


OM NAMO VENKATESAYA



29-01-2026

Total pilgrims: 61,315

Tonsures: 22,076

Hundi kanukalu: 476 Cr

Waiting Compartments: 31

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens): 8 H

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PEARLS & JEWELLERS



IN BRIFS

AMC TO SHIFT 1200 STRAY DOGS TO SHELTER HOUSE

Agartala: Agartala Municipal Corporation (AMC) has announced plans to implement Supreme Court directives regarding the welfare of stray dogs, marking a significant step towards humane animal management. This decision comes in response to growing concerns about public safety and the well-being of street animals in the city. Mayor Dipak Majumder highlighted that the Supreme Court, in conjunction with the Animal Welfare Board of India, has issued clear guidelines for the management of stray dogs, with Urban Local Bodies being responsible for ensuring humane treatment while safeguarding public safety.

CRIME BRANCH BUSTS MAJOR COUNTERFEIT SHOE MANUFACTURING UNIT IN NE DELHI


New Delhi: Crime Branch has unearthed a large-scale manufacturing unit producing fake shoes of top international brands, including Nike, Adidas, New Balance, and Skechers, an official said on Friday. The owner of the unit, Sandeep Singh, 44, a resident of Ambey Enclave, Chauhan Patti, Sonia Vihar, has been arrested, and the police said. The operation was conducted by the team of the Anti-Extortion & Kidnapping Cell (AEKC) of the Crime Branch, which was followed by a tip-off regarding the illegal production of branded footwear in Northeast Delhi.

Ajit Pawar's wife Sunetra may take oath as Deputy CM on Sat

NCP MERGER TALKS ON BACKBURNER



MUMBAI/PUNE (TSIT): Sunetra Pawar, Rajya Sabha MP and the wife of deceased NCP chief Ajit Pawar, is likely to be sworn in as Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister on Saturday, party sources said. She would be the first woman to hold the post in the state. Following the death of Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar in an air crash in Baramati on Wednesday, a section of Nationalist Congress

 Sunetra, Ajit Pawar's wife, is currently not a member of either House of the Maharashtra legislature

Party leaders had demanded that she should get the post.

"Tomorrow, a parliamentary board meeting of the party will take place in Mumbai, where Sunetra Pawar will be elected as the leader of the legislative party," said a source. "It is likely that she will be sworn in as Deputy Chief Minister by tomorrow evening," said the source, privy to the developments.

Until the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Sunetra Pawar had kept a low profile. In the General Election that year, she stood from Baramati as the candidate of her husband's party, but was defeated by her sister-in-law and incumbent NCP (SP) MP Supriya Sule in the prestige battle.

Sunetra was subsequently elected to the Rajya Sabha.

The legislature wing of the NCP in Maharashtra will hold a meeting in Mumbai on January 31 where she would be named as its leader, state minister and senior party leader Chhagan Bhujbal said earlier on Friday.


Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis had conveyed that he had no issue if her swearing-in ceremony as Deputy CM took place on Saturday itself, provided a decision to that effect was taken by the party, said Bhujbal.

Sunetra Pawar is currently not a member of either House of the Maharashtra legislature. However, the Baramati Assembly seat in Pune district has fallen vacant after Ajit Pawar's death.



Telangana Governor, DCM Bhatti pay tributes at Babu Ghat

Hyderabad (TSIT) : Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma and Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka paid tributes to the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi on his death anniversary on Friday. They offered floral tributes at Babu Ghat at Langer Houz here, where the ashes of Mahatma Gandhi were immersed at the confluence of Musi and Esi rivers. Transport Minister Ponnampallabharathi Prabhakar, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Mahesh Kumar Goud, senior Congress leader and former MP V. Hanumanth Rao and other Congress leaders also paid tributes. They paid their respects at the memorial and later showered petals on the statue of the Father of the Nation. The leaders also participated in an all-religion

 Telangana and Andhra Pradesh leaders, including Governor Jishnu Dev Varma, Deputy CM Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, CM A. Revanth Reddy, and others, paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on his death anniversary, honoring his ideals of truth, non-violence, and selfless service.

prayer meeting. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, who is on a visit to the United States, took to 'X' to pay his tributes to Mahatma Gandhi. He called Babu a great soul who introduced a completely new path of struggle to the world. Bharat Rashtra Samithi

(BRS) leader K.T. Rama Rao also paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi. "Mahatma Gandhi showed the world the power of truth and non-violence. On the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary, let us remember his ideals of honesty, courage, and compassion. His teachings remain timeless and deeply relevant even today. Let us strive to follow his path and build a society rooted in harmony," Rama Rao posted on 'X'. "As we honour his legacy, let us reaffirm our commitment to his timeless principles of non-violence, truth, compassion, and patriotism," wrote Telangana Jagruthi President K. Kavitha. Andhra Pradesh Governor S. Abdul Nazeer and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu also paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi.

India, Bangladesh repatriate 151 fishermen

NEW DELHI/DHAKA (TSIT): India and Bangladesh on Thursday completed a reciprocal release and repatriation of fishermen who had inadvertently crossed the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL). Officials said the two sides saw it as a humanitarian approach to longstanding maritime boundary issues. A total of 23 Indian fishermen detained by Bangladesh authorities and 128 Bangladeshi fishermen held in India were released and sent back to their respective countries along with their operable fishing vessels, the Ministry of External Affairs said. "The exchange was in view of the

humanitarian and livelihood considerations of the fishing communities on both sides. India remains committed to the well-being and safety of our fishing community," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a post on X. The fishermen had been arrested in recent weeks after straying into each other's territorial waters during routine fishing activities. Officials said the exchange was finalised through close coordination between the two governments, keeping in view the livelihood concerns of coastal communities that depend heavily on small-scale fishing.

CM Naidu Highlights Innovation and Future Technologies at Agastya Academy

Chittoor (TSIT) Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh recently met students at the Agastya Academy Auditorium, where representatives of the Academy showcased a video highlighting the various programs and training provided in science and technology. The Chief Minister viewed the presentation while seated among the students.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister recalled, "The chairman of Agastya Academy told me 25 years ago that he would start a good innovation center, and I agreed. This academy has been running effectively for 25 years and has become a leading center in India." He appreciated the clean and forward-looking environment in which the Academy was established and stated that its policies reflect the future



direction of Andhra Pradesh.

Highlighting the importance of keeping pace with global developments, the Chief Minister urged students to embrace emerging technologies like artificial intelligence. "It is because of early acceptance of IT that Telugu people have made a mark worldwide. I promoted IT then, and now I am saying everyone should think

about AI. We need to change the mindset of students — the future is ours," he said. He announced the establishment of the Ratan Tata Innovation Hub to provide opportunities for new innovations and startup companies, while also citing initiatives such as drones, Space City, and technology-driven electricity reforms that reduce energy costs.

Jairam Ramesh says Modi govt pushes great nicobar project despite ecological and legal concerns

NEW DELHI (TSIT) Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Friday expressed serious concerns that the Modi government is aggressively pushing forward the controversial Great Nicobar project despite increasing evidence of its potentially severe ecological impacts and ongoing legal challenges.

"The Great Nicobar project is being bulldozed through by the Modi Govt even though there is mounting evidence that it will have disastrous ecological impacts," Ramesh said in a post on handle X. "The project has evoked widespread concern, and petitions against the manner in which environmental and other



laws have been flouted to push it along are pending in the Calcutta High Court and the National Green Tribunal," Ramesh said. A key component of the project is the Galathea Bay international container transshipment terminal, which the union Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways has proposed to develop under a public-private partnership (PPP) model.

Gold, silver prices crash after record rally: Here's what triggered the sharp sell-off



New Delhi (TSIT) Prices of silver and gold saw one of their steepest single-day fall in the past few months in futures trade on Friday. The silver futures crashed 17 percent to Rs 3.32 lakh per kilogram, while gold tanked 9 percent to Rs 1.54 lakh per 10 grams, tracking weak trends in the global markets and surging American currency. Gold futures with April expiry on MCX dropped around 9 percent to hit a low of Rs 1,67,406 per 10 grams. This comes a day after the contracts hit a fresh lifetime high of Rs 1,93,096 per 10 grams. This means that the gold futures fell 13 percent (Rs 25,690 per 10 grams) in just one day.

Silver futures with March expiry, meanwhile, plunged nearly 17 percent to Rs 3,32,002 per kilogram. This marks a fall of nearly 21 percent (Rs 88,046 per kilogram) in just one day after hitting a fresh lifetime high of Rs 4,20,048 per kg. Today's steep decline in gold and silver prices could be viewed as a usual case of profit-taking following an extended record rally. While high positioning, strong dollar fluctuations, and an upswing in bond yields have led to a correction in gold prices.

Telangana Speaker begins hearing on disqualification petitions

Hyderabad (TSIT): Telangana Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar on Friday began hearing on the petitions for disqualification of MLA Danam Nagender who was elected on a Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) ticket but allegedly shifted loyalties to the ruling Congress party.

The Speaker will hear arguments by the counsels of BRS MLA Kaushik Reddy and BJP floor leader in the Assembly A. Maheshwar Reddy and record the evidence. He will later hear the arguments by the counsel of Nagender. The MLA said that he has not yet received any notice from the Speaker for appearance before him.



The Speaker took up hearing on Nagender's petition following recent directive from the Supreme Court, which gave him two weeks to decide on the petitions for disqualification of the remaining MLAs. The Speaker has also already dismissed the petitions to disqualify seven out of 10 BRS MLAs who had allegedly defected to the Congress in

2024. He ruled that the petitioners failed to provide evidence that the MLAs defected to the Congress. He said all the MLAs are technically still in the BRS.

