai Naveen Sunkadakatte, Naveen Umesh, Sanjay Sashimath and Congress party workers participated in this protest.

LANXESS remains at the forefront of sustainability

Bangaluru : Climate protection initiative CDP has once again included LANXESS in its "A List" for climate protection – for the seventh time in a row. With an "A" rating, the specialty chemicals company ranks among the top 4 percent of more than 22,100 companies assessed worldwide.CDP gave particularly positive ratings in the areas of business strategy, targets, emissions reduction and climate-friendly products, governance and value chain.

The CDP experts award "A" ratings to companies that disclose their climate protection measures in a particularly transparent manner and implement their plans reliably. Among other things, verifiable strategies, science-based targets and a current climate protection plan are rewarded.

Hexagon India unveils ATS800 Metrology Solution to India Market at IMTEX Forming 2026

Bengaluru : Hexagon, the global leader in measurement technologies, announced the India market launch of its advanced metrology solution, the ATS800, at IMTEX Forming 2026, one of India's premier manufacturing and machine tool exhibitions. While the solution has been introduced globally earlier, IMTEX Forming 2026 marks its official introduction to Indian manufacturing market. The launch and inauguration ceremony was attended by Mr. Pramod Kaushik, President, Hexagon India; Mr. Manoj Sharma, Director - Marketing and Sales Excellence, Hexagon India, along with other Hexagon leaders and eminent guests.

The event is underway until 25 January 2026 at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC), Bengaluru, where Hexagon India is showcasing the solution at Hall 3A, Booth A126.

The ATS800 is a next-generation laser tracking metrology solution that combines high-accuracy direct scanning and reflector tracking into a single portable system. It enables manufacturers to measure complex surfaces, fine features, and large structures from distances of up to 40 metres, enhancing precision, productivity, and workflow efficiency.

Speaking to the media, Mr. Pramod Kaushik, President, Hexagon India, said, "The introduction of ATS800 in India reflects Hexagon's continued commitment to supporting the country's manufacturing transformation. As manufacturers move towards higher precision, larger assemblies, and digital quality workflows, the ATS800 offers a flexible and scalable metrology solution that helps improve accuracy, productivity, and operational confidence."

RPSG Group to Invest Rs.10,500 Cr in Vijayapura, Ballari: M.B. Patil

Bengaluru: The RPSG Group, a key player in the renewable energy sector, will invest Rs.10,500 crore over the next three years in Vijayapura and Ballari districts of Karnataka, said Large and Medium Industries Minister M.B. Patil on Thursday. The State Government will extend full support to facilitate the proposed investments, he assured.

Sharing details from the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos, the Minister said the InoxGFL Group, which has already begun wind turbine blade manufacturing at Kustagi, is planning to set up a large wind power tower manufacturing facility at a nearby location. The group has so far invested Rs.10,000 crore in Karnataka.Waste management major Ramky Group has expressed interest in establishing Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) in KIADB industrial areas across the State and has also held discussions on setting up a Pharma Park. Tech Mahindra Limited has shown interest in making industrial investments in Tier-2 cities, in line with the State's focus on balanced regional development.

Karnataka is also keen on attracting Singapore-based investments, with discussions held with the Singapore Economic Development Board on setting up a 'Singapore Park' in sectors such as semiconductors, biotechnology and aerospace.

Lenovo has explored partnerships with local suppliers, while Axon Cables is considering expanding its defence manufacturing footprint in Karnataka. Schneider Electric has announced plans to establish 20 new training centres, with a long-term goal of 100 skill development facilities.

To strengthen ties with Swiss companies, the State signed an MoU with Swiss Chambers India at the summit.

Congress Government Disrespects Governor and Constitution; Presenting Speech Symbolically is Not New, This is a Black Day: Opposition Leader R. Ashoka Expresses Outrage

Bengaluru : Opposition Leader R. Ashoka, expressing his outrage that The Congress government has turned the day of the special session into a black day by showing disrespect to the Governor and insulting the Constitution.

Speaking to reporters after the House session, he said that the Congress government has made the session day a black day. The Governor acts as a bridge between the state and central governments. Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot presented the speech symbolically and left after thanking. Previously, Hansraj Bhardwaj had done the same. There is nothing wrong with this. According to the Constitution, there is an opportunity to come to the House, present a symbolic speech, and express thanks. However, Congress legislators acted like goons, pushed the Governor, and attacked him. It is truly shameful and condemnable that senior House members and Law Minister H.K. Patil himself have set a precedent for this bad tradition. Law Minister H.K. Patil does not deserve to continue in that position even for a moment, he said.In the 27th clause on page 13 of the House rules book, it is mentioned about the procedures to be followed during the Governor's speech. It states that no member should interrupt while he is speaking. If done so, it should be considered a serious violation. Therefore, Speaker U.T. Khader should punish the errant members and expel them from the House. The Governor has maintained his dignity and has never shown disrespect to the House. Previously, he has signed all bills. The Congress government is trying to turn Raj Bhavan into a party office, he alleged.

The Governor administered the oath to the CM and ministers. Congress leaders have gheraoed such a Governor. To please Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi, Congress members have acted this way and insulted the Constitution. These people who insulted Baba Saheb Ambedkar have now insulted the entire House. The Supreme Court has already said that it will not interfere in matters related to the Governor, he said.

Letter to Speaker

Opposition Leader R. Ashoka has demanded through a letter to Speaker U.T. Khader that disciplinary action be taken against the members of the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council who showed disrespect when the Governor was leaving the House. He has tweeted about this.

Misuse of the Governor's office to criticise the Central Government – Vijayendra's strong criticism

Bengaluru: BJP State President and MLA B.Y. Vijayendra has demanded that the Congress government led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah should allow the joint session of both Houses of the Legislature to function under healthy democratic principles and a positive federal structure, without inserting content in the Hon'ble Governor's address that is directed against the Central Government.

He clarified that there is no opposition to the Hon'ble Governor delivering the address. However, the Governor has rightly objected to the State Government spreading false and misleading information and using it to carry out propaganda against the Central Government among the general public.

Vijayendra pointed out that the State Government has been continuously indulging in propaganda against Central Government schemes. It is unfortunate that even the Hon'ble Governor, who holds a constitutional post, is being used for such propaganda, and he termed this as unconstitutional.

Welcoming the Hon'ble Governor's stand that he would not read out statements that could harm the unity and integrity of the nation, Vijayendra said the government's conduct in this regard is condemnable. He alleged that for the Congress government, politics of hatred is more important than public development, and expressed hope that at least after the Governor's decision, the Congress government would correct its approach.

He said that a party which claims to strongly advocate federalism is, in Karnataka, misusing the Legislative Assembly merely because it is in power, and using it as a platform to vent hatred against the Central Government. This, he said, is nothing but an assault on democracy.

Vijayendra accused the Congress government, which claims to uphold the Constitution and federal structure, of continuously spewing venom against the Central Government and betraying the people of the state. He alleged that the government has repeatedly violated the Constitution and federal principles. Over the past 32 months, instead of safeguarding the interests of the people, the Congress government has repeatedly passed resolutions in the Legislature against the NDA government at the Centre, conspiring to weaken the federal system. He further stated that during eight legislative sessions, the Congress government has passed five resolutions against the Central Government on five occasions, misusing the majority mandate given by the people. Under the pretext of guarantee schemes, the state's development has been sidelined, the government's financial capacity has deteriorated, and there are signs that the state treasury could face bankruptcy at any moment. To hide this, the government is making false allegations against the Central Government and sowing hatred among the people of the state. He criticised the move to convene a special legislative session for discussion on the V.B.G. Ramji scheme, alleging it is another attempt to raise an outcry against the Central Government. Vijayendra reminded that while the Congress may have won a majority in the last Assembly elections, it should not forget that in the subsequent Lok Sabha elections, the BJP-led NDA alliance won 19 seats in Karnataka. He asserted that having a majority does not give the Congress the license to run the state arbitrarily, and said the party must understand this clearly.

GTTC Partners with Australian Social Enterprise to Boost Global Career Opportunities for Locals

Bengaluru : The state-run Government Tool & Training Centre (GTTC) signed an agreement with Workinitiatives, a leading Australian social enterprise, to address Australia's critical skills shortages and create global career pathways for Karnataka's skilled workforce.This partnership will connect Karnataka's professionals, tradespeople and community workers with Australian employers, focusing on sectors like construction, healthcare, advanced manufacturing and technology. This partnership leverages Workinitiatives' innovative technology to connect job seekers, employers and government bodies.The MoU was signed by Siddalingappa Pujari, GTTC MD GTTC and Chris Carman, founder and CEO of Workinitiatives in the presence of the Skill Development & Medical Education Minister Dr Sharanaprakash R Patil here at Vikasa Soudha on Thursday.According to Carman, Australia faces significant shortages in some of the Industry sectors including construction trades (over 100,000), healthcare and aged care (over 400,000), cybersecurity, AI and software development. "We're impressed with the Karnataka's proactive approach.

MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LTD.

MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED
FORMERLY MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE PVT LTD
CIN : U65923KL2010PLC039179

Regd Office: 8/596 A, Padmaprabha Building, Near Sreerama Swami Temple, Cherppu - Thriprayar Road, Thriprayar, Thrissur, Kerala 680567 | **Phone No.:** 0487-3520504, **Website:** www.manappuramhomefin.com