The Speaker last year completed the hearing on the petitions for the disqualification of eight MLAs and reserved the orders. The Speaker is yet to pronounce the order on the plea for the disqualification of MLA Sanjay Kumar. The hearing on the disqualification of two other MLAs, Danam Nagender and Kadiyaram Srihari could not be taken up as they had not submitted their replies to the notices served on them.

Save Gandhi's India from Godse's heirs, CM Stalin in veiled dig at BJP

CHENNAI (TSIT): In a veiled dig at the Bharatiya Janata Party and its ideological mentor, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Chief Minister MK Stalin on Friday called upon people to "teach a befitting lesson to the inheritors of Godse," referring to Nathuram Godse, who shot dead the Father of the Nation.

CM Stalin went on to accuse "Godse's lineage" of attempting to ruin the country and undermine the values of Mahatma Gandhi, urging people to defeat divisive communal politics. Sharing a social media post on X on the occasion of the 79th death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, CM and DMK presi-



 The chief minister, in a social media post, said: "Let us eradicate religious fanaticism! Let us honour the Mahatma!"

dent Stalin said Godse's ideological successors are attempting to erase Gandhi's legacy and undermine the country, and called upon citizens to safeguard the land of the Mahatma.

CM Stalin underscored the importance of protecting unity, peace and a non-violent approach to life, actively

promoted by the Father of the Nation. Recalling Gandhi's assassination, Stalin said the Mahatma would continue to live in the hearts of every Indian, even though he was killed by Godse's gun.

Now, the heirs of Godse, a veiled reference to the BJP, RSS workers and supporters, were trying to damage the country's foundations, he alleged. Recalling Gandhi's commitment to peace and harmony, Stalin said his ideals remain relevant in countering forces that seek to divide the nation through hatred and extremism. Stalin, along with Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin and other Ministers,

CS Conducts Comprehensive Review of Key Departments to Achieve Telangana Rising 2047 Goals

Hyderabad: In accordance with the Telangana Rising 2047 vision, State Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao has been holding department-wise review meetings over the last three days to provide clear direction to all government departments. As per the instructions of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the Chief Secretary on Friday reviewed several major departments with senior officials at the Dr B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat.

The review covered the departments of Agriculture, Cooperation, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development, Fisheries, Forest, Environment, Science & Technology, Food & Civil Supplies, Labour, Employment, Training, Factories and General Administration (GAD).



During the Agriculture Department review, the Chief Secretary reiterated that farmer welfare is the government's top priority. He directed officials to achieve targets set under the Telangana Vision 2047 action plan and strengthen fertiliser and urea distribution through IT-enabled systems. He reviewed schemes being implemented by the Agriculture, Marketing, Cooperation and Horticulture departments, stressed promotion of oil palm plantations, and expansion of fruit and

vegetable cultivation based on public demand. He also reviewed the Kohed Market construction works in Ranga Reddy district and directed continuous monitoring of crop yields, farmer issues and digital crop surveys. Officials were instructed to ensure adequate availability of seeds and fertilisers for the coming agricultural season and strengthen district-level supervision. Reviewing Cooperation, the Chief Secretary assessed the functioning and financial health of cooperative societies and

stressed the need to strengthen them, ensure transparency and enhance farmers' trust through efficient service delivery. In the review of Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries, the Chief Secretary directed officials to strengthen veterinary services at the village level, conduct animal health camps, and effectively implement vaccination programmes. He stressed increasing milk collection and chilling capacity, framing farmer-friendly dairy policies, and improving cooperative dairy institutions. In the fisheries sector, he instructed officials to prepare action plans to enhance fish production in tanks and major reservoirs such as Mallanna Sagar, Kondapochamma Sagar, Mid Manair and Palair, and ensure timely delivery of welfare schemes to fishermen.

Free medical camp in school

Karimnagar TSIT : Free health and medical checkups in Sri Saraswati Shishu Mandir High School Karimnagar Free health and medical checkups are conducted at Shishu Mandir by Dak Kendra started by Star Health Insurance. Led by Dr. G Shweta, students and teachers of the school were given height, weight and blood tests and medicines were distributed. Lab Technician B. Arun, Nurse Divya and Pharmacist V. Rajesh participated in this programme. Secretary Engineer Kola Anna Reddy and Principal Samudrala Rajamouli thanked them on behalf of the school.



India Sets Global Agenda on Patient Safety at Apollo IHD 2026



Hyderabad : India's expanding leadership in patient safety and healthcare governance came into sharp focus on the opening day of the Apollo Hospitals International Health Dialogue (IHD) 2026, held in Hyderabad. The high-level global conference brought together clinicians, policymakers, accreditation leaders, digital health innovators and international experts to shape a shared vision for safer, more equitable healthcare systems. Held under the theme "Global Voices. One Vision.", Day 1 of IHD 2026 underscored patient safety as a core leadership and governance priority rather than a standalone clinical function. Speakers highlighted how India's experience in delivering healthcare at scale—while continuously improving quality, transparency and accountability—is increasingly influencing global health policy and patient safety frameworks. Addressing the gathering, Dr Sangita Reddy, Joint Managing Director, Apollo Hospitals Group, said the International Health Dialogue was conceived as a platform to enable cross-learning between health systems across the world. She noted that IHD 2026 recorded over 5,000 registrations and participation from 75 institutions globally, reflecting growing international interest in India's healthcare models. "Patient safety is no longer local—it is a shared global responsibility," she said. Emphasising the role of public policy

and inclusivity, Dr Jayesh Ranjan, Special Chief Secretary, Government of Telangana, said patient safety solutions must be rooted in real-world diversity. He stressed that digital health initiatives should focus on equitable access and digital inclusion, ensuring that technology-driven safety solutions benefit all sections of society. Dr Madhu Sasidhar, President & CEO, Apollo Hospitals, highlighted that patient safety must be embedded across the organisation. "It is not the responsibility of a single department—it is a collective organisational culture driven from the top," he said, calling for leadership accountability and system-wide ownership. Global experts participating in the dialogue cautioned against the growing challenge of "safety clutter"—processes and checklists that increase workload without improving outcomes. Reinforcing the uncompromising goal of patient safety, Dr Atul Mohan Kochhar, CEO of the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH), stated, "Zero harm is the only acceptable number." The day concluded with a digital health startup showcase, highlighting innovations aimed at improving patient safety through data-driven decision-making and responsible technology adoption. The session reinforced IHD 2026's focus on translating innovation into measurable safety outcomes, positioning India as a key contributor to the global patient safety agenda.

BOOKS DISTRIBUTED TO CHILDREN AT OASIS ORPHANAGE ON MAHATMA GANDHI'S 78TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Hanamkonda: On the occasion of the 78th death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, library books were distributed to children at the Oasis Boys Orphanage in Hanumakonda on Friday.

The programme began with participants paying floral tributes to the portrait of Mahatma Gandhi. Speaking on the occasion, the organisers advised the children to take Gandhiji as their guiding light, follow the path of peace and truth, and work selflessly



for the welfare of society. Oasis Boys Orphanage management member Oddiraju Chandraprakash and staff members participated in the programme and appreciated the initiative, stating that such activities help inculcate moral values and reading habits among children.

Telangana IPS Officers' Association Condemns Baseless Allegations Against Serving IPS Officer

Hyderabad: Telangana IPS Officers' Association has issued a strong statement condemning what it described as malicious, baseless and vicious allegations made by a sitting Member of the Legislative Assembly against a serving IPS officer.

In a press release issued on Friday the Association expressed its strongest condemnation of the allegations levelled against Gaush Alam Commissioner of Police, Karimnagar, by Padi Kaushik Reddy MLA, Huzurabad, on January 29, 2026. The Association stated that while local police officers were dis-

charging their lawful duties, the MLA, without any basis or provocation, made false and unsubstantiated allegations against the senior IPS officer. It noted that the officer was named and accused on religious grounds, alleging attempts at religious conversion claims which the Association categorically rejected.

Terming the insinuations as deeply disturbing, the IPS Officers' Association said such remarks amount to a serious attack on the morale, independence and dignity of the civil services. The Association emphasised that dragging religion into

the functioning of a serving officer is irresponsible and undermines institutional integrity.

The Association has demanded an immediate and unconditional public apology from the MLA for his remarks. It has also urged the appropriate authorities to take cognisance of what it termed as grave misconduct by a sitting legislator.

The statement was issued under the leadership of Association President B. Shivadhar Reddy, DGP, Telangana, and signed by Vikram Singh Mann, Secretary, Telangana IPS Officers' Association, Hyderabad.

REIMAGINING PUBLIC HEALTHCARE IN TELANGANA



AMARAVAJI NAGARAJU
TPCC PRESIDENT PRO

With the health and well-being of its citizens as a central objective, the Telangana government is preparing to usher in a landmark reform in public healthcare. Under the framework of people-centric governance, the State is formulating a Comprehensive Healthcare Policy aimed at strengthening the healthcare delivery system and ensuring equitable access to quality medical services not confined to urban centres, but extended deep into rural areas as well. This policy is poised to become a defining milestone in Telangana's healthcare landscape.

For decades, access to quality medical care in India has largely been associated with metropolitan cities, private hospitals, and prohibitive costs. Rural citizens, in particular, have been compelled to travel long distances to district headquarters or Hyderabad for specialised treatment. Determined to dismantle this urban-centric healthcare model, the government has adopted a clear guiding principle: healthcare must reach the people, not the other way around. This philosophy forms the foundation of the new healthcare policy. At present, the dependence on cities for speciality and emergency care remains a significant challenge. Critical services such as trauma care, dialysis, and mental health support are especially inaccessible

to rural populations. Recognising these structural gaps, the government is working towards a unified "New Healthcare Policy" by developing individual policies for key medical sectors and integrating them into a comprehensive framework.