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of **Manappuram Home Finance Ltd ("MAHOFIN")** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest *[Act], 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a **Demand Notice** calling upon the borrowers and co-borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice and Interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Symbolic** possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said *[Act] read with rule 9 of the said rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Manappuram Home Finance Ltd as mentioned below for each of the respective properties:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower and Co-borrower / Loan account number/ Branch	Description Of Secured Asset In Respect Of Which Interest Has Been Created	Date of Demand Notice sent & Outstanding Amount	Date of Possession
1	Shibeesh M, Vijisha P, Bincy P, **/NHL00350009590/** Malapuram	Re-Survey No.: 137/13 Village: Maniyur Taluk: Vadakara District: Kozhikode Extent of Land: 4.199 Cents (1.70 Ares) Kerala - 673105. East-Property Belongin To Balan, West-Mud Road, South-Property Belonging To Radha, North-Property Belonging To Jameela	20-10-2025 & Rs.335116/-	20-01-2026
2	Sreekuttan A, Anirudhan D, Arun Thampi, **/NHL00380009555/** Attingal	Total Area Measuring Is 1.70 Ares of Land, Re Survey No. 122/4-3, Block No. 018, Situated/Lying At Village Arattupuzha, Taluk: Karthikappally, District: Alappuzha, Kerala - 690535. East-Concrete Road, West-Property of Thekkedath, South-Property of Mohanan, North-Property of Kainelath	20-10-2025 & Rs.660113/-	20-01-2026
3	Philip Issac, Bettcy Philip, Shany K M, **/NHL00150002479/** Kottayam	All That Is Part And Parcel of Property Having An Extent 3.60 Ares of Land In Sy. No. 359/5-1-3, Re. Sy. Block.7, Re.Sy. No.196/18, Situate At Village: Angadi, Taluk: Ranni, District: Pathanamthitta, Within The Limits of Sub-Registrar, Ranni. Nr Angadi J N Ranni Pathanamthitta Kerala Pin: 689674 P.O. Angadi. East Property of Varghese, West-Panchayath Road, South- Property of Chalikuzhil Murupail, North-Property of Shibu Peter	20-10-2025 & Rs.636689/-	20-01-2026
4	Jaya S, Anju Vinod, Anil Kumar, **/MHL00150022843/** Kottayam	1.62 Ares In Re. Sy. No. 38/2B-38, Arthunkal Village, Cherthala Taluk, Alleppey, P.O. Arthinkal, Kerala, Pin: 688530. East-Property of Peethambaran, West-Property of Hameed, South-Vazhi, North-Property of Rajappan	20-10-2025 & Rs.464509/-	20-01-2026
5	Suraja I, Abhilash A, Subramanian P, **/MHL00380027661/** Attingal	2.43 Ares In Re Sy No: 169/20-2, 169/20-2-2, Door No: 6/298, Block: 18, Kalarikkal, Valiyazheekal, Arattupuzha, Nr Parvathy Temple, Alleppey, P.O. Valiazheekal, Kerala, Pin: 690535. East-Property of Chaluvil, West-Property of Kariyil, South-Vazhi, North-Property of Chaluvil	20-10-2025 & Rs.627981/-	20-01-2026
6	Sandhya V, Biju B, **/MHL00380023865/** Attingal	1.62 Ares In Re. Sy. No. 40/12-5, Door No. 11/475, Block: 18, Kadhalichirayil, Vattachal, Arattupuzha, Nr Subhramanya Temple, Alleppey, P.O. Valiazheekal B.O, Alleppey, Kerala, Pin: 690535. East-Property of Sasidharan, West-Property of Subash, South-Property of Ravi, North-Road	20-10-2025 & Rs.565213/-	20-01-2026
7	Geetha G, Bhasi B, **/MHL00380030519/** Attingal	All That Is Part And Parcel of Property Having An Extent 2.02 Ares of Land In Sy. No. 204/6B, Block No.10, Re. Sy. No. 77/10-29, Situate At Village: Thekkekkara, Taluk: Mavelikkara, District: Alappuzha, Kerala-690110. East-Road And Property of Rohini, West-Property of Radhakrishnan, South-Property of Rohini, North-Vazhi	20-10-2025 & Rs.716275/-	20-01-2026
8	Bijumol R, Nandhu B, Anandhumon B, **/MHL00380033775/** Attingal	All That Is Part And Parcel of Property Having An Extent 2.43 Ares In Sy. No.1091/1127/347/1459,1091/1446/347/1814 And 1091/1599/347/1985 Block No.18, Re. Sy. No.150/5-9 Situate At Village: Arattupuzha, Taluk: Karthikappally, District: Alappuzha, Kerala-690535. East-Property of Koottil Paditathil, West-Property of Mannumpurathu, South-Vazhi, North-Property of Sundharan	20-10-2025 & Rs.536117/-	20-01-2026
9	Afsal Aa, Arshitha Pa, K A Ayshabi, **/NLAP0030010927/** Palakkad	All The Part And Parcel of Property And Improvements In Palakkad District, Alathur Sub District, Alathur Taluk, Kavasseri Ii Village, Kazhani Amsom And Desom, Comprised In Re. Sy. No. 205/14, Having An Extend of 0.0268 Hector, More Particularly Described In Registered Settlement Deed No.134 of 2021 Sro Alathur Puzhakkal Palli Alathur Palakkad Kerala Pin: 678543 P.O. Vavulliapuram B.O. East-Kudiyiruppa of Mahendran, West-Panchayath Road, Water Tank And Kudiyiruppa of Thankam, South-Kudiyiruppa of Thankamani, North-Kudiyiruppa of Thakam	21-10-2025 & Rs.1088895/-	20-01-2026
10	Arun Krishnan R, Geetha R, Sreelakshmi K V, Harikrishnan P M, **/MO19LALONS 000005011088/** Attingal	All That Is Part And Parcel of Property Having An Extent 1.31 Ares of Land In Block No.3, Re. Sy. No. 77/7-1-3, Situate At Village: Ennakkad, Taluk: Chengannoor, District: Alappuzha, Within The Limits of Sub-Registrar, Mannar, Ennakkad Taluk: Chenganoor, Alappuzha, Kerala- 689511. East-Property of Nadayude Vadakkethil., West-Panchayath Road.., South-Vazhy., North-Property of Chandran.	21-10-2025 & Rs.884697/-	20-01-2026
11	Saji M M, Kavitha K K, Umayamma Madhavan, **/NLAP0015026035/** Kottayam	Re. Sy. No. 439/8-2, 439/9-1, 439/9-2-4, And 1.46 Ares, In Kandallor Panchayath, Kandallor Village, Karthikappally Taluk, Alapuzha Distri, 690535, Pattoli Market, Alleppey, P.O. Kandallur, Alleppey, Kerala, Pin: 690535. East Property of Babu, West-Vazhi, South-Property of Reghu, North-Property of Reghu Nathan	21-10-2025 & Rs.1015568/-	20-01-2026
12	Anil Kumar S, Suruchi S, Jyothilakshmi S, **/NLAP0015025901/** Kottayam	Re. Sy. 586/1, Block No.19, Sy. No. 5174/19, Measuring 3.12 Ares of Land Kandalloor Village, Alappuzha Taluk, Near. Omk Junction, Alleppey, P.O. Kandallur, Alleppey, Kerala, Pin: 690535. East-Property of Perumaneth, West-Property of Chandra, South-Property of Sujith, North-Vazhi And Property of Sasidharan	21-10-2025 & Rs.1021858/-	20-01-2026
13	Sandhya L, Soman H, **/MHL00150024479/** Kottayam	Sy. No. 3075, Block No. 19, Re. Sy. No.70/20, Extent 1.62 Ares, Kandalloor Village, Karthikapally Taluk, Alappuzha, Near Pattoli Market, Kerala, Pin: 690531. East-Property of Balakrishnan, West-Property of Bindhu, South-Property of Kuttan, North-Road	21-10-2025 & Rs.733323/-	20-01-2026
14	Vijayakumar M, Thatha M, Chinnappan V, **/NHL00300022795/** Palakkad	Re. Sy. No. 380/8, Extend of 0.1360 Hector, Mulanjikkad Alangad PO, Kadambazhipuram, Ottapalam, Near Alp School Alangad, Ottapalam, P.O. Katambazhipuram, Palakkad, Kerala, Pin: 678633. East-Property of Unnikrishnan, West-Pathway, South-Property of Vellachi And Pathway, North-Property of Rajan Menon	21-10-2025 & Rs.1370127/-	20-01-2026
15	Ambili S, Rajesh Kumar, **/MHL00380022899/** Attingal	431/3-3, Door No: 14/456, B:19, Area Measuring 1.21 Ares of Land, Village Kandallur, Taluk: Karthikapally, Nr Varamabathu Temple, Alleppey, P.O. Muthukulam South, Alleppey, Kerala, Pin: 690506. East-Property of Sarada, West-Property of Sasi, South-Road, North-Property	21-10-2025 & Rs.717707/-	20-01-2026
16	Ramesh Kumar P, Radhika R, Abhikrishnan R, **/NHL00150025089/** Kottayam	All That Is Part And Parcel of Property Having An Extent 3Ares of Land In Sy. No.165/1-1-497, Block No.17, Re. Sy. No. 333/13, And 2.02Ares of Land In, Sy. No. 165/1-1-494, Re. Sy. No. 333/12-1, Situate At Village: Malayalappuzha, Taluk: Konni, District: Pathanamthitta, Kerala-689671. East-Property of Sony Sadhanandhan, West-Property of Shobana, South-Road, North-Property of Kunjamma Abraham	21-10-2025 & Rs.816339/-	20-01-2026
17	Johnson Y, Rosamma G, Jinu Johnson, **/NLAP0038016783/** Attingal	Total Area Measuring Is 02.42 Ares of Land, Re Survey No. 351/9/1, 351/9/2/2, Block No. 17, Thandapper No. 13571, Class of Land Is Dry Land, Situated/Lying At Village Arattupuzha, Taluk: Karthikappally, District: Alappuzha., Kerala-690532. East-Road, West-Property of Angel Bhavanam, South-Property of Vrindavanam, North-Property of Saju	21-10-2025 & Rs.1009909/-	20-01-2026

Date: 23rd January 2026 | Place: KERALA **Sd/- Authorised Officer Manappuram Home Finance Ltd**

EDITORIAL

The Right Has a Plan. What About the Progressives?

2026 is both strange and surreal. Even though we are predictably surprised, what Trump is unleashing on the world was all meticulously documented. For example, page 184 of Heritage Foundation's Project 2025, also known as the Presidential Transition Project, expressly called for "re-hemisphering" to "eliminate some of the more recent supply-chain issues" faced by the US including "reduc(ing) reliance on distant and manipulable sources of fossil fuels" (read West Asia).

Project 2025 also spoke about how nations like "Venezuela, Colombia, Guyana, and Ecuador (were) either increasingly regional security threats in their own rights or…vulnerable to hostile extra-continental powers" (read China and Russia). It went on to argue that "the U.S. has an opportunity to lead these democratic neighbours…(and this) leadership and collaboration must span all tools at the disposal of US allies and partners, including security-focused cooperation".

This is being carefully operationalised through the White House's 2025 National Security Strategy (NSS), which mirrors, to a large degree, the US Under-Secretary of Defence for Policy, Elbridge Colby's book The Strategy of Denial: American Defense in an Age of Great Power Conflict. The refocusing on South America for resource replenishing, pushing Europe to tackle Russia, sustained power projection into the Indo-Pacific and preventing China from hegemonic status in Asia are all core elements from the NSS. This is precisely why President Trump is reestablishing the Monroe (recast as the Donroe) doctrine. Given the Project2025.observer estimates that President Trump's administration has already implemented about 50% of the proposal – made possible in part because over 50 senior officials in the Trump administration, including 70% of the cabinet, are aligned to organisations backing Project 2025 – progressive forces should have taken this document much more seriously.