Notably, the policy places emphasis on 11 critical focus areas: trauma care, dialysis, mental health, ENT services, eye care, de-addiction, digital health, polyclinics, fertility services, geriatric care, and a dedicated Cure Health Policy for Hyderabad. Together, these components signal a shift from fragmented healthcare interventions to an integrated, patient-centric system.

One of the most significant interventions is the expansion of trauma care infrastructure. While Telangana currently has only a handful of trauma care centres, the new policy proposes the establishment of 109 trauma care centres across the State. These centres are expected to play a crucial role in responding to road accidents, industrial mishaps, and other medical emergencies, thereby significantly improving survival rates. This move underscores the government's commitment to prioritising life-saving infrastructure as a public responsibility.

The rise in kidney-related ailments, particularly in rural areas, has been another pressing concern. Patients often undertake arduous journeys for regular dialysis, leading to physical, financial, and emotional strain. Addressing this issue, the government has decided to establish dialysis centres every 25 kilometres, along with expanding machine capacity in existing facilities. Additionally, high-incidence regions will be identified for targeted interventions under a dedicated dialysis policy. This approach reflects a welfare-oriented model aimed at reducing costs while

expanding access to essential care.

For the first time, mental health has been accorded the status of a core public health priority. In the backdrop of rising stress due to unemployment, financial pressures, and social challenges, the government is drafting a comprehensive mental health policy. This includes statewide counselling services, deployment of mental health professionals, and the creation of accessible care centres. By confronting mental health issues openly, the government signals a shift from denial to decisive engagement — treating mental health as a social concern rather than a personal stigma.

The proposed Digital Health Policy is another transformative initiative. Under this system, every citizen's health records will be digitised and linked to a unique health ID. Medical histories from government hospitals will be accessible across facilities, enabling doctors to make informed clinical decisions swiftly. This digital integration promises not only efficiency and continuity of care, but also reduced duplication and delays in treatment.

Special attention is also being given to senior citizens. Dedicated geriatric wards, specialist care, and expanded services for those above 60 years are being planned. Teaching hospitals have already introduced 10-bed geriatric wards, with further expansion on the anvil. This initiative reflects a broader social vision — one that seeks to treat ageing with dignity rather than neglect.

Addressing infertility, an often-overlooked public health issue, the government is formulating a Fertility Policy to provide advanced treatments in government hospitals. This measure aims to reduce dependence on expensive private facilities and make

fertility care affordable and accessible.

In addition, an exclusive Cure Health Policy is being planned for the Hyderabad metropolitan region, recognising the unique health challenges of an urban population. This urban-focused approach is expected to complement the broader State healthcare framework.

The government also plans to strengthen the polyclinic model, enabling patients to access primary and speciality services under one roof. This integrated service delivery mechanism is expected to reduce referrals, travel time, and overcrowding at tertiary hospitals.

The policy formulation process itself reflects institutional seriousness. Medical experts, administrators, and public health professionals are involved in preparing detailed policy documents that assess existing infrastructure, human resource requirements, financial implications, and anticipated public benefits. A comprehensive evaluation is underway, with the possibility of an official announcement during the upcoming Budget session. By placing public health at the centre of governance, the Telangana government is reaffirming that healthcare is not a privilege but a fundamental responsibility of the State. The proposed Comprehensive Healthcare Policy, designed to ensure equal access for rural and urban populations alike, has the potential to position Telangana as a national model in public healthcare delivery. Its implementation is expected to reduce medical expenses, ensure timely treatment, and provide much-needed reassurance to the poor and middle classes. In prioritising health as a cornerstone of welfare governance, Telangana is laying a strong foundation for a healthier, more resilient future.

Indian Railways Accelerates Kavach 4.0 Safety System Rollout, 472 km Commissioned Across Three Sections



Indian Railways today commissioned 472.3 route kilometres of Kavach Version 4.0 (Automatic Train Protection System) across three sections of its network, marking another significant milestone in strengthening rail safety. The newly commissioned sections include Vadodara-Virar (344 km) on Western Railway, Tuglakabad Junction Cabin-Palwal (35 km) on Northern Railway, and Manpur-Sarmatanr (93.3 km) on East Central Railway. With this commissioning, Indian Railways continues to accelerate the deployment of the indigenous Kavach system to enhance train protection, operational safety, and reliability across high-density routes.

This commissioning marks the highest ever route kilometres of Kavach commissioned on a single day as well as in a month, with 472.3 Rkm brought under Kavach Version 4.0. The previous highest commissioning stood at 324 Rkm on the Kota-Mathura section of West Central Railway. With the latest addition, Kavach Version 4.0 has now been commissioned across five zones of Indian Railways.

After today's inclusion, Kavach Version 4.0 has been commissioned over a total of 1,306.3 Route Kilometres across Indian Railways. Prior to this, Kavach Version 4.0 had been commissioned on 834 Route Kilometres. This included the Palwal-Mathura-Nagda section (633 Rkm) of the Delhi-Mumbai route and the Howrah-Bardhaman section (105 Rkm) of the Delhi-Howrah route. In addition, 96 Route Kilometres were commissioned on Gujarat's first Bajwa (Vadodara)-Ahmedabad section.

PROGRESS OF KAVACH 4.0 IMPLEMENTATION ON NORTHERN RAILWAY

Indian Railways successfully commissioned Kavach 4.0 on the 35-km Tuglakabad Junction Cabin-Palwal section of the four-line Delhi-Mumbai route, which spans 152 main line track kilometres. Kavach has been installed in a complete stretch of this corridor comprising Major station Yards, two Main lines with Automatic

Signaling system and two lines with Absolute Block signalling.

This commissioning marks a significant safety upgrade on one of the busiest and high-density corridors of the Indian Railways covering Delhi suburban and long-distance rail network. This section is a high-traffic stretch catering to passenger, suburban, and freight trains. Commissioning of Kavach on this section significantly enhances operational safety, reliability, and passenger confidence.

PROGRESS OF KAVACH 4.0 IMPLEMENTATION ON EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

Indian Railways has also commenced train operations with Kavach 4.0 on the 93.3 km Manpur-Sarmatanr section of the DDUGJ-Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya division. The first Kavach-enabled service, Train No. 13305 Sasaram Intercity Express, operated successfully on this section, departing Sone Nagar at 07:42 hrs and arriving at Manpur at 09:35 hrs. During the run, a head-on collision test was conducted, in which the train automatically stopped, validating the system's effectiveness. Kavach is being installed over 4,235 route kilometres of East Central Railway, including 417 route kilometres on the Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction-Manpur section, a critical part of the Delhi-Howrah trunk route passing through Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Jharkhand. The section carries mixed traffic and is currently cleared for 130 kmph, with works in progress under Mission Raftar to enhance the speed potential to 160 kmph.

PROGRESS OF KAVACH 4.0 IMPLEMENTATION ON WESTERN RAILWAY

Work on the Vadodara-Surat-Virar section on Delhi-Mumbai route commenced in January 2023, and on 30 January 2026, Kavach has been successfully commissioned on this 344-km section. This historic milestone was achieved with Train No. 20907, Dadar-Bhuj Sayajinagri Express, becoming the first KAVACH equipped train to run from Mumbai.

Work on the Vadodara-Nagda section is progressing at a fast pace and is expected to be commissioned by March 2026, while work on the Virar-Mumbai Central section is also progressing well and is targeted for completion by September 2026. Simultaneously, Kavach installation on locomotives is advancing steadily, with 364 locomotives on Western Railway equipped with Kavach so far. In addition, works on several other sections of Western Railway have been sanctioned, covering a total of 2,667 Route Kilometres, with execution underway on all sanctioned sections.

CONSUMER BHARAT YATRA RALLY HELD TO PROMOTE CONSUMER AWARENESS



Hanamkonda: A Consumer Bharat Yatra Rally was organised on Friday morning under the leadership of Dr. Pallepadu Damodar, National Senior Secretary of the Consumer Confederation of India, with the objective of creating widespread awareness on consumer rights and protection. The rally began at 9:00 AM from Kaloji Junction, Hanamakonda, and concluded at Raju Hotel Junction on Hunter Road. The programme was jointly organised by the Department of Consumer Affairs and CCI, with the cooperation of other concerned departments.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Pallepadu Damodar stated that the Consumer Bharat Yatra aims to educate the public about the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. He said the yatra focuses on creating awareness about frauds in weights and measures, food adulteration, deficiencies in paid services, and the legal mechanisms available to consumers for seeking compensation through the law. Dr. Anantha Sharma, Consumer Man of India, participated as the chief guest and said that the Consumer Bharat Yatra was launched in New Delhi on December 24, 2025, on the occasion of National Consumer Day. He informed that the yatra is being conducted across all states and Union Territories of the country, covering nearly 20,000 kilometres. So far, the campaign has reached about 200 towns and covered nearly 9,000 kilometres, he added. Dr. Anantha Sharma emphasised that the initiative is particularly aimed at spreading awareness among rural communities, farmers, the illiterate and common citizens about consumer laws and their rights.

BJP MPs Act as Also-Rans, MGNREGA Removal Helps No One: DCM Shivakumar

Shivamogga: Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar accused BJP MPs of failing to oppose the Centre despite Karnataka facing step-motherly treatment. He alleged that promised Union funds were not released and called for exposing BJP scams, including the Covid scam. Shivakumar said removing MGNREGA benefits no one, hurting farmers and panchayats, each losing 1-1.5 crore. He added the government will oppose the VBGRAMG scheme and examine compensation for monkey fever deaths.

Congress Fell Due to Deception, Says BJP's Vijayendra

Bengaluru: BJP State President B.Y. Vijayendra said the Congress, which once had 415 MPs, has declined to just 99 seats due to decades of deception and corruption. Addressing the Assembly, he accused Congress of mis-using Mahatma Gandhi's name and misleading the poor with slogans like "Garibi Hatao." He said corruption dominated discourse during Congress rule, while under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, governance is corruption-free with focus on development, infrastructure, startups, drinking water, sanitation, security, and employment generation.

Centre Following Godse's Ideology, Alleges S Manohar



Bengaluru: KPCS General Secretary S Manohar alleged that the BJP-led central government follows Nathuram Godse's ideology and is attempting to erase Mahatma Gandhi's legacy. Speaking at Gandhi's statue on his 78th death anniversary, he criticised the Centre for halting NREGA, calling it an insult to Gandhi. He urged citizens to follow Gandhi's path of non-violence and work together to build a secular and progressive India.

Yash Wishes Amruthanjan Team Success

Bengaluru: Pan-India star Yash extended his best wishes to the team of Amruthanjan, which released across the state on Friday. Sharing his appreciation on social media, Yash praised the team's content-driven journey from a popular short film to the big screen and said their effort would inspire aspiring filmmakers. Directed by Jyothirao Mohit, the film features Gaurav Shetty, Sribhavya, and others, with music by Raghavendra and cinematography by Sumanth Acharya.



Clear Encroachments on Storm Water Drains: Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar



Bengaluru: Bengaluru East Zone Additional Commissioner Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar directed officials to clear encroachments on storm water drains and prepare division-wise, color-coded drain maps. At a review meeting, he ordered coordination with the Deputy Commissioner for eviction drives, fencing of raja kaluves, action against unauthorized buildings, and preparation of AMC estimates for maintenance works. Officials were also asked to submit reports on missing link roads and drains, examine PPP projects for skywalks and MLCPS, and safeguard City Corporation properties.

K.J. George Inaugurates Dr. Rajkumar Bus Shelter, Reaffirms Commitment to Karnataka's Development

Bengaluru, : Energy Minister and Sarvagnanagar MLA K.J. George said, Kannada is our breath and our life. The development of the people of Karnataka is our foremost priority. The Minister was speaking after inaugurating a newly constructed bus shelter on Banaswadi Main Road in Maruti Seva Nagar, Sarvagnanagar Assembly constituency. The bus shelter has been built by the All Karnataka Dr. Rajkumar Fans Association. Expressing his admiration for the legendary actor, Minister George



said, "I am a fan of Dr. Rajkumar, and it is a privilege to inaugurate a bus shelter named in his hon-

our. Today, the Kannada flag is flying high globally. Under the leadership of Chief

Siddaramaiah, the government is committed to the welfare and development of the people of Karnataka." He appreciated the efforts of the association for providing essential facilities to commuters. "The bus shelter offers shade, protection from rain, and drinking water facilities for passengers. Such initiatives are truly commendable. People are remembered for their good deeds. As the representative of Sarvagnanagar, I am committed to the all-round development of this constituency," he said.

KARNATAKA CONG CRISIS: No interference by CM's son Yathindra in administration, says Shivakumar



Shivamogga (Karnataka), Jan 30 : Responding to the rumours of interference of Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's son, Congress MLC Yathindra Siddaramaiah in the governance, Deputy Chief Minister and State Congress President D.K. Shivakumar clarified that there is no interference by Yathindra in administration. He was speaking to the media at the Shivamogga Circuit House on Thursday.

Asked about BJP MLA Sunil Kumar's allegation that Energy Minister K.J. George was planning to resign because of interference by CM's son Yathindra, Shivakumar said, "I have no information about this. Minister George is a very senior minister and is working with self-respect. I do not see any problem. I came to know about this only through the media. Opposition leaders keep saying something or the other. Everything they say cannot be taken as the truth." On allegations of interference by Yathindra Siddaramaiah, he said, "When party workers submit representations, they sometimes call officials and request action. What is wrong in asking for something that benefits workers? I receive representations related to all departments and speak to all departments. There should be no interference in administration. I have not seen him interfere in administrative matters."

Responding to rumours regarding his son's inter-

ference resulting in the tendering of resignation of Minister George, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah stated that Minister George had not resigned.

Chief Minister's Legal Advisor and Congress MLA A.S. Ponnanna said, "Minister George and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah are working closely together. Minister George is a strength to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The reports in this regard are false. The senior IAS officer did not attend the meeting convened by the Chief Minister. The Chief Secretary sought an explanation from him, and he has submitted his reply. The officer has stated that he was attending an official programme and that he did not intend to ignore the Chief Minister's meeting." Minister George clarified, "Is it so easy for a minister to tender a resignation? There is no interference by Yathindra Siddaramaiah in my department. He is a good person and a young leader." Former minister and senior BJP leader M.P.

Renukacharya alleged that Siddaramaiah's son, Yathindra Siddaramaiah, was interfering in all departments. "No one is able to speak about this. An audio conversation related to this had gone viral earlier. Ministers are fed up. If Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is asked to resign, a conspiracy is being hatched to make his son, Yathindra Siddaramaiah, the Deputy Chief Minister. The entire government is being controlled by Yathindra Siddaramaiah," he claimed.

Earlier, clarifying rumours that claimed Karnataka Energy Minister K.J. George had resigned due to alleged interference by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's son and Congress MLC Yathindra Siddaramaiah, the Minister stated that all was well with the Chief Minister and that there was no question of resigning. Minister George clarified on the floor of the Karnataka Assembly on Thursday. The issue was raised by senior BJP MLA V. Sunil Kumar after the

Question Hour.

Meanwhile, asked about the postponement of the Apex Bank elections, Deputy Chief Minister Shivakumar said, "The Apex Bank election has not been postponed; no one has filed nominations. The party will decide."

Reacting to allegations that Rs 400 crore had gone missing in Belagavi and that it was Congress money, Shivakumar said, "The opposition has the CBI in its hands; let them get it investigated. We do not know whose money it is. Let an investigation be conducted. Making baseless allegations will only invite ridicule."

On local body elections, Shivakumar said, "We will conduct local body elections. There is a court hearing tomorrow or the day after regarding the reservation for these elections. We have asked panchayat leaders to prepare. The State Election Commission is also preparing and has decided to use ballot papers. Only the schedule needs to be finalised. To protect the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments, we have decided to conduct elections to panchayats and municipalities."

Asked about supporters raising slogans demanding that he become Chief Minister at various programmes, he said, "I have said this issue need not be discussed now; time will give the answer. I am discharging the responsibility given to me by the party."

Opposition Misusing Legal Freedom, Says DCM Shivakumar



Bengaluru: Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said criticism is welcome but must remain within

limits, alleging that Opposition parties are misusing the freedom granted by law. Speaking at Vidhana Soudha, he said the KPCC moved legally against a baseless BJP post and clarified that party members were instructed to avoid unlawful criticism. Responding to BJP remarks on a Congress social media post, he said they were free to say what they wanted.

Saint Sevalal Inspired Righteous Living: MP Bommai

Haveri (Byadagi): Former Chief Minister and MP Basavaraj Bommai said Saint Sevalal was a great saint who showed the path of righteous living within society. Speaking at the reinstallation of Saint Sevalal's idol in Byadagi, he praised the Lambani community for its contribution to India's history and culture. Bommai urged the community to focus on education, wom-



en's empowerment and good values, assuring government support for their development and announcing Rs.10 lakh aid for Mariamma Temple.

MSMEs Must Pay Decent Wages to Retain Talent: Dr Patil

Bengaluru: Medical Education and Skill Development Minister Dr



Sharanaprakash R Patil urged MSMEs to offer respectable salaries to retain skilled workers, citing high attrition due to low pay. Speaking at a CII conclave, he said many employees leave Bengaluru as 20,000 salaries are insufficient for a decent life. He assured that the government would organise exclusive, sector-specific job fairs to meet MSME workforce needs.

Karnataka govt asks employees to wear Khadi monthly

Bengaluru, Jan 30 : The Congress-led government in Karnataka has issued a circular promoting khadi use among officials to mark the 77th Republic Day which was observed on January 26. The state government on Thursday urged officials to wear khadi on first Saturday of every month.

State Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh has issued the circular in this regard and said, "'Khadi" is not merely a garment; it is a symbol of the nation's dignity and pride. At present, khadi weavers are taking steps to produce garments in new and modern designs. Moreover, khadi production forms the backbone of the rural economy and provides direct and indirect livelihoods to thousands of rural spinners and weavers in the state."

"Therefore, on the auspicious occasion of the 77th Republic Day, with the objective of reconnecting public service with the country's freedom struggle, the state government has taken an important decision to promote the use of khadi. Accordingly, officers and employees of all state government, aided institutions, corporations, boards, autonomous bodies, universities are requested to "voluntarily" wear



khadi attire on the first Saturday of every month, and to issue directions to officers and staff of their respective departments to wear khadi while participating in all official government programmes, including the Independence Day and Republic Day celebrations," Rajneesh added.

"The state government believes that this initiative will help foster respect for indigenous products, unity, national spirit, Indianness, self-respect, and a sense of social responsibility among government officers and employees," she said. The government order has also provided the link which provides

details of the names, addresses, and products of the 176 khadi associations and institutions currently functioning across all districts in the state. The copy of the order has been sent to all Additional Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries, Secretaries of the state government.

This decision of the Congress-led state government has been welcomed and received appreciation from the government employees and all sections of the society in Karnataka. The move is also likely to help weaver's community and government-owned khadi production centres in the state.

Youth Should Follow Kanaka-Purandara Das' Ideals: K.S. Sridhar

Bengaluru: Sriram Seva Mandali President K.S. Sridhar said that, If today's youth delve into the ideal life and literature of Kanaka-Purandara, a better society can be built.