This is especially because this document is the culmination and part of a larger "international ideological axis" that organisations like the Heritage Foundation and networks like the International Democratic Union, the Movement, National Conservatism Conference, Conservative Political Action Conference etc. have painstakingly created over years.

Collectively, they have unleashed undemocratic upsurges against the liberal world order, as well as progressive values and parties in numerous nations including the USA, United Kingdom, India, Germany, France, Netherlands, Hungary etc. It is no coincidence that 91 countries representing 72% of the world's population are classified as autocratic by the Varieties of Democracy Institute. Mapping the cartography of the global Right lies beyond the scope of this article. Nevertheless, Project 2025 serves as an illustration of how methodical the Right is in its planning, and how exacting it is in its execution. The successes of their plan is evident in not just political triumphs of populist-autocrats in numerous nations, it is also starkly visible in global operations like Operation Absolute Resolve in Venezuela, which represents a singularity, and not just because Trump declared himself the acting President of Venezuela on Truth Social. It marks the onset of a new Cold War, which like before, will be interspersed with smaller 'hot-wars' (borne out by President Trump's threats to Mexico, Columbia, Greenland, Cuba and his plan to enhance The US's military budget from $901 billion this year to $1.5 trillion next year. Given the Greenland toolkit is bound to be applied elsewhere, it is worth dissecting it. After Ukraine, Greenland is the first 'Western' nation under threat of attack, and has sparked predictable condemnations from the West – condemnation that were sadly not extended unilaterally for Palestine and Venezuela.

Why India Must Applaud - And Learn - From Carney's Davos Speech

In the frost-bitten landscape of Davos this week, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney delivered a speech that was less diplomatic routine and more clarion call. In essence, he outlined a manual for survival that resonated around the world. Addressing the World Economic Forum, Carney - a man who transitioned from the central banking boardrooms of London and Ottawa to the helm of a G7 nation - spoke of a rupture in the global system rather than a mere transition. He announced the death of the rules-based international order, warning that the grim reality where, in Thucydides' classic formulation, "the strong do what they can while the weak suffer what they must", is no longer a historical footnote, but our current lived experience. He was greeted with a standing ovation. Many leaders wished they had had the courage, or the nerve, to deliver a version of the same speech themselves. For an Indian audience, Carney's analysis should ring with a familiar, if unsettling, clarity. As we navigate 2026, the global architecture we once relied upon for trade and security, and served to define our place in the world, is being systematically dismantled by President Trump's great-power transactionalism. We need to be as honest with ourselves about the situation as Carney was in his speech. A Prescription For India, Too Carney's prescription for Canada - building strength at home, diversifying abroad, and forming issue-by-issue coalitions - offers a compelling mirror for India's own journey. Indeed, these are the very elements I have been stressing in my columns and speeches over the past year. However, for a subcontinental giant like India, the path forward requires a delicate balance between Carney's approach and our own aspirations: endorsing the middle-power solidarity Carney suggests while carving out a unique trajectory rooted in our own strategic autonomy. Carney's most potent observation was that nostalgia is not a strategy, urging nations to stop waiting for a return to the 1990s and to accept that economic integration is now being misused as a weapon. Whether through aggressive tariffs or the weaponisation of financial chokepoints, the era of trade as mutual benefit is being replaced by an ethos of coercion. India has long sensed this shift. From our refusal to join the RCEP to our Atmanirbhar Bharat mission, New Delhi has proactively moved toward "de-risking" long before the term became a Brussels buzzword. We must endorse the Canadian call for clarity; we cannot live within the lie that global institutions like the World Trade Organization (WTO) or the UN Security Council will protect our interests in their current paralysed states. Resilience today is not about isolation, but about a sovereignty anchored in the ability to withstand external pressure. The Great 'Middle' This leads directly to the power of the "middle". One of the most actionable parts of the Carney Doctrine is the call for middle powers to band together, arguing that while hegemons can go it alone, everyone else is on the menu if they aren't at the table (a phrase I have used myself for two decades, but which has never seemed as apposite as now). India finds itself in a unique position here. While we often view ourselves as a leading power rather than a middle power, the tactical benefits of Carney's approach are immense. There is a natural common cause to be made with nations like Canada, the UK, Japan, ASEAN and the EU (and maybe even Russia). For instance, Canada's massive investment in minerals and energy is a direct opportunity for India's electric vehicle and green-tech ambitions. By joining "buyers' clubs" with the G7 and Canada, India can secure supply chains that are currently choked by a single-source monopoly. Similarly, in the realms of AI and quantum computing, India and Japan can lead the way in creating open-source democratic standards, instead of being trapped under a digital iron curtain that seems to be falling between the US and China. Much like Canada's decision to join European defence procurement initiatives, India can deepen its Indo-European security ties with Germany and France, without giving up its first-mover advantage with Russia, to hedge against a potentially inward-looking United States. By collaborating with these powers, India avoids the vassalage of the re-emerging bipolar world. As a "multi-aligned" power, we aren't choosing a side, we are building a network. A Table Of Our Own However, where Carney speaks for a nation of 40 million, New Delhi stands up for 1.4 billion. Our scale dictates that we cannot simply be a member of a middle-power bloc; we must be an anchor. There are significant areas where India must deviate from the Carney blueprint and follow its own path of strategic autonomy, most notably regarding our leadership of the Global South - who represent the Silenced Majority of the human race. While Carney focuses on values-based trade with the West, India's destiny is inextricably linked to the Global South. Our influence in Africa and Southeast Asia is not just about trade; it is about providing an alternative model of development that is neither Western-prescriptive nor Chinese-coercive. India must remain the bridge between the Davos elite and the developing world. Furthermore, we must navigate the Russia-China paradox with a level of pragmatism that middle powers in the West do not require. For Canada, Russia is a clear-cut adversary. For India, the relationship is nuanced by decades of defence history, diplomatic support and a pragmatic need for energy security. Our multi-alignment strategy - in this case, engaging with the Quad while maintaining our involvement with BRICS - is a necessity. And unlike Canada, which just signed a major agreement with China in Beijing, we have a long-disputed frontier with China, which Beijing periodically probes. Canada does not have Chinese troops nibbling away at its territory. Nonetheless, we must continue to resist the pressure to pick a side in conflicts that do not serve our immediate national interest. This external autonomy must be backed by domestic fortresses. Carney spoke of building strength at home through tax reform and inter-provincial trade, but India's task is more Herculean. Our fortress must be built on the rapid formalisation of our economy, the massive skilling of our youth, and the creation of a technological infrastructure and a manufacturing base that can serve as a global alternative to China. Our strategic autonomy is only as strong as our GDP growth. What 'Power' Now Means The world Carney describes is one of variable geometry - a messy, fragmented, but highly active international system.

India And Bangladesh: Are We Missing The Woods For The Trees?

Are national memories short, or selective, or both? What explains India and Bangladesh's recent political behaviour? Non-business visa services on both sides remain suspended. Bangladeshi cricketer Mustafizur Rahman signing up for the Pakistan Super League after being removed from the ICC following the Indian cricket board's directives would point to that. That this came soon after the Indian Foreign Minister's Dhaka visit to attend former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's funeral appears even more unpropitious. Bangladesh reacted predictably, with a request for shifting the IPL T20 series away from India, voicing a security threat for their players. India and Bangladesh seem to have forgotten the 1971 Liberation War they fought together. Bangladesh, for one, seem to definitely have moved on from the memories of rampage, genocide and the political injustice they faced at the hands of Pakistani leaders, which forced East Pakistan to seek an independent state away from Pakistan. The Growing Ties With Pak India and Bangladesh have been on a sticky wicket ever since Sheikh Hasina, India's trusted Bangladeshi leader, had to step down in face of popular protests in August 2024. Since then, Pakistan has made significant inroads into the country. In the recent past, they offered the use of Karachi port when India banned import of a number of jute products and textile products through its land routes. Talks of buying Pakistani fighter jets are being heard. Dhaka and Karachi will soon have direct flights. Sheikh Hasina often referred to restoring the pre-1965 connectivity ties between India and Bangladesh; now, Islamabad is attempting to restore the erstwhile Bangladesh and Pakistani ties. The violence against minorities in Bangladesh is the latest trigger for India. The death of Bangladeshi youth leader Osman Sharif Hadi saw angry mobs attacking secular institutions, torching media houses and brutally attacking Hindus. His killing was an opportune moment for a particular section to push their agenda effectively. The initial inaction of the interim Mohammed Yunus government during this latest round of violence also added to the escalation. Violence against Hindus is not new in Bangladesh. Can a political message from India deter such disruptive behaviour or ensure minorities' safety? In October 2001, Bangladesh saw the worst attack in a single day on the largest number of Hindus in a post-electoral win for the BNP. India immediately sent an emissary, and while the two countries did not enjoy strong political ties during those five years, the scale of violence against minorities certainly ebbed through quiet diplomacy. There exists a general understanding that post-2009, given the close association of minorities with the Awami League (AL) party, their lives seemed safer. Particularly, Hasina ensured that minorities were present within the police forces, and this mitigated fears for Hindus, especially in rural areas. Even so, according to one study, over 600 Hindus have been leaving Bangladesh annually for over the last several decades, including during Hasina's rule. India's Political Message Given the present impasse that exists between the neighbours, can the hardening on both sides ensure the safety of minorities? Expecting the interim government - which seems to be in an exit mode now that the Jatiya Sangsad elections are only a few weeks away - to take strong security measures is a futile exercise. Declaring Bangladesh a non-family posting in anticipation of violence is a sharp political message. India securitising Bangladesh means feeding the hardliners on both sides. The section that desires to postpone elections and change the political landscape of the country to revoke plurality and democratic norms is finding a greater space in this sharp, distanced bilateral environment.

The Greenland 'Secret' Trump Doesn't Quite Like Talking About

At Davos, US President Donald Trump's remarks on Greenland were the most awaited. In the event, however, he backed off from the threat of force to get the largest island on earth. But the issue is far from over. That extremely fragile and incredibly beautiful region has always been under severe US threat, with Washington showing little regard for its people - or for its sovereignty, or for any of the things that matter, like the rapidly melting ice cap. In 1968, it was one of the first regions to experience a near nuclear disaster, as a nuclear-armed B-52 bomber crashed near the Thule Air Base, an incident that left plutonium-laced debris scattered across miles of Arctic sea ice. Ten years before that, a permanently insecure United States had positioned nuclear weapons there as a reaction to the Soviets. Declassified documents now show that Denmark knew that, but did nothing. Unsurprising, since Denmark itself was a colonizer, with interest in the mining resources there rather than the people. Now, it has all come back to bite. Greenland Matters To Us Here Here's the thing for all the rest of us. Greenland's health matters hugely. It is melting at its fastest rate in 12,000 years. That's an existential threat for the low-lying Maldives, for instance, which could disappear entirely as sea levels rise, or even for low-lying Bangladesh. It's another thing Dhaka, at least for now, is more concerned about burning up all political opposition. An Ugly History Greenland was first inhabited by the Inuit, from Asia, and Vikings who farmed the area. The latter were eventually pushed out, till the Danish colonised the area together with a bunch of missionaries. The Inuit were forced out, with their women forcibly made to adopt intrauterine birth control measures at least till 1991. Then there was the mining for aluminium, all of which makes for some very repulsive reading. Greenland was made a full part of Denmark without consulting anyone in 1953, but transitioned to self-rule in 2009, which gives it control over everything except defence, foreign policy, and, oddly, judiciary. That means all laws have to go through a Danish once-over. It gets worse, with not just the accident-prone B-52 crash spewing radioactive waste, but the fact that Denmark probably knew about these nuclear overflights and still chose to go with diplomatic blindness. Also, in the background to the World War, the Danish Ambassador gave the US unlimited military access to the island, which included stationing of nuclear weapons there for a brief period. In short, while Denmark refused nuclear weapons on its own territory, it was fine with them being placed in Greenland, with a wink and a nod. Everyone Has Wanted Greenland, Always Early US Presidents, from Eisenhower onwards, all briefly considered 'buying' Greenland, but did not, since they had total access anyway.

This was after a treaty of April 1951, which, while confirming Danish sovereignty, delineated three "defense areas" for use by the United States, with additional areas subject to future negotiations " ...in accordance with NATO plans". Consistent with that broad guidance, the US would be free to operate its bases as it saw fit, including the movement of "supplies" and with no restrictions on its access to airspace over Greenland. Meanwhile, the US got a permanent Space base at Thule - now known as Pituffik - which, according to reports, is being rapidly overhauled, including the runway and associated infrastructure. That includes Early Warnings over near-Earth space as well, with base officials claiming they can find a softball-sized metal from 3,000 miles away. But again, that capability is already there. Trump doesn't need to grab Greenland to sustain it. Denmark would hardly object. The Threat From Russia And China So the big question: why does Trump, who has demand-based access to almost all of Greenland, want to do a land grab? The major reason - apparently - is that the Arctic has opened up due to rapid global warming. That means not just Russian but even Chinese ships making their way through the Northwest passage via Alaska into the Atlantic. Or so it is feared. In September last year, two of those ubiquitous Chinese "research vessels" entered the Extended continental shelf of the US through this route, leading the US Coast Guard to react together with an air component.

Revises 12-month NIFTY target to 28,814, down from 29,094

Mumbai January 2026: According to PL Capital's India Strategy Report, Indian equity markets have turned largely range-bound after giving up most of their recent gains, amid rising global geopolitical risks and persistent tariff-related uncertainties with the US. However, domestic demand indicators and macro fundamentals continue to show resilience, supported by policy-led tailwinds. It notes that NIFTY has shed most gains made in past couple of months and has been largely flattish. Global geopolitics is redrawing global power and business equations leading to significant increase in business uncertainty, In addition India's sustained tariff row with the USA is disturbing the market momentum. However, domestic demand outlook and macro indicators still continues to show sustained traction in 3Q and beyond as benefits of cut in interest rates, GST rationalization, income tax cuts, low inflation have started to show in improved consumer sentiments and demand. Mr. Amnish Aggarwal, Co-Head Institutional Equities, PL Capital said "We expect economic momentum to be sustained as the benefits of strong tailwinds—arising from income tax rate cuts, a cumulative 125 bps cut in the repo rate, normal monsoons, decade-low inflation, and GST rate rationalisation—carry forward into next year. As the 2027 Budget approaches, the focus is likely to shift towards structural economic reforms, with limited room for major tax concessions following last year's significant increase in tax slabs and GST rate cuts." Accordingly, PL Capital has revised NIFTY earnings estimates marginally, with FY26/27/28 EPS adjusted by -2.6%, -2.4% and +1.0%, respectively. Despite near-term caution, NIFTY EPS is projected to grow at a 14.8% CAGR over FY26–28. The brokerage values the NIFTY at a 3% discount to its 15-year average P/E, arriving at a 12-month target of 28,814, down from 29,094 earlier. However, PL Capital remains cautious in the near term and expects large caps to continue to outperform, having delivered returns of 16–17% over the past 12 months. It expects domestically oriented sectors such as banks, NBFCs, autos, select staples, jewellery, defence, select durables and metals to outperform over the near to medium term. PL Capital notes that 3Q26 has shown a mixed demand scenario. Auto demand has been robust as GST rationalization has boosted demand across segments of 2W, PV, CV and tractors. Jewellery demand has been robust with 30-40% industry sales growth despite 65% higher gold prices YoY. Consumer Durables have seen tepid response after GST rationalization so far while apparel and footwear have been mixed. Travel demand has been decent, sans some impact of Indigo Airlines flight issues in Dec25. Consumer Staples has seen gradual pickup in demand post inventory rationalization got over by mid-November. Rural demand remains steady and is growing ahead of urban demand, urban sentiment has shown steady improvement in the past few months with hopes of further pick up in coming months. Accordingly, PL Capital estimate a growth of 8.2% in sales, 12.8% in EBIDTA and 12.2% in PBT for its coverage universe. Ex oil & Gas, it estimates 12.6% growth in EBIDTA and 11% in PBT. Budget 2026-27 – Focus likely on Infra and structural reforms Union Budget FY26-27 arrives amidst increasing global geopolitical uncertainty and chaos, tariff tiff with the USA and India retaining its tag of fastest growing large economy with 4th Rank in GDP. FY26 has seen multiple positives which include 1) multi-year low inflation 2) cut in interest rates by 125bps 3) cut in income tax rates 4) GST rates rationalization and 5) normal monsoons. These initiatives have resulted in strong GDP growth (FY26 estimates at 7-7.3%) despite punitive US tariffs and geopolitical uncertainty. PL Capital expect structural reforms to continue in budget, however any big bang announcements post tax cuts and GST rationalization of last year look unlikely. Reviving the "Animal Spirit", GDP growth estimated at 6.5-6.8% in FY26: India's GDP growth is projected to slow to 6.4% in FY25, its weakest in four years, driven by subdued private investment, manufacturing deceleration, and global economic headwinds. However, the economy is expected to see a recovery in FY26 at 6.5%-6.8%, supported by government spending, monetary policy easing and improved consumer demand. Direct tax rationalization is unlikely: With last year's big tax adjustment in personal income tax rates, we don't expect any meaningful changes in tax slabs in the current budget.

Bezos' Blue Origin announces satellite rival to Musk's Starlink

Blue Origin, the rocket company owned by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, says it will launch more than 5,400 satellites to create a new communications network. Named TeraWave, it will offer continuous internet access around the world, with the ability to move large amounts of data much more quickly than rival services. But even after launching thousands of satellites,

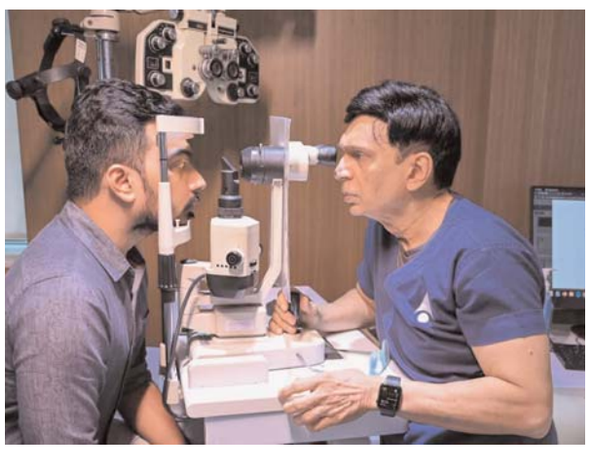
Blue Origin would still have far fewer in orbit than Elon Musk's Starlink, which currently dominates the satellite internet market. Starlink - part of Musk's rocket firm SpaceX - also offers internet and phone services to individual customers, while Blue Origin says TeraWave will be focused on data centres, businesses and governments. Blue Origin said its network, at its fastest, would allow upload and download speeds of as much as 6 terabits per second, much faster than rival commercial satellite services currently offer. Another competitor to TeraWave is Amazon, the technology giant that made Bezos a multi-billionaire. He is still Amazon's executive chairman after stepping down in 2021 as its chief executive. Amazon's satellite venture is called Leo. While it currently has around 180 satellites in orbit, having launched dozens more just last week, it plans to have more than 3,000 in orbit. Like Starlink, Amazon is also more focused on the general public than businesses and governments, pitching Leo as a way to offer high-speed internet access globally. It has not said when all of the Leo satellites will be in orbit. Blue Origin said it will start launching its TeraWave satellites by the end of 2027. In November, the company successfully landed a rocket booster on a floating platform for the first time. Only SpaceX had previously accomplished this feat. In April, Blue Origin launched an 11-minute space flight with an all-female crew, including Bezos' now-wife Lauren Sánchez, singer Katie Perry and CBS presenter Gayle King. But some commentators said it was "tone deaf" for celebrities to be taking part in such a fleeting and expensive trip at a time of economic struggle.

STRING METAVERSE REVENUE, PROFIT JUMP NEARLY THREEFOLD

HYDERABAD, India, 22nd January, 2026 — String Metaverse reports 9-month revenue of 711.13 crore rupees, PAT at 67.82 crore String Metaverse Ltd (BSE: META) on Tuesday reported a sharp rise in revenue and profit for the nine months ended Dec. 31, 2025, supported by higher transaction volumes and the expansion of its digital asset and financial market infrastructure businesses. The company's revenue for the nine-month period FY26 rose to ?711.13 crores from ?254.16 crore a year earlier, while profit after tax increased to ?67.82 crore from ?22.34 crore. For the third quarter FY 26, revenue climbed to ?278.79 crore from ?116.25 crore a year earlier, and profit after tax rose to ?27.89 crore from ?10.21 crore. String Metaverse said the performance was driven by rising activity across its blockchain-based infrastructure platforms and higher usage of its transaction, liquidity and settlement systems. The company said it is expanding its Tokenization as a Service platform, positioning itself as a provider of financial market infrastructure as global markets increasingly move toward real-time settlement. The platform is designed to support continuous trading, instant transaction finality and programmable ownership, enabling markets to operate beyond traditional trading hours. During the quarter, the company processed $8.93 million in on-chain trading volume for tokenized U.S. equities and exchange-traded funds on the Solana blockchain, using the Raydium decentralized exchange under its CoinX–IDLE framework. The activity covered tokenized exposure to major U.S. blue-chip stocks and ETFs including Tesla, Nvidia, Alphabet, MicroStrategy, Coinbase, Circle, Robinhood, gold-linked products, the Nasdaq-100 and the S&P 500, the company said. String Metaverse said its revenue model focuses on transaction flow rather than market volatility, generating income through settlement services, liquidity provisioning and infrastructure usage. "We don't monetize volatility. We monetize order flow," said Ganesh Meenavalli, Managing Director of String Metaverse. The company said it serves a global user base of more than 5 million users and plans to continue investing in blockchain nodes and computing capacity.