Speaking after inaugurating the 17th annual Kanaka Purandara Music Festival organized by Rajajinagar Sriram Seva Mandali and Rajajinagar Residents Welfare Association and Nallan Chakravartha Trust, he said, A music festival has been held in the memory of Kanaka-Purandara Das for 17 consecutive years, and opportunities are being given to young artists. He said that music service and music scholars and artists are being honored for three days.

Today, people are not interested in the art of bhajans, music, and Bharatanatyam. We should preserve our culture, history and art, and the music festival is being held to create awareness among the youth, he said.



Former BBMP member Mohan Kumar said that Rajajinagar is the birthplace of art, literature and music culture. Thousands of artists have been given opportunities for the past 17 years. Everyone should read the literature written by Kanaka-Purandara Dasara. He said that the service they rendered to the Kannada language should be remembered.

A discourse was organized by scholar Ha.Ra. Nagaraja Acharya. A bhajan was organized by Sri Jagadeeswari Mahila Mandali and Karnataka Kalashri N.S. Prasad and violinist Nagaraj were honored with the title of Gana Chetana. Scholars Dr.|| Ha.Ra. Nagaraj Acharya, Vijayaraghavan, N.S. Prasad, Sudarshan, were present.

EDITORIAL

TRUMP, XI, PUTIN - IN THE AGE OF STRONGMEN, THE PERIL FOR 'MIDDLE POWERS'

In most of his speeches and social media posts, Donald Trump makes two points, directly or indirectly. First, he is the greatest President of the United States, almost a god's gift to humanity. Second, that he doesn't receive enough recognition for what he has achieved in such a short period. No Nobel Prize, even after resolving at least eight global conflicts. No praise for strengthening the US economy through his tariffs. Facts don't matter much to him; what he feels is more important.

So, Trump should no longer be committed to peace, and the US should get Greenland at any cost because Norway didn't give him the Nobel Prize. India should have extra tariffs for its exports to the US because New Delhi didn't acknowledge Trump's role in ending last May's four-day military conflict with Pakistan and failed to nominate him for the Nobel Peace Prize. In the last 12 months, Trump has abandoned the rules-based global order that the US helped create after the Second World War and embraced a foreign policy based on his whims and preferences, weaponised tariffs and made the US unreliable to its partners. "I don't need international law," Trump told The New York Times earlier this month. When asked if there were limits on his global power, he said: "My own morality. My own mind,"

The Donroe Doctrine

The raid on Venezuela and abduction of its leader, Nicolas Maduro, at the beginning of this month was done without any consultation with the US allies or even the Congress. He called it in line with what he called the Donroe Doctrine, his version of the 1823 Monroe Doctrine, to secure the Western Hemisphere from Russian and Chinese influence. Trump's Deputy Chief of Staff, Stephen Miller, minced no words to defend the move. "We are back to a world," Miller declared, "that is governed by strength, that is governed by force, that is governed by power." What Miller meant was that the US under Trump had reverted to the pre-War era, when big powers could seize territory or foreign property by force. In his much-applauded speech at Davos, Canada's Prime Minister, Mark Carney, declared that a rules-based global order was over and that "we are living in the midst of a rupture, not a transition". Quoting ancient Greek historian Thucydides, Carney said the world was entering a period in which "the strong can do what they can and the weak must suffer what they must". He warned, "Middle powers must act together because if we're not at the table, we're on the menu."

A Slow Death

Trump began to weaken the rules-based multilateral order during his first term. He withdrew from UN bodies, including the Human Rights Council, UNESCO, UNRWA, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Trump also stopped funding for the World Health Organization (WHO) during Covid-19 and weakened the security guarantees associated with NATO and undercut the WTO. His second term has been the most devastating for multilateral institutions, particularly the United Nations. In his speech to the UN in September, Trump attacked what he called the anti-woke notions in the UN system for the "globalist scam" of climate change and accompanying green policies. Under Trump, the US is not paying dues of even 22% after an 84% reduction in US foreign aid last May. Earlier this month, Trump withdrew the US from 66 international bodies, nearly half of which are UN organisations. Last week, the US pulled out of the WHO. The withdrawal of the US, which has been the organisation's largest funder, could cripple the body and its numerous global health projects.

Edit

In Trump's World, Wikipedia's Lesson On Collaboration

January 2026 has felt like one long stress test for the global order. The US administration parading Venezuela's President in handcuffs in New York City, renewed tensions over Greenland that rattled transatlantic trust, Trump openly alienating the European Union, and the rollout of an almost farcical Board of Peace for Gaza. In short, a new year reminding us that the world's stabilising institutions are either faltering or being reinvented on the fly. The headlines are heavy, the rhetoric sharper, the alliances thinner. And yet, in the midst of this unease, it is worth paying attention to a figure who has spent the last quarter-century quietly disproving the idea that large-scale cooperation is impossible: Jimmy Wales. This author spent an afternoon chatting with the 59-year-old founder of Wikipedia, who does not speak the language of geopolitics. His life's work rests, however, on a proposition that feels almost subversive in 2026: that most people, given the right framework, want to collaborate in good faith. And that optimism, even when it is not fully rational, can be a productive force. He calls himself a "pathological optimist", and he means it. When Wikipedia launched 25 years ago, there was no guarantee it would succeed. It emerged from the failure of Nupedia, a more rigid, expert-driven project that collapsed under the weight of its own seriousness. Wikipedia, by contrast, was built on something lighter but more powerful: fun, openness, and trust in a self-organising community. It worked not because humans are flawless, but because they are persistent. That distinction matters now. A Persistent Loss Of Faith The geopolitical turbulence of early 2026 has been fuelled in part by a loss of faith: in alliances, in norms, in institutions that once seemed unshakable. When the United States openly flirts with transactional diplomacy toward Europe, when territorial rhetoric reenters mainstream discourse, when peace initiatives are announced with more spectacle than consensus, cynicism becomes the default posture. It feels safer to assume bad faith than good intentions. Jimmy Wales offers a counterexample - not a naïve one, but a



grounded one. Wikipedia has never pretended that people are angels. It has policies, moderation, and guardrails precisely because conflict is inevitable. But it also begins from a crucial assumption that most contributors are there because they care about knowledge, accuracy, and something larger than themselves. That assumption has scaled across cultures, languages, and political systems. Wikipedia now exists in over 300 languages, many maintained by communities Wales himself will never meet. This matters because the crises of January 2026 are not just about power; they are about trust. Venezuela's uncertain transition has left citizens hopeful about economic relief but wary of democratic backsliding. Europe's reaction to US unpredictability has been less about outrage and more about recalibration - how much strategic autonomy is necessary when trust erodes? Even the Gaza Peace Board, however controversial, reflects a hunger for frameworks that might restore some measure of faith in diplomacy, however fragile. Serving Knowledge Wales would likely argue that the problem is not ambition but orientation. Wikipedia never set out to "create" knowledge. It set out to serve it. Its neutrality is not passive; it is worked on, debated, enforced, and constantly renegotiated. That

process - messy, slow, human - is precisely what many global institutions now lack the patience for. One of Wales's most striking observations is that Wikipedia's community would continue its work even if the outside world stopped paying attention. That is an extraordinary statement in an era obsessed with metrics, influence, and visibility. It suggests a form of faith that is not performative. Contrast that with the current global mood. Nations posture for leverage. Leaders speak to domestic audiences while quietly fraying international ties. Online spaces amplify hostility until it feels representative, even when it is not. Wales has long warned about this distortion. He says, "Spend too much time in the wrong corners of the internet, and you begin to believe that people are irredeemably angry and irrational. Step back into real communities - festivals, classrooms, collaborative projects - and a different picture emerges". The danger of 2026 is not only instability, but resignation. The idea that fragmentation is inevitable, that cooperation is obsolete, that hope itself is unserious. Wales's life's work argues the opposite. Hope, in his framing, is not blind optimism; it is sustained effort in the absence of guarantees. Wikipedia is not perfect. It has biases, disputes, and ongoing battles

over representation and accuracy. But it has endured because it treats those flaws as reasons to improve, not excuses to abandon the project. Their ethos of incremental progress, anchored in shared values, is precisely what the world needs more of as geopolitical certainties wobble. Truth Is Communal In an age of artificial intelligence, Wales remains stubbornly focused on human-created knowledge. Not because technology is dangerous, but because meaning is communal. Trust is communal. Truth, when it lasts, is negotiated collectively. These are not technological problems but social ones. January 2026 has reminded us how quickly systems can strain under pressure. It has also reminded us how much we depend on invisible forms of cooperation to keep the world intelligible. Jimmy Wales did not set out to build a metaphor for global resilience. He set out to build an encyclopedia. But in doing so, he offered something more enduring. Wikipedia is proof that faith in people, when paired with structure and humility, can scale. That lesson may not resolve conflicts or stabilise markets overnight. But in unsettled times, it offers something just as vital: a reason to believe that cooperation is not a relic of a calmer past, but a tool we can still choose - again and again - if we are willing to do the work.