Widespread Steroid Use Emerging as a Key Trigger for Secondary Glaucoma, Say Doctors

January 2026: Doctors across India are raising concern over the widespread and often unsupervised use of steroids, warning that it is emerging as a major trigger for secondary glaucoma, a sight-threatening condition that can lead to irreversible blindness. Steroids commonly used for allergies, skin conditions, respiratory illnesses, and even as over-the-counter eye drops can significantly raise eye pressure when used for prolonged periods, often without patients realizing the long-term damage being caused to the optic nerve. India is already home to an estimated 12–13 million people living with glaucoma, accounting for nearly one-sixth of the global burden. Globally, glaucoma affects around 75–80 million individuals, a number expected to rise beyond 110 million by 2040. Despite being the leading cause of irreversible blindness worldwide, glaucoma remains vastly underdiagnosed in India. A particularly alarming concern is that



85–90% of glaucoma cases in the country remain undiagnosed. The disease progresses silently, and by the time symptoms become evident, irreversible optic nerve damage has often already occurred. Late diagnosis results in avoidable vision loss, reduced quality of life, and significant socioeconomic impact. "We are seeing a noticeable rise in steroid-induced glaucoma, particularly in patients who use steroid medications or eye drops without medical supervision," said Dr. KKS Chakravarthy, Head – Clinical Services, Dr Agarwals Eye Hospital, Vijayawada. "What makes this dangerous is that patients feel symptom-free initially, while eye pressure continues to rise silently, causing permanent damage", he adds. Over the past two to three years, doctors have reported a notable rise in diagnosed glaucoma cases, driven by an ageing population, a higher prevalence of diabetes and myopia, advancements in diagnostic technologies, and improved public awareness. However, experts caution that a growing proportion of cases are linked to secondary glaucoma caused by prolonged or unsupervised steroid use—an avoidable risk factor if identified and addressed early through timely screening and medical guidance. Glaucoma is most commonly diagnosed in individuals above 40 years of age, with incidence peaking between 50 and 70 years. That said, clinicians are increasingly detecting juvenile and early-onset glaucoma, particularly among individuals with a family history of the disease or secondary triggers. Primary open-angle glaucoma continues to be the most prevalent form, followed by primary angle-closure disease, while steroid-induced glaucoma and pseudoexfoliation glaucoma are also frequently observed in clinical practice. "Many patients don't recognize early signs like peripheral vision loss, frequent changes in glasses, or seeing halos. Since central vision is often unaffected at first.

HCLTech and Carahsoft Partner to Accelerate Digital Transformation for the U.S. Public Sector

Jan 2026 — HCLTech, a leading global technology company, and Carahsoft Technology Corp., The Trusted Government IT Solutions Provider®, today announced a partnership to accelerate digital transformation in the Public Sector. Under the agreement, Carahsoft will serve as HCLTech's Public Sector distributor, providing the Federal, State, Local and Education agencies in the U.S. with advanced mission-driven technology solutions through Carahsoft's reseller partners and National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO) ValuePoint, OMNIA Partners, E&I Cooperative Services Contract and The Quilt contracts. HCLTech established a dedicated Public Sector Solutions subsidiary that provides AI-driven platforms, cloud native modernization services, cybersecurity offerings and constituent-focused services for Government agencies. Carahsoft contributes expertise in Public Sector contracting and sales and marketing and supports a broad network of reseller partners.

Together, the companies will deliver integrated solutions and amplify access to HCLTech's capabilities for clients in the Government and education sectors. "Our goal through this partnership is to make HCLTech's AI Force accessible to the Public Sector and to ensure deployment at the speed and scale agencies require to enhance constituent services, strengthen cybersecurity posture and improve operational efficiency," said Michael Shrader, Vice President of Intelligence and Innovative Solutions at Carahsoft. "This collaboration is focused on delivering measurable outcomes that support mission success, and Carahsoft and our reseller partners look forward to continuing to work with HCLTech." "Public sector organizations face ever-increasing demands, such as enhancing constituent services, accelerating mission delivery, securing sensitive data and leveraging emerging technologies, including GenAI," said Arjun Sethi, Chief Growth Officer and President of HCLTech Public Sector Solutions. "Our partnership with Carahsoft marks an important step to drive IT efficiencies and modernize technology platforms across the Public Sector. Together we bring a unique blend of trusted engineering, deep domain insight and channel enablement to help agencies achieve lasting outcomes."

Kenvue Strengthens Its Hydration Portfolio in India with ORSL TM and eRZL TM Offering Complete Hydration

22 January 2026– Kenvue today announced a dual brand strategy with two brands—ORSL TM and eRZL TM [2] for complete hydration. This move solidifies the company's leadership in India's hydration category by offering innovative solutions to address both diarrheal and everyday hydration, as dehydration emerges as an important public health concern. With its "Double Power for Complete Hydration" brand strategy, the company is set to provide consumers two scientifically backed hydration brands-ORSLTM and eRZLTM

ORSLTM: ORSLTM will now become the brand name of the company's ORS portfolio based on World Health Organization (W.H.O) formula to address diarrhoeal dehydration. It is available in Ready-to-Drink and Powder formats.

· eRZLTM : Effective January 2026, eRZLTM is the new brand name of its science-backed electrolyte drink portfolio (erstwhile ORSL electrolyte drinks portfolio) for everyday hydration and recovery for tiredness and exhaustion.

eRZL TM New and Improved composition

To further its commitment to provide consumers with science-backed hydration solutions, the company launches eRZL TM with a New & Improved composition. eRZL TM provides faster hydration compared to water with 1.4X more electrolytes and 8X less sugar compared to the previous composition and acts as an adjuvant when feeling depleted during mild to moderate dehydration in conditions such as heat exhaustion, muscle cramps etc or feeling low due to tiredness and weakness. Designed for everyday hydration, eRZL TM Electrolyte Drink combines three vital electrolytes (Sodium, Potassium, Chloride) and Vitamin C along with real fruit juice offering hydration that is tasty and guilt free. Commenting on the company's dual brand hydration strategy, Manish Anandani, Managing Director-India, Kenvue, stated, "For years, we have been at the forefront of the hydration category, driven by a deep understanding of consumer needs and a strong scientific foundation. As dehydration emerges as an important health concern, we have been innovating and expanding our hydration portfolio to address these needs. Taking another step, we are delighted to launch our distinct two-brand strategy-ORSL TM and eRZL TM to address diarrheal and everyday hydration needs and to capitalize on the immense potential of India's electrolyte drink category which is growing at a rapid pace. We remain committed to strengthening awareness around hydration across both illness and everyday care with superior hydration products, while complementing broader public health efforts." Speaking on the launch and improved composition, Prashant Shinde, Business Unit Head – Self Care, Kenvue in India said, "In recent years, the health and wellness trend has accelerated. Consumers are increasingly seeking low sugar, low calorie options as well as tailored hydration solutions beyond water when they are feeling ill or depleted. The all new eRZL TM with its improved composition provides consumers with a healthy hydration option for such occasions to feel better faster."

US ALLIES WON'T FORGET TRUMP GREENLAND CRISIS

What on earth has the last fortnight been all about? In the wake of a successful military operation in Venezuela earlier this month, a buoyed-up Donald Trump started to ratchet up the rhetoric on Greenland. Day after day, the world was treated to claims of ownership, threats of military action and tariffs against traditional allies in Europe. Now, in an apparent puff of smoke, it may all have gone. Nato Secretary General Mark Rutte, arguably the Trump whisperer-in-chief, seems to have talked the president down from his dangerously high hobby horse. The ground may have been laid last week during a visit to Washington by the foreign ministers of Denmark and Greenland. The visit concluded with agreement on a "working group" to discuss

Greenland's future. But Rutte appears to have finessed an issue that had threatened to shatter the north Atlantic alliance. We don't yet know the details of the deal, but many will wonder why it needed a frenetic two-week crisis to get here. Denmark had long said that it was only too happy to see an increased American military presence on Greenland. If Nato has now pledged to up its presence on and around the island, then that will go some way towards reassuring Donald Trump that the alliance is finally paying proper attention to Greenland. The New York Times quotes anonymous officials as saying one idea under discussion is for Denmark to cede sovereignty over small areas of Greenland where the US would build military bases - similar to the arrangement by which the UK maintains sovereign bases on Cyprus. Trump said the deal would involve access to Greenland's mineral resources. Neither Denmark nor Nato has confirmed these or any other reports. Nato said discussions would "focus on ensuring Arctic security through the collective efforts, especially the seven Arctic Allies" (the US, Canada, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland) and aimed to prevent Russia and China from gaining a foothold, economic or military, in Greenland. It won't be long before details of the deal emerge. But the fact that Donald Trump triggered a fortnight of high drama and a sense of existential crisis within Nato to get here will not easily be forgotten. Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney called it a "rupture", saying the old order was "not coming back." EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen spoke of "seismic change" and urged greater European independence. It's hard to see a quick return to business as usual.

Highlights

■ What on earth has the last fortnight been all about? In the wake of a successful military operation in Venezuela earlier this month, a buoyed-up Donald Trump started to ratchet up the rhetoric on Greenland.

THREE DEAD IN SHOOTING IN AUSTRALIA'S NEW SOUTH WALES

Three people have died and another injured after a shooting in a small town in New South Wales, Australia, police have said. Emergency services were called to a residential area in Lake Cargelligo at about 16:40 local time (05:40 GMT). The suspect is still on the run and is believed to have fled in a vehicle, NSW police confirmed. A man and woman were found shot dead in a vehicle, a second shooting soon afterwards killed a woman and left a man in a "critical condition" in hospital, police said. The Sydney Morning Herald reports that the incident was a suspected domestic violence attack. Andrew Holland, NSW police assistant commissioner, declined to comment on the relationship between the gunman and the victims. The public has been urged to remain indoors and multiple crime scenes have been established, he told reporters. "Any death in a small country town is confronting, but again, a scene where you have people shot by firearms is obviously going to make people very, very tense and very concerned," said Holland.

Japan suspends world's largest nuclear plant hours after restart

Japan has suspended operations at the world's largest nuclear power plant, hours after its restart, its operator has said. An alarm sounded "during reactor-start-up procedures" at Kashiwazaki-Kariwa in Tokyo but the reactor remained "stable", Tokyo Electric Power Company (Tepco) spokesperson Takashi Kobayashi said. Reactor number six restarted on Wednesday a day later than planned due to an alarm malfunction - the first at the plant to be turned on since the 2011 Fukushima disaster. Japan shut down all of its 54 reactors after a 9.0 magnitude earthquake triggered a meltdown at its Fukushima plant 15 years ago, causing one of the worst nuclear disasters in history. At the time, radiation leakage from the plant forced more than 150,000 people to evacuate their homes. Many have not returned despite assurances it is now safe. Following the suspension of reactor number six on Thursday, Kobayashi said it was "stable and there is no radioactive impact outside". The reactor was initially set to start on Tuesday, but was pushed back due to a technical issue. It is due to begin operating commercially next month. Kobayashi said Tepco was "currently investigating the cause" of the incident and did not say when operations would resume. The seventh reactor at Kashiwazaki-Kariwa is not expected to be turned back on until 2030, while the other five could be decommissioned. This would leave the plant with far less capacity than it once had when all seven reactors were operational. Reactor number six was given the green light to restart despite safety concerns from local residents. A small crowd of people gathered outside Tepco's headquarters to protest last week, while hundreds gathered outside the Niigata prefectural assembly in December.

Oldest cave painting of red claw hand could rewrite human creativity timeline

TWO DEAD AND SEVERAL MISSING IN NEW ZEALAND LANDSLIDES

Two people have died and several are feared buried after landslides in New Zealand's North Island. The deaths were reported at Welcome Bay, while rescue workers are still searching through rubble at a different site in a popular campground on Mount Maunganui. There are no "signs of life", authorities said, adding that they have a "rough idea" of how many people are missing but are waiting for an exact figure. They provided no other details except that the group includes "at least one young girl". The landslides were triggered by heavy rains over the last few days, which led to flooding and power outages across North Island. One minister said

the east coast resembled "a war zone". New Zealand is "heavy with grief" after the "profound tragedy" caused by recent weather, Prime Minister Christopher Luxon said on X. Footage from the campsite on Mount Maunganui, an extinct volcano, shows a huge slip near the base of the volcanic dome, as rescuers and sniffer dogs comb through crushed caravans and flattened tents. Authorities said that the search would continue through the night. "This is a complex and high-risk environment, and our teams are working to achieve the best possible outcome while keeping everyone safe," said Megan Stiffler, the deputy national commander for the Urban Search and Rescue team, The extinct volcano is a sacred Maori site and one of the most popular campgrounds in New Zealand, with a local holiday website describing it as a "slice of paradise". But it has been repeatedly hit by landslides in recent years. "I heard this huge tree crack and all this dirt come off, and then I looked behind me and there's this huge landslide coming down," Australian tourist Sonny Worrall told local broadcaster TVNZ. "I'm still shaking from it now... I turned around and had to jump out of my seat and just run,"he added. He saw it happen while swimming in a hot pool.

UK HOLDS OFF JOINING TRUMP'S BOARD OF PEACE OVER PUTIN CONCERNS

Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper has said the UK will not yet be signing up to US President Donald Trump's Board of Peace over concerns about Russian leader Vladimir Putin's possible participation. Cooper told the BBC the UK had been invited to join the board but "won't be one of the signatories today" at a ceremony at the World Economic Forum in Davos. The board, which gives Trump wide decision-making powers as chairman, is being billed by the US as a new international organisation for resolving conflicts. Cooper described the board as a "legal treaty that raises much broader issues" than the initiative's

initial focus on ending the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza. The charter proposed by the White House does not mention the Palestinian territory and critics say the board appears to be designed to replace some functions of the United Nations. Some of the US's traditional allies have not agreed to join the board and notably, none of the other permanent members of the UN Security Council - China, France, Russia, and the UK - have committed to participation so far. The UN Security Council has been the main international platform for global diplomacy and conflict resolution since the end of World War Two. But launching the board at a signing ceremony alongside world leaders in Davos, Trump said he did not intend it as a replacement for the UN and expressed his belief that it would help forge an "everlasting" peace in the Middle East. Trump said the board had the chance to be "one of the most consequential bodies ever created". "We're committed to ensuring Gaza is demilitarised, properly governed and beautifully rebuilt," Trump said. "It's going to be a great plan and this is where the board of peace started."

EU SUSPENDS APPROVAL OF US TRADE DEAL

The European Parliament has suspended the approval of a key US trade deal agreed in July in protest against Donald Trump's demand to take over Greenland. The suspension was announced in Strasbourg, France, on Wednesday, as the US president addressed the World Economic Forum in Davos. The move followed renewed trade tensions between the US and Europe sparked by Trump's bid to acquire Greenland, which had rattled financial markets, reviving talk of a trade war and the possibility of retaliation against the US. Hours later, Trump said on social media he had reached a "framework" deal on Greenland's future and would not carry out threats to put new tariffs on eight Nato members. Trade tensions between the US and Europe had eased since the two sides struck a deal at Trump's Turnberry golf course in Scotland in July. That agreement set US levies on most European goods at 15%, down from the 30% Trump had initially threatened as part of his "Liberation Day" wave of tariffs in April. In exchange, Europe had agreed to invest in the US and make changes on the continent expected to boost US exports. The deal would have still required approval from the European Parliament to become official. But on Wednesday, days after Trump threatened fresh US tariffs over Greenland, Bernd Lange, chair of the European Parliament's International Trade Committee, said it was "left with no alternative but to suspend work on the two Turnberry legislative proposals". He said work to implement the trade plans would be on hold "until the US decides to re-engage on a path of cooperation rather than confrontation, and before any further steps are taken". The move renewed the possibility that the EU might move forward with tariffs on a possible 93bn ($109bn, £81bn) worth of American goods it announced last year in response to Trump's "Liberation Day" tariffs. It had put those plans on hold while the trade deal was being finalised but those levies would now come into force on 7 February unless the bloc moves to extend the pause or approves the new deal.

TRUMP TO MEET ZELENSKY AS US ENVOY SAYS ENDING WAR WITH RUSSIA DOWN TO ONE ISSUE

US President Donald Trump will meet Volodymyr Zelensky at Davos on Thursday, after his envoy Steve Witkoff expressed optimism about finalising a deal to end the war in Ukraine. "I think we've got it down to one issue and we have discussed iterations of that issue, and that means it's solvable," Witkoff said ahead of his trip to Moscow for talks with Russia's Vladimir Putin. Witkoff did not specify the single issue but recent talks have focused on the future status of Ukraine's industrial heartland in Donbas, with a proposal for a demilitarised and free economic zone in exchange for security guarantees for Kyiv. "If both sides want to solve this we're going to get it solved," Witkoff said. Ahead of Witkoff's visit to Moscow with Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, the US president said on Wednesday that he thought both Putin and Zelensky were at a point where they could come together and get a deal done: "If they don't, they're stupid." Last week, Trump said he thought Putin was "ready to make a deal" but that Zelensky was "less ready". The Ukrainian president travelled through the night to get to Davos on Thursday. He had initially called off his trip to deal with the aftermath of Russian strikes on Kyiv's power infrastructure which have left large areas

of the capital without heating, water or power during the harshest winter so far in almost four years of Russia's full-scale war. Thousands of apartment blocks remain without heating. There has been concern in Kyiv that Trump's spat with his European Nato allies over the future of Greenland has deflected him from the war in Ukraine. Zelensky said after talks with Trump in Miami late last month that a 20-point US plan to end the war was 90% ready and that Ukraine's position on Donbas, in eastern Ukraine, was different to Russia's. Specifically, Zelensky has offered to withdraw troops from the 25% of Donetsk region that Ukraine still controls by up to 40km (25 miles), to create an economic zone, if Russia does the same. Russian forces have advanced slowly in the east in the past year and Putin is known to covet control of the entire region. The other big sticking point that Zelensky highlighted last month was future control of Ukraine's enormous Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, seized by Russia in March 2022. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Thursday that discussion with the American envoys would continue "on the Ukrainian issue and other related topics" and refused to say whether he shared Witkoff's optimism on achieving a deal. Putin has also not yet decided whether to join Trump's Board of Peace on Gaza. Ukraine's president had hoped to sign two key documents with Trump at Davos covering future security guarantees as well as economic prosperity, but said there was "one mile left to finalise these documents". It is not yet clear if any signings will take place during their meeting at the World Economic Forum. However, the head of Ukraine's national security and defence council, Rustem Umerov, said on Wednesday night that his team in Davos had discussed the issues of economic development.

Why is F1 testing so early this year?

Formula 1 pre-season testing will be run differently this year, starting in January instead of February. There will be three tests before the season begins in Australia. The main reason for the earlier testing is because of the technical rule changes to the chassis and engines in 2026, resulting in the biggest shake-up to the sport in more than a decade. The chassis and engine rules have never been changed simultaneously to this extent - cars will be smaller, nimbler and more environmentally friendly. More test sessions will therefore be needed, as many aspects of the driving will now be unfamiliar to the drivers and teams. Due to these major changes, the first test will be held in private, allowing drivers to run their newly-designed cars on the track for the first time and adjust to the new changes and set-up, without added external pressure. The test will therefore be held behind closed doors with no TV or media coverage. Each team will be able to use a maximum of three consecutive days to gain vital data, between Monday, 26 to Friday, 30 January at the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya. The next official tests will be on 11-13 and 18-20 February at the Bahrain International Circuit. These tests will give us the first look at the 2026 cars and a general idea of what performance will be like over the season. It will be one last chance for teams to make changes to the cars before the 24-race season begins. Teams will launch their cars throughout January and February, with the final launch taking place on Monday, 9 February for McLaren. In a typical season, there is one test which takes place over three days, just weeks before the season begins.

ESPORTS DEMANDS THE DISCIPLINE OF SPORT

As esports continues its integration into India's mainstream sports and digital ecosystem, a first-ever national survey by YouGov, commissioned by JetSynthesys, offers a data-led insight into how serious Indian esports athletes are viewing the ecosystem, as a career and a long-term opportunity in the area of sport. The study captures how confidence, ambition and expectations among Indian esports players are evolving at a time when the sector has gained clearer regulatory recognition following the enactment of the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025, in August last year, marking a shift from speculation to structure in India's esports journey. Esports moves from passion to profession The findings point to a clear shift in mindset. Esports is increasingly being viewed not just as a passion or pastime, but as a serious professional pursuit. 83% of Indian esports players believe there is financial viability in pursuing esports as a career, with 49% describing it as an extremely viable career option.