Listen to the Call of the Canals: When Faith Communicates with the Environment



“The true form of faith is that we respect nature, keep the canals clean and give the gift of clean water to the coming generations.” Today, when we talk about worship, tradition, and faith, we often forget that the fundamental purpose of religion is to preserve life—not destroy it. When water, the very foundation of life, becomes defiled in the name of our faith, it becomes a matter for introspection. “Listen to the Call of the Canals” is one such public awareness campaign, which confronts us with our own mistakes and reveals true worship. Canals aren't just a conduit for water. They're the arteries of green fields, the thirst of animals, and the culture and civilization of villages. It's through these canals that farmers grow crops, animals thrive, and the rural economy thrives. But today, these very lifelines are groaning under our carelessness and blind traditions. The materials left after worship—idols, flowers, clothing, plastic, vermilion, incense sticks, coconuts, and even dead pets—are thrown into the canals. Acts performed in the name of devotion have become crimes against nature. This pain and concern gave birth to the “Listen to the Call of the Canals” campaign. It began with the efforts of Dr. Jasmer Singh Hooda (convener) in Rohtak and the Honorable Bhupendra Singh Godara in Hisar. This is not a one-day event, but the result of years of hard work and sustained awareness. This campaign is not for political

gain or organizational fame. Its purpose is simply one: to free the canals from pollution and to change society's mindset. Master Bhupendra Godara, born in the village of Gurera, resolved to spread this campaign to the masses. He was joined by many conscious comrades—Subedar Major Dalip Singh, Tekchand Bagri, Mr. Dalveer Potliya, retired Acharya Vijendra Singh, Krishna Kumar, Principal Ajit Singh, Nihal Singh Godara, Mr. Pawan Kumar, and many other dedicated social workers. They all firmly believe that until society changes its habits, the souls of the canals will never find peace. Laws and regulations are in place, but real change will only come when the public awakens. Even during the horrific times of the coronavirus, this caravan remained unstoppable. Be it Sunday or holiday, festival or rain, the team was seen standing on the banks of canals holding placards in their hands. The words written on the placards were not just slogans, but a dialogue with society. “If there is water, there is tomorrow”, “Do not pollute the canals”, “If there is faith, there should be cleanliness too”. Social workers like Himmat Singh, Ram Murti, Narendra Kulhadiya, Praveen Vakil, Surendra Godara, Sandeep, Sitaram, Sher Singh, Vikas Godara, and Rambhagat Punia strengthened this voice. The active participation of women like Suman Godara, Santosh Godara, Rachna, Pushpa, Kamala, Sunita, Sheela, Tara Devi, and Sudesh Dhandra gave the campaign social depth. Inspector Udaybhan Godara from Gurera also appealed to the people that until this message reaches every street and every home, change will remain incomplete. When plastic, chemicals, and organic waste dissolve into life-giving water, that very water becomes toxic. This toxic water flows into the fields, polluting the soil, reducing the quality of crops, and ultimately entering our food. This crisis isn't limited to agriculture. Animals, birds, and other creatures

that drink canal water become sick. The risk of waterborne diseases, skin conditions, digestive problems, and long-term serious illnesses is increasing. Scientists are increasingly warning that water pollution has become a silent disaster for human health. The core message of the “Listen to the Call of the Canals” campaign is simple and clear—religion means protecting nature. If God is omnipresent, then He is also present in rivers, canals, trees, and living beings. Then, what kind of faith is it to pollute these very elements in the name of worship? Pouring worship materials into canals is not religion, but unrighteousness. Master Bhupendra Godara's question speaks directly to society—“O Lord, why are people so disrespectful of nature in your name? What kind of devotion is this, filling life-giving canals with poison?” This question is the heart of this movement. No movement is successful unless the public becomes a part of it. The biggest achievement of this campaign is that it has changed the thinking of thousands of people. Now, in many places, instead of throwing puja materials into canals, people are burying them in the soil, placing them under plants, or turning to organic fertilizer. These small steps may seem simple, but they are the source of big changes. Culture changes only when habits change. “Listen to the Call of the Canals” is not just a warning, but a collective prayer—keep the canals clean, keep life safe. If the canals survive, fields will remain green, animals and birds will be protected, and future generations will enjoy the gift of clean water. This campaign reminds us that water is life, and protecting it is not the responsibility of any one individual or organization, but of all of us together. It's time we understand the difference between faith and superstition. True faith is that which saves life—not endangers it. "Listen to the call of the rivers" is actually the call of our conscience. The only

'Tell My Mother I Like Boys': Chef Suvir Saran Tells His Boldest Story Yet

In his new memoir, Tell My Mother I Like Boys, Michelin-starred chef Suvir Saran trades the precision of a professional kitchen for something far riskier: emotional nakedness. The result is a book that reads less like a celebrity memoir and more like a long, unflinching exhale, the kind you can only take once you have lived through enough fire, enough reinvention, enough heartbreak to stop being afraid of your own truth. Saran begins at the beginning, not with triumph, but with hesitation. He describes his birth as an "unsummoned third", a child kept almost by accident, raised in a Delhi where plurality was an instinct rather than a slogan. These early chapters are among the book's strongest: the rituals with his grandfather, the mixed faith prayer room, the quiet resilience of his mother. Saran approaches memory the way a chef approaches flavour: he lets it simmer, he layers it, he gives it time. And he refuses to simplify anything just because it is painful. Cooking As Memory The first act of the memoir, his childhood in Delhi, Nagpur, and back to Delhi, is told with striking sensory detail. Food is everywhere: laddoos being shaped in Panditji's kitchen, the bitter-sweet ritual of feeding birds as a form of remembrance, the scent of Nagpur oranges, the eggplant pickle from an upstairs neighbour that will later travel with him across continents. But this is not a "chef memoir" in the conventional sense. Cooking is not treated as destiny; it is treated as memory, inheritance,



and sometimes refuge. Saran writes of kitchens the way some people write of prayer halls. What gives the memoir its edge, however, is not nostalgia but confrontation. Saran does not gloss over cruelty, particularly the cruelty children inflict on each other. His descriptions of teasing, shame, and internal panic are direct without being self-pitying. The passages about being dressed up by cousins, the confusion that followed, and the quiet fear of not fitting into the masculine mould expected of him remain some of the most affecting sections of the book. He writes about queerness as a lifelong negotiation, a truth he understood long before he had the language for it. The memoir's second act, Manhattan, is where the book shifts gears. The city is painted as both tormentor and liberator. Saran writes candidly about ambition, love, betrayal, infidelity, illness, and the brutal loneliness of a life that looks glamorous from the outside. The Michelin star is mentioned, of course, but never glamorised. If anything,

Saran questions the very culture that once applauded him. He admits mistakes, he admits vanity, he admits selfishness. That honesty is precisely what strengthens the book. Readers expecting a glossy narrative about culinary success might be startled by how much space Saran devotes to his emotional interior life: relationships that shaped him, relationships that broke him, and the grief that followed him across continents. His reflections on caregiving - both the caregiving he received from friends, and the caregiving he had to offer in times of loss - are some of the memoir's most assured lines. Confession, Observation But the memoir's deepest emotional anchor is his mother. Every few chapters, the narrative returns to her, her pragmatism, her quiet endurance, her refusal to flinch even when the world around her did. In one of the book's early chapters, he recalls her comforting him after he fails a dictation test, turning pain into possibility with nothing more than tenderness and

chhola bhatura. These recurring portraits of his mother are crafted with restraint, not sentimentality. She is not idealised; she is honoured. The writing style is surprisingly literary. At times, almost too lyrical, but Saran generally knows when to pull back. His voice moves between the confessional and the observational with a natural ease, and the book's emotional honesty feels earned rather than performed. There are a few moments where the metaphors crowd each other, but the narrative never loses clarity. The last quarter, his fall, his illness, and his return to India, is the book's emotional core. When he writes about coming home "not in triumph but in tremor", the line lands with the weight of lived experience. And when he writes of India healing him, holding him, and giving him a second life, it is not a nationalistic flourish; it is gratitude, raw and grounded. Tell My Mother I Like Boys is not a typical chef memoir. It is not a coming-out manifesto. It is not a voyeuristic celebrity tell-all. It is something far more intimate: a life examined honestly. A narrative built on vulnerability rather than victory laps. A story that refuses to tidy up the messiness of identity, love, culture, and family. It is also a reminder that some of the most compelling memoirs come from people who have lived several lives in one, and are finally ready to tell the truth about all of them. Saran does exactly that. It is a brave book. A generous book. And a deeply human one.



Building on Customer Trust and Momentum, Xiaomi Expands Premium Service Centres to 15 New Cities

Visakhapatnam, January 30th 2026: Xiaomi, a global technology leader, today announced the strategic expansion of its Premium Service Centre network in India with the launch of centres across 15 new cities. This marks the second phase of Xiaomi's plan to establish 100 Premium Service Centres across the country. The expansion strengthens Xiaomi's value-for-experience strategy, with a clear focus on delivering a more accessible, reliable, and experience-led after-sales ownership journey for customers. Today, new centers are being launched in Visakhapatnam, Surat, and Lucknow. Two more stores in Ludhiana and Indore respectively, were launched on January 29. By the first quarter (Q1) of 2026, these Premium Service Centers will be available in a total of 15 cities. The new-generation Premium Service Centres are designed to go beyond traditional repairs, offering a more holistic, elevated service experience. Customers can expect faster turn-around times, access to dedicated technical expertise, hands-on product interaction zones, and enhanced convenience features, all thoughtfully designed to make the service experience simpler, more transparent, and more reassuring. Not just that, the centres are envisioned as more than just service points; they serve as holistic experience hubs. Customers can explore and purchase



Xiaomi products, enjoy paperless operations across touchpoints in line with the brand's sustainability focus, and participate in community-building initiatives. One such initiative is Xiaomi Days, which will be held every Wednesday, offering exclusive benefits. Speaking on this, Sudhin Mathur, Chief Operating Officer, Xiaomi India said "The strong response to our first 10 Premium Service Centres reaffirmed that customers increasingly value faster, more dependable, and experience-led after-sales support. As part of Xiaomi's value-for-experience strategy for 2026, the expansion into 15 additional cities is a natural next

step in extending this service model to more users across India. As customers hold on to their devices for longer, reliable service becomes essential. Through our Premium Service Centres, we are helping customers maintain their devices and get more value over time, reinforcing our commitment to long-term ownership support." The new centres also introduce a range of enhanced customer benefits aimed at making premium after-sales support more inclusive and rewarding. Women customers will be eligible for special 30-day service discounts, while defence personnel and persons with disabilities can avail lifetime waivers on

service charges. Customers will also benefit from limited-period offers, including up to 50% discounts on select spare parts and complimentary screen protectors for select devices, subject to availability. Together, these initiatives are designed to make high-quality after-sales care more accessible, while encouraging customers to extend the longevity of their devices through trusted service support. As smartphone replacement cycles continue to lengthen, reliable after-sales service is becoming an integral part of the ownership experience. Xiaomi devices are engineered for durability and supported by years of software and security updates. Through its expanding premium service network, Xiaomi is further strengthening its role as a long-term partner, helping users maintain, protect, and derive greater value from their devices as part of a more sustainable and responsible ownership journey. Xiaomi has seen a strong and encouraging customer response to the first 10 Premium Service Centres launched in 2025, consistently delivering on its service commitments. Nearly 95% of devices were repaired and delivered within 24 hours, repeat visits were kept below 1%, and customer escalations remained under 0.5%, reflecting high service efficiency, quality resolution, and strong customer confidence in the premium service model.