This confidence is translating into intent, with three out of four Indian esports players saying they have considered pursuing a career in esports. Careers are expanding beyond the main stage The survey also highlights that ambition today is no longer limited to competitive play alone. 81% of Indian esports players express interest in becoming full time competitive players or streamers/content creators, while 56% are keen on roles such as coaches, analysts, team managers or event organisers. This reflects a growing understanding of esports as a broad, multi-layered career ecosystem, one that spans performance,

content creation, strategy and team operations. Esports streaming and monetisation signal real momentum Across the esports ecosystem, streaming platforms and monetisation currently stand out as the most established areas of support.

Shubman Gill Fails On Ranji Trophy Return, Dismissed For Two-Ball Duck For Punjab

Indian Test captain Shubman Gill was dismissed for a two-ball duck during the 2025-26 Ranji Trophy clash between Punjab and Saurashtra on Thursday. The 26-year-old came to the crease with Punjab struggling at 73/3; however, his stay lasted just two deliveries as he was trapped LBW by Saurashtra's left-arm spinner, Parth Bhut. Earlier, Punjab had bowled Saurashtra out for 172 in their first innings. Gill has recently come under significant fire for his disappointing run of form and, following India's ODI series loss against New Zealand, his captaincy has also been heavily criticised. Meanwhile, former Indian cricketer Manoj Tiwary believes that Shubman Gill should be sacked as the ODI captain and that the BCCI should reappoint Rohit Sharma. Gill replaced Rohit as the team's skipper in October 2025, but he has lost both the ODI series he has played so far as captain. He made his captaincy debut in Australia, where India suffered a series loss. After missing the home series against South Africa, India once again suffered a series loss against New Zealand under his leadership. Gill's captaincy came under heavy fire during the recently concluded ODI series against New Zealand, and during a recent interaction with InsideSport, Tiwary said the BCCI should 'course correct' and start preparing for the 2027 World Cup. "Yes, absolutely. That's what I'm suggesting because there's still time to course correct. It's about the World Cup. It's not just about a bilateral series or a random tournament we are going to play," Tiwary said. Tiwary added that if Rohit had been the captain during the series against New Zealand, things would likely have been different. India lost two matches in a row to suffer their first-ever home ODI series loss against New Zealand. He went on to say that Rohit is a 'lot better' than Gill and he believes that India will have a better chance of winning the World Cup under Rohit's captaincy.

Pakistan Provokes India With New Series Promo Featuring A Dig At 'Handshake' Row

Pakistan has taken fresh aim at India with a new promotional video for their upcoming T20I series against Australia, featuring a dig at the 'handshake' row. Following the Pahalgam terror attacks, Indian cricketers refused to shake hands with their Pakistani counterparts in various global competitions. It all started during the Asia Cup 2025, when the teams met thrice, but skipper Suryakumar Yadav did not shake hands with Salman Ali Agha-both after the toss and at the conclusion of the matches. The promo portrays Pakistan as a welcoming host for Australian fans, with Agha even making a brief appearance to discuss hospitality. However, the final moments of the promo sparked controversy as a tourist is shown exiting a car without shaking the driver's hand. The Australian tourist is reminded: "Handshake bhool gaye aap, lagta hai padosiyon ke paas bhi ruke thay" (You forgot the handshake; it looks like you had an encounter with our neighbours). It was a clear reference to the handshake controversy that saw Pakistan threaten to leave the Asia Cup midway after a standoff with the ICC over match referee Andy Pycroft. Australia will play three T20 Internationals in Lahore prior to the ICC T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka. Australia will play day-night matches at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore on 29 and 31 January and 1 February, before both teams leave for the mega event. While Australia are playing their World Cup group games in India, Pakistan will be based in Sri Lanka for their matches. This is the first time since April 2022 that Australia will tour Pakistan for a T20 series, as they last visited the country to play a Test series and a white-ball rubber that year.

Babar Azam Leaves Big Bash League Midway Amid Severe Criticism

Pakistan star batter Babar Azam's Big Bash League (BBL) 2025-26 campaign has come to an early end, as he has been recalled to join Pakistan's national camp, his franchise Sydney Sixers confirmed on Thursday. Babar endured a miserable BBL season, managing just 202 runs in 11 innings at an underwhelming strike-rate of 103. His struggles on the field have been coupled with moments of friction with Sixers teammate and Australia star Steve Smith. Babar's abrupt exit from the ongoing BBL comes amid severe criticism from former Australia cricketer Mark Waugh, who stated that he should be dropped from the Sixers' playing XI. "Thank you, Babar. Babar Azam has been recalled to join Pakistan's national camp ahead of upcoming international fixtures. He will be unavailable for the remainder of the BBL15 Finals Series," posted Sydney Sixers on their official social media accounts. This means that Babar will miss the Sixers' remaining playoff matches. Sydney Sixers will take on Hobart Hurricanes on Friday, in a contest that will see the winner progress to the final. This is what Mark Waugh had advised the Sydney Sixers regarding Babar's form: "I think a bit of tough love, they need to rejiggle their batting, because at the moment, almost totally relying on Steve Smith. Unfortunately, I'm going to have to drop Babar Azam." "I don't think he's done enough at the top of the order. I know he's world class, but the thing about winning this tournament and so far he just hasn't done it." Interestingly, Pakistan's next international commitment is still a week away, as they take on Australia in a three-match T20I series from January 29, ahead of the T20 World Cup 2026. This means that several of Australia's T20I stars like captain Mitchell Marsh, Marcus Stoinis and Josh Inglis are set to rejoin the Australia team only after the conclusion of the entire BBL 2025-26 season, but still in time for the first match.

WORK FOR 2026 SEASON 'UNPRECEDENTED' FOR MCLAREN

McLaren team principal Andrea Stella says the world champions have faced an "unprecedented" amount of work to prepare for the new rules in Formula 1 this season. Teams are facing what is widely regarded as the biggest regulation change in history, with new cars, engines, fuel and tyres. Stella said: "There's been so much work behind the design, the realisation, the build of the 2026 cars that, for what I can remember is almost unprecedented, because never before has there been such a huge and simultaneous change of chassis, power unit and tyres. "But even the sheer volume of redesigning that went through the last 20 months at McLaren has been probably the biggest design, or in general, dealing with a new car project that I was a part of. "This all makes it extremely interesting to see how the cars will perform, how the competitiveness order will be somehow mixed up. "We are champions, but we don't carry being champions into 2026. Everyone will start from the starting blocks - everyone will start from zero." Stella said McLaren would not be ready to run their new car on the first day of the first pre-season test in Spain next week because they wanted to give themselves as much time as possible to design their car, to maximise performance. The test runs behind closed doors, with no access for independent media, from 26-30 January at Barcelona's Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya, where teams are permitted to run on three of the five days. The new Cadillac and Audi teams and Racing Bulls have already given their cars 'shakedown' tests, while Mercedes are due to run at Silverstone on Thursday. Others, including Aston Martin, are known to be following McLaren's route of not running until well into the Barcelona test. "We plan to start testing either in day two or day three, so we will not be testing in day one," Stella said.

SLOT PRAISES SALAH RETURN ON IMPORTANT NIGHT FOR BOTH

Arne Slot has good memories in Marseille. It was here in 2022 when his Feyenoord side held on to secure a place in the Europa Conference League final. On the eve of this week's game in the bowels of the Stade Velodrome, he was asked about those memories. He was also bizarrely and rudely asked about Xabi Alonso's links to the Liverpool job. Any noise surrounding the future of the Liverpool boss was quietened by a trademark European away performance from his side, who added Marseille to Eintracht Frankfurt and Inter Milan as the teams they have beaten on their travels this season. Their unbeaten run of 13 matches (W7 D6) in all competitions may have been uninspiring for the large part but it is the longest ongoing streak of any team from Europe's big five leagues. In itself, credit must be due for that. Liverpool last lost a game in November. Crucially for Slot, it was a first win in a game that Mohamed Salah started for Liverpool since November 4, when they beat Real Madrid in the Champions League. It now looks like a line has been firmly drawn after Salah's interview at Leeds and both player and manager can move on for the betterment of the football club. The reality is that both need each other. Prematch, Slot told TNT Sports: "The moments when I didn't play him, I was trying something different. We have missed goals from all the ball possession. If there's one player in the history of Liverpool that can score goals, it's Mo Salah." It was a night where Salah did not add to his club record of 46 Champions League goals for Liverpool, even though he really should have when he fired wide in the second half, but the assurance with which Liverpool played in a 4-2-2-2 setup will leave Slot delighted and may well give him food for thought for the coming weeks. "It says a lot about how big a professional he [Salah] is that he can be away for more than a month with a different team and be so fit to play 90 minutes for us after one day of training," said Slot.

WAWRINKA, 40, JOINS DJOKOVIC & CILIC IN THIRD ROUND

To look at the Australian Open men's singles draw, you could be forgiven for thinking you had travelled back in time. But your eyes are not deceiving you. Seventeen years after they first appeared in the third round together in Melbourne, Stan Wawrinka, Novak Djokovic and Marin Cilic are still going strong. While Djokovic, 38, and Cilic, 37, breezed through in straight sets against Francesco Maestrelli and 21st seed Denis Shapovalov respectively, 40-year-old Wawrinka battled through a four-and-a-half-hour, five-set marathon to overcome French qualifier Arthur Gea. "I think it's great," said Wawrinka, who is the first player to reach the third round of the men's singles at a Grand Slam after his 40th birthday since Ken Rosewall at the 1978 Australian Open. "I saw Cilic winning. He had an injury last year [so] it's good to see him at the right level. "Novak is in a different league. We never compare ourselves to him. He's always going to be there as long as he's playing." There has been an air of celebration around Wawrinka's matches. The 2014 champion, who will retire at the end of 2026, is enjoying partisan support from the crowd, conducting them to make more noise after each point he wins and has even included red, white, and grey checked detailing on his shirt in a nod to his 2015 French Open-winning shorts. But this is more than a farewell tour for the three-time Grand Slam champion, who reiterated his determination to "leave everything on the court" following his second consecutive comeback win. Facing a player who turned 21 earlier this month, Wawrinka twice fought back from a set behind to force a fifth set before completing a resounding 10-3 victory in the tie-break with Gea struggling with cramp, triumphing 4-6 6-3 3-6 7-5 7-6 (10-3). "Not only did I have fun, but the crowd gave me so much energy. I'm not young any more. I need extra energy from you," said Wawrinka, who previously came from a set down to beat Laslo Djere in round one. "I'm always going to fight and leave everything on the court.

MEGASTAR CHIRANJEEVI JOINS CM REVANTH REDDY AT WEF 2026 SUMMIT

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy participated in the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2026 held in Davos, Switzerland. During his visit, the Chief Minister came to know that Megastar Chiranjeevi was in Zurich, and extended a warm invitation to attend the summit. Accepting the invitation with respect, Chiranjeevi garu attended the forum alongside the Chief Minister and witnessed the unveiling and presentation of the "Telangana Rising 2047" Vision Document at the global platform. The moment stood as a proud representation of Telangana's progressive vision and cultural prominence on an international stage.Chief Minister Revanth Reddy also received Megastar Chiranjeevi garu in a gracious and cordial manner. During their interaction, the Chief Minister shared that he had watched "Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu" along with his entire family, including his grandchildren, and thoroughly enjoyed the film. He appreciated the film's entertainment value and shared his admiration personally with the Megastar. The meeting between the Chief Minister and Chiranjeevi garu in Switzerland was an unexpected and pleasant one, where both spent quality time together at the 2026 summit, exchanging warm conversations and mutual respect. It is understood that Chiranjeevi garu had travelled to Switzerland on a personal vacation to spend quality time with his family, during which this memorable interaction and participation at the global forum took place.

Athreyapuram Brothers Launched Grandly, Concept Poster Unveiled

Times have changed, and so have trends. Along with them, audience sensibilities and tastes have evolved. Keeping this shift in mind, filmmakers are now planning movies with fresh, relatable stories that today's audiences can truly connect with. Director Rajesh Jagannadham is bringing one such distinctive story to the screen with Athreyapuram Brothers, a film crafted with all the elements the new-generation audience looks for.

The film is being produced under the banners of S2S Cinemas and The Fervent Indie Productions by VSK Sanjeev, Vangapalli Sandeep, Vangapalli Sankeerth, Praveen Gadde, Rajesh Gadde, and Rakesh Gadde. The movie features Rajeev Kanakala, Gavireddy, Sunny Patsa, Raghu Babu, Geeth Sayini, Neha Pathan, and Siddharth Gollapudi in key roles.The film's puja ceremony was held grandly at Annapurna Studios in Hyderabad. Director Vassishta, director Anudeep, director Aditya Hassan and director Praveen Kandregula attended the event as chief guests. For the auspicious first shot, Vassishta gave the clap, while Vijay Kanakamedala switched on the camera. Praveen Kandregula and Aditya Hassan handed over the script, and director Anudeep provided honorary direction for the opening scene.

The concept poster released on this occasion has caught everyone's attention. Designed with the tagline "A Sweet Rivalry," the poster depicts two individuals engaged in a test of strength. At first glance, it hints at the film's uniqueness and suggests that Athreyapuram Brothers will stand apart from conventional narratives, offering something refreshingly different from recent films.The film's technical crew includes Ramiz Naveeth as Director of Photography, Santhu Omkar as Music Director, and Anil Pasala as Editor. More details about the project will be announced soon.

Chiranjeevi's Mana Shankara Vara Prasa Garu Emerges as Mega Blockbuster

Megastar Chiranjeevi garu has once again proved his enduring popularity with the Mega Blockbuster success of Mana Shankara Vara Prasa Garu. Hearty congratulations have poured in for the Megastar and the entire film team for delivering a film that has strongly connected with audiences.For more than four decades, Chiranjeevi garu has remained close to the hearts of people, consistently entertaining generations with his unmatched passion, energy, acting excellence, comedy timing and dance. Mana Shankara Vara Prasa Garu stands as yet another successful addition to his remarkable filmography.Director Anil Ravipudi garu has been specially appreciated for delivering another Sankranti blockbuster. Audiences were particularly delighted to watch Megastar Chiranjeevi garu share the screen with Victory Venkatesh garu, making their combination a major highlight of the film.Music director Bheema Ceciroleo garu received praise for composing energetic and engaging music that added strength and vibrancy to the film's narrative. Special congratulations were also extended to producers Sahu Garapati garu and Sushmita garu for backing a project that resonated strongly with viewers.Best wishes were conveyed to Nayanthara, Shine Screens and Gold Box Entertainment for being part of this successful cinematic journey.

"Golla Ramavva" to Premiere on ETV Win from Jan 25

Golla Ramavva", a powerful cinematic tribute to the historic Telangana Armed Struggle, is set to stream on ETV Win from January 25. The film is based on a compelling story written by late former Prime Minister of India and Bharat Ratna awardee P. V. Narasimha Rao and promises to leave a deep emotional impact on Telugu audiences.

Featuring Talluri Rameshwari in the title role, the film is directed by Mullapudi Vara and jointly produced by Ram Vishwas Hanurkar and Raghavendra Varma (Bujji) under the banners of Suchetha Dream Works Productions and Varma Dream Creations. Young talent Azhar Shaikh served as Executive Producer and also penned the lyrics, contributing significantly to the project.

The trailer of "Golla Ramavva" was launched at a grand event attended by eminent personalities, including P. V. Prabhakar Rao, son of P. V. Narasimha Rao, and his daughter, MLC Smt. Surabhi Vani Devi. Lyricists Kasarla Shyam and Maunasri Mallik, actor Rajeev Kanakala, Razakar director Yata Satyanarayana, and senior director Uday Bhaskar were also present and lauded the makers.

Addressing the gathering, Smt. Surabhi Vani Devi expressed happiness that one of her father's most powerful stories has been faithfully adapted for the screen. The film team said they felt honored to be associated with such a historically significant subject. The makers earlier produced "Mauname Nee Bhaasha" for ETV Win, which received an encouraging response, and expressed confidence that "Golla Ramavva" would also earn a special place in the hearts of Telugu viewers.

With its strong narrative, emotional depth and historical relevance, "Golla Ramavva" is expected to stand as a landmark film celebrating courage, sacrifice and the spirit of Telangana.

Vijay Deverakonda Unveils Telugu Promo of Happy Raj, Wins Enthusiastic Response

Rowdy Star Vijay Deverakonda unveiled the Telugu promo of Happy Raj, starring GV Prakash Kumar and Sri Gouri Priya, and the promo has been receiving an overwhelmingly positive response from audiences across platforms. Following the much-discussed title announcement, the release of the official promo has further heightened expectations for the film. Produced by Jayavardhan under the Beyond Pictures banner as Production No.1, Happy Raj is envisioned as a wholesome entertainer catering to all age groups. Directed by Maria Elanchezian, the promo beautifully captures the film's vibrant tone, optimism and feel-good energy, staying true to its cheerful title.The promo stands out for its refreshing narration, lively visuals and GV Prakash Kumar's joyful screen presence in the titular role. Viewers have particularly appreciated the light-hearted vibe and the promise of a positive cinematic experience, with social media buzzing with praise for its relatable and uplifting mood.Apart from GV Prakash Kumar and Sri Gouri Priya, the film also marks the much-awaited return of evergreen actor Abbas to Tamil cinema, adding to the excitement. The supporting cast includes George Mariyam, Prarthna, Adhirchi Arun, Madurai Muthu, Sofa Boy Rasool and others in key roles.Written and directed by Maria Elanchezian and co-produced by Jaikanth Suresh, Happy Raj features cinematography by Madhan Christopher, music by Justin Prabhakaran, editing by RK Selva, art direction by Kumar Gangappa and costumes by Praveen Raja. With the promo generating strong buzz, Happy Raj is shaping up to be a heartwarming entertainer filled with laughter, positivity and joy.

Chandra Hass' Barabar Premistha to Release on February 6

Attitude Star Chandra Hass is gearing up to entertain audiences with his upcoming film Barabar Premistha, which is scheduled for a theatrical release on February 6. The release date was officially announced amid high enthusiasm and frenzy among college students at a special event held at Brilliant Group of Colleges in Hyderabad.Directed by Sampath Rudra, the film is produced by Geda Chandu, Gayatri Chinny and AVR under the banners of CC Creations and AVR Movie Wonders, with Kakarla Satyanarayana presenting it. Miss India finalist Meghna Mukherjee plays the female lead, while Arjun Mahi of Ishtamga fame appears as the antagonist. The posters, teasers and songs released so far have received a strong response, particularly from the youth. At the announcement event, Chandra Hass and Meghna Mukherjee delighted students with energetic dance performances before revealing the release date, creating a lively atmosphere. Speaking on the occasion,

Chandra Hass said he was confident of scoring a success with Barabar Premistha and urged students to watch and enjoy the film in theatres. Meghna Mukherjee also expressed confidence that audiences would love the film.Director Sampath Rudra shared that the story revolves around constant clashes between a boy and a girl from the same village and is set against an authentic Telangana backdrop, promising full-on entertainment.The film's technical crew includes cinematographer Y.R. Sekhar and editor Bonthala Nageswar Reddy. The cast features Chandra Hass, Meghna Mukherjee, Arjun Mahi, Muralidhar Goud, Laxman Meesala, Madhunandan, Abhay Naveen, Rajasekhar Aningi, Dr. Bhatini, Keerthilatha Goud and Sunitha Manohar in key roles.

MM Keeravani Sings 'Velledaarilo' Song from Sri Chidambaram

Legendary music director MM Keeravani has lent his soulful voice to a special song titled "Velledaarilo" from the upcoming film Sri Chidambaram. The song, which was recently released, has been receiving an encouraging response from listeners for its melodious tune and emotional depth. Presented by Smt. Chinta Varalakshmi, Sri Chidambaram is produced by Chinta Vineesh Reddy and Chinta Gopala Krishna Reddy under the Sri Chakras Entertainment banner, with Chinta Rajashekhar Reddy serving as co-producer. The film is written and directed by Vinay Rathnam and stars Vamsi Tummala and Sandhya Vashishta in the lead roles.The film's teaser, released earlier, created strong buzz and drew an overwhelming response. Building on that momentum, the makers unveiled the lyrical song "Velledaarilo", sung by MM Keeravani, who also conveyed his best wishes to the team on the occasion. Music for the film is composed by Chandu Ravi, while the lyrics are penned by Chandrasekhar. Keeravani's distinctive voice has added profound emotion and appeal to the song. Expressing their happiness, the producers said that Keeravani's rendition elevated the song to a new level. They described Sri Chidambaram as a refreshing love story set in a vintage village backdrop, blending simplicity with heartfelt storytelling. The film is also expected to unravel intriguing elements, including why the hero is known as "Chidambaram" in the village and the significance behind his constant use of spectacles.

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.southindiatimes@gmail.com., Contact :9000657700, RNI Regd No: KARENG/2012/43253.