CREDAI HYDERABAD ON ECONOMIC SURVEY 2025–26

Hyderabad: January 30th, 2026: CREDAI Hyderabad welcomes the Economic Survey 2025–26, which reaffirms Hyderabad's role as a key driver of India's urban and economic growth. The Survey projects 7.4% GDP growth for FY26, supported by strong Gross Fixed Capital Formation nearing 30% of GDP, a resilient services sector growing at 9.1%, and credible fiscal consolidation with the fiscal deficit at around 4.8% of GDP. Hyderabad's growth stands out for its simultaneous urban densification and rapid peripheral expansion, reflecting sustained demand for high-density residential and commercial development. This pattern highlights the need for possibility-oriented urbanism, where infrastructure, mobility, and utilities keep pace with city expansion. The Survey highlights strong sectoral performance, with the Financial, Real Estate and Professional Services sector growing by 9.9% in H1 FY26, while construction recorded 7.4% growth, underscoring the multiplier impact of public capital expenditure on housing, jobs, and infrastructure. Commenting on the Economic Survey, Mr. Jagannath Rao Bandari, President-elect, CREDAI Hyderabad, said: "The Economic Survey captures Hyderabad's unique growth trajectory, with both core densification and peripheral expansion progressing together. To sustain this momentum, it is critical to address constraints in land, mobility, and infrastructure through predictable regulations, contextual compliance, and trust-based governance." CREDAI Hyderabad aligns with the Survey's assessment that the high cost of capital remains a key constraint and calls for risk-mitigation tools, partial credit guarantees, and improved access to long-term finance to support housing



supply across segments. Looking ahead to the Union Budget 2026, CREDAI Hyderabad expects continued emphasis on infrastructure funding and public capex to sustain 7–8% construction growth, along with expanded support for PMAY 2.0, single-window clearances, and viability gap funding for affordable housing. On taxation for homebuyers, CREDAI Hyderabad urges further reforms including higher income-tax deductions on home loans, NPS-like tax benefits linked to housing finance, and rationalisation of stamp duties, which will enhance affordability and boost middle-class homeownership. CREDAI Hyderabad reiterates its commitment to reform-led growth, affordable housing, and sustainable urban development, and looks forward to policies that strengthen Hyderabad's contribution to India's \$5 trillion economy.

PhysicsWallah Announces Free Doubt Resolution Support and Mock Preboards for Class 10 CBSE Students across India

Education company PhysicsWallah (PW) announced a student support initiative aimed at assisting aspirants appearing for the Class 10 CBSE Board Exams in 2026. Students across the country can avail free doubt resolution and expert guidance. This initiative is not only open for PW students but any Class 10 student across the country. The initiative is designed to help reduce academic pressure during the exam season. PW will also facilitate offline preboards in Science and Mathematics nationwide in an attempt to strengthen student readiness. These examinations will be conducted at PW's physical centres like Vidyapeeth, Pathshala, and Tuition Centres to simulate real board exam conditions and help students improve proficiency and time-management skills under exam-day con-

straints. Ankit Gupta, CEO of Vidyapeeth-Offline of PhysicsWallah (PW), said, "Education should never be restricted by boundaries, especially when a student is preparing for a defining moment like the Board Exams. Many students lack immediate access to quality exam support and we know even a single unresolved doubt can cause stress. By opening our Vidyapeeth, Pathshala and Tuition centres to every student, regardless of whether they are enrolled with us or not, we are simply doing what is right for the student community. We want aspirants to feel supported, confident, and ready to perform to their full potential." Students across India can visit their nearest PW Vidyapeeth, Pathshala or Tuition Centre to obtain a Doubt Buster Pass, valid till the board exams, and book a slot for

doubt resolution. Experienced faculty members will address specific queries, explain complex topics, and offer strategic guidance on answer-writing techniques. Students can clarify doubts across subjects including Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Biology, and also receive revision cards for the CBSE Class 10 syllabus to support their preparation. Students can book a slot at their nearest centre for the Science exam scheduled on 1 February 2026 and the Mathematics exam scheduled on 8 February 2026 through the PW app. The initiative is being rolled out through PhysicsWallah's network of 192 tech-enabled Vidyapeeth and Pathshala centres located across 132 cities in India as of 30th September 2025.

About PhysicsWallah
PhysicsWallah Limited

(PW), an education platform, was founded in 2020 by Alakh Pandey and Prateek Maheshwari. Headquartered in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, PW aims to facilitate education through online, offline and hybrid platforms. Initially launched as a YouTube channel in 2014, PW now offers education to students through its native app, tech-enabled offline and hybrid centres, and YouTube channels. PW's offerings span various educational segments, including test preparation, a skilling vertical, coaching for higher education, and facilitating education abroad, with programmes available in multiple vernacular languages. PhysicsWallah Limited was listed on the National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE) and BSE Limited (Bombay Stock Exchange) on November 18, 2025.

BrahMos MD & CEO J.R. Joshi Inaugurates Manappuram Foundation's 'Digital Dementia' Programme

Hyderabad, January 30th 2026: Manappuram Foundation organised the fourth edition of its mental health awareness programme on 'Digital Dementia' at ITC Kakatiya Hotel, Hyderabad. The programme was inaugurated by Dr Jaiteerth R. Joshi, Managing Director and CEO of BrahMos Aerospace. In his inaugural address, Dr Joshi highlighted the alarming growth of digital dependency among youngsters and teenagers and stressed the need to address its serious psychological impacts. He emphasised that mental health protection and psychological safety must be accorded equal importance alongside technological advancement. Eminent de-addiction expert on technology dependence, Dr Manoj Sharma, who is also a Professor at NIMHANS, Bengaluru, led the programme. Dr Sharma delineated various mental ailments that people are developing due to



overdependence on digital technology. He also emphasised the judicious use of digital technology and the need to stay healthy by keeping away from digital devices for fixed durations. The programme, organised by Manappuram Finance Ltd, received an encouraging response and appreciation from various sections of society. On the occasion, Mr V. P. Nandakumar, Chairman and Managing

Director of Manappuram Finance Ltd, honoured Dr Joshi in recognition of his valuable contributions to the defence technology sector. "Under Dr Joshi's leadership, BrahMos Aerospace continues to scale new heights by achieving significant technological breakthroughs, global recognition and large commercial orders," said Mr Nandakumar. BrahMos, the world-class supersonic cruise missile jointly developed by Russia and India, has

emerged as a symbol of India's technological prowess, with its unmatched speed, precision and multi-platform launch capability. Around 200 leading businesspersons and professionals from various fields participated in the programme. Mr K. M. Asharaf, Senior PRO of Manappuram Finance, welcomed the dignitaries, while Lion's Club International leader Mr Saju Antony Pathadan proposed the vote of thanks.

HCLTech and Guardian Partner to Accelerate AI-driven Technology Transformation Journey



NOIDA, India, Jan 28, 2026 — HCLTech, a leading global technology company, has been selected by The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America® (Guardian), one of the largest U.S. life insurers and a major provider of employee benefits, to accelerate Guardian's AI-driven technology transformation journey and deliver seamless customer experience. The multi-year partnership reflects a broader shift toward long-term technology modernization at Guardian, with an emphasis on AI-led transformation and streamlined IT operations. As part of the partnership, Guardian will leverage HCLTech's GenAI service

transformation platform, AI Force, to support ongoing enterprise-wide technology innovation. This partnership will enhance Guardian's operational efficiencies, improve engineering outcomes and accelerate time-to-market across application development, support, testing and infrastructure management. "Partnering with HCLTech is a key step in our long-term strategy to harness data and AI, consolidate services with a single strategic partner and modernize our core technology foundations," said Steve Rullo, chief digital and technology officer at Guardian. "This partnership allows us to accelerate customer facing digi-

tal innovation, improve efficiency across our operations, and deliver a more seamless experience for the customers and policyholders who trust Guardian." "Partnering with one of the largest insurers in the U.S. underscores HCLTech's leadership in financial services, driven by our AI expertise and deep industry experience," said Srinivasan Seshadri, chief growth officer and global head of financial services at HCLTech. "It is an exciting time to be a part of Guardian's business growth as we leverage our tech transformation experience and global footprint to help the company realize its business goals."

FUJIFILM India Introduces Advance Imaging and Healthcare IT Solutions to Support India's Preventive Healthcare Ambition

Hyderabad, January 30, 2026: India's radiology and diagnostic imaging ecosystem is entering a new phase of growth, driven by rising life expectancy, increasing health awareness, and the expanding reach of public healthcare initiatives such as Ayushman Bharat, which are fueling demand for timely, accurate, and accessible diagnostics across the country.

As imaging volumes grow across preventive, acute, and chronic care, there is a parallel need for advanced, scalable technologies that can support high-quality diagnosis while strengthening healthcare delivery beyond metro cities. Responding to these evolving needs, FUJIFILM India, a leader in advanced diagnostic imaging solutions, today announced the launch of Four new diagnostic imaging and healthcare IT solutions at the Indian Radiological and Imaging Association (IRIA) 2026, underscoring its commitment to strengthening India's diagnostic imaging ecosystem through advanced,



clinically validated, and workflow-centric technologies that enable diagnostic confidence, operational efficiency, and broader access across diverse clinical environments. At the center of the showcase is FCT iStream, Fujifilm's latest CT scan system, built on a "Less is More" design philosophy. FCT iStream combines high-definition imaging, dose optimization, and AI-enabled workflow automation powered by the Synergy-Drive

workflow suite and REILI Medical AI technologies. "The CT scanner automates key steps across the imaging process, from patient positioning & scan planning to image reconstruction & seamless integration with SYNAPSE 3D Workstation for advanced visualization, helping radiology departments to manage rising patient volumes with greater efficiency and consistency. Advanced reconstruction and Organ-based dose modulation

technologies further enable high diagnostic confidence at significantly reduced radiation doses, supporting a wide range of clinical applications including oncology, cardiology, neurology, trauma, and preventive health screening. Complementing its CT offerings, FUJIFILM India also highlighted its women's health imaging portfolio, led by advanced full-field digital mammography systems, including AMULET SOPHISTRY and AI Designed with a

strong focus on patient comfort and diagnostic precision, these mammography machines support early breast cancer detection through high-resolution imaging, AI-assisted positioning, tomosynthesis, and contrast-enhanced mammography capabilities.

Together, they reinforce FUJIFILM India's continued emphasis on preventive healthcare and improved screening outcomes, particularly in women's health. The portfolio further includes digital radiography (X-ray) systems, such as the FDR Smart X Essential series, engineered for reliability, flexibility, and efficient workflows in high-throughput clinical environments. Designed for deployment across tertiary hospitals, diagnostic centres, and space-constrained facilities, these X-ray systems combine consistent image quality with space-efficient configurations and streamlined operations, supporting broader access to essential radiography services across urban and non-metro settings.

Trump says 'it would be great' if US 'didn't have to use' military force on Iran

Donald Trump says he has told Iran it has to do "two things" to avoid military action, as the US builds up its forces in the Gulf. "Number one, no nuclear. And number two, stop killing protesters," the US president said, adding that "they are killing them by the thousands". "We have a lot of very big, very powerful ships sailing to Iran right now, and it would be great if we didn't have to use them." His latest remarks follow weeks of pressure on Iran to negotiate a deal on its nuclear programme. Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has said armed forces were ready "with their fingers on the trigger" to "immediately and powerfully respond" to any aggression. Araghchi arrived in Istanbul on Friday for talks expected to focus on averting the threat of any military action by the US. Later, in a call with his Iranian counterpart



Masoud Pezeshkian, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Turkey was willing to help "de-escalate" tensions between Tehran and Washington, his office said. Trump made his latest comments at the premiere of a documentary about his wife Melania. Earlier this

week, Trump wrote on Truth Social: "Hopefully Iran will quickly 'Come to the Table' and negotiate a fair and equitable deal - NO NUCLEAR WEAPONS." He warned that a "massive Armada is heading to Iran", and it was "ready, willing, and able to rapidly fulfil its

mission, with speed and violence, if necessary". In response, Araghchi said: "Iran has always welcomed a mutually beneficial, fair and equitable NUCLEAR DEAL - on equal footing, and free from coercion, threats, and intimidation - which ensures Iran's rights

to PEACEFUL nuclear technology, and guarantees NO NUCLEAR WEAPONS." "Such weapons have no place in our security calculations and we have NEVER sought to acquire them," he added.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi said that no negotiations with the US were currently under way, despite "exchanges of messages". Earlier this month, Trump said that the US would come to the "rescue" of Iranian protesters if authorities used violence against them. Demonstrations began in late December after a sharp fall in the value of the Iranian currency, but swiftly evolved into a crisis of legitimacy for the country's clerical leadership. Tehran locals told the BBC that the crackdown on protestors was unlike anything that they had witnessed before.

Though Trump initially promised that "help is on the way", he later said that he had been told on good authority that the execution of demonstrators had stopped. The US-based Human Rights Activists News Agency (Hrana) says it has so far confirmed the killing of at least 6,479 people since the unrest began, including 6,092 protesters, 118 children and 214 people affiliated with the government. It is also investigating approximately 17,000 more reported deaths. Iranian authorities said last week that more than 3,100 people had been killed, but that the majority were security personnel or bystanders attacked by "rioters". The European Union has since added Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) to its terrorist list, in addition to placing new sanctions on six entities and 15 individuals in Iran.

BURKINA FASO JUNTA ANNOUNCES BAN ON ALL POLITICAL PARTIES



Burkina Faso's junta has announced a ban on all political parties, whose activities have been suspended since the military seized power in 2022. Junta leader Captain Ibrahim Traoré has been criticised for suppressing dissent and the move will be seen as the latest move to tighten control. According to Burkina Faso's Interior Minister Emile Zerbo, the ban is part of plans to "rebuild the state" after what he said were "numerous abuses" in the country's multiparty system. Zerbo said the system had been

"promoting division among citizens and weakening the social fabric". Parties were previously banned from holding public gatherings but the new decree stops them from operating altogether. All the assets of the dissolved parties would be transferred to the state, Zerbo said, adding that a draft law would be sent to the Transitional Legislative Assembly "as soon as possible". The country had more than 100 registered political parties before the coup, with 15 represented in parliament after the 2020 general election.

Ukraine sees quieter night as Trump says Putin will not attack its cities



Ukraine has seen a relatively quiet night after Donald Trump said his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin had agreed not to attack Kyiv and "various towns" during a cold snap. The Kremlin confirmed it had received the US president's request, but declined to give specifics about what was agreed. While Trump did not say when the pause could begin, air raid alerts sounded in just eight Ukrainian regions overnight into Friday, with two minor injuries recorded in Zaporizhzhia. Temperatures in the capital, Kyiv, are due to plummet to -24C (-11F) over the coming days. Russia has recently intensified attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure, as it has during cold periods since its invasion began. Kyiv has previously seen periods without aerial attacks, so it is unclear whether a quieter night in the capital was a result of any agreement between Trump and Putin. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on

Friday that Putin had received a personal request from Trump to halt strikes on Kyiv until 1 February, to create favourable conditions for peace talks, but declined to comment further. Ukrainian officials had been expecting a major attack this weekend ahead of the current cold spell - if that does not take place, it could mark a significant step in US-led efforts to bring the war to a close. Ukraine's air force said more than 100 drones and a ballistic missile were fired at regions near the front line overnight. But, as of Friday morning, there have been no fresh attacks on electricity or heating infrastructure crucial for keeping people warm. Trump told a televised cabinet meeting in Washington DC on Thursday: "I personally asked President Putin not to fire into Kyiv and the various towns for a week, and he agreed to do that." He added: "It was very nice. A lot of people said, 'Don't waste the call, you're not going to get that.'"

Music legend Fela Kuti becomes first African to get Grammys Lifetime Achievement Award



Long crowned by his legion of fans as the king of Afrobeat, the late Fela Kuti is finally being recognised by the global music industry. The Nigerian star will posthumously receive a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Grammys - almost three decades after his death at the age of 58. "Fela has been in the hearts of the people for such a long time. Now the Grammys have acknowledged it, and

it's a double victory," his musician son Seun Kuti tells the BBC. "It's bringing balance to a Fela story," he adds. Rikki Stein, a long-time friend and manager of the late musician, says the recognition by the Grammys is "better late than never". "Africa hasn't in the past rated very highly in their interests. I think that's changing quite a bit of late," Stein tells the BBC. Following the global success of Afrobeats, a genre inspired by Fela's sound, the Grammys introduced the category of Best African Performance in 2024. This year, Nigerian superstar Burna Boy also has a nomination in the Best Global Music Album category. But Fela Kuti will be the first African to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Paytm Delivers Third Straight Profitable Quarter as PAT Rises to 225 Crore; Revenue Increases to 2,194 Crore in Q3 FY 2026

Paytm (One 97 Communications Limited), India's full stack merchant payments leader serving MSMEs and enterprises, and a leading financial services distribution company, and the pioneer of mobile payments, QR codes, and Soundbox, today announced its financial results for the quarter ending December 2025 (Q3 FY26) reporting its third consecutive profitable quarter, driven by strong monetisation, higher payments GMV, merchant subscriptions, and distribution of financial services revenue. In the December quarter, Paytm reported a profit after tax (PAT) of 225 crore, an improvement of 433 crore year-on-year. EBITDA for the quarter improved to 156 crore with an EBITDA margin of 7%, reflecting an improvement of 379 crore

YoY driven by revenue growth and continued operating leverage. Contribution profit stood at 1,249 crore, up 30% YoY with a contribution margin of 57%, an improvement of 5 percentage points YoY. Paytm UPI continued to gain market share for the third consecutive quarter. Paytm's consumer UPI GMV grew 35% in the last nine months versus industry GMV growth of 16%. In Q3 FY26, operating revenue grew 20% YoY to 2,194 crore, led by higher payments GMV, increase in merchant subscriptions and growth in distribution of financial services. On a like-for-like basis, revenue growth was approximately 25%. Paytm said that there was an insignificant impact on revenue from industry stoppage of rent payments through credit card (PA PG guidelines, Sep

2025) and Real Money Gaming (RMG) Act, Aug 2025, as the company has taken proactive compliance measures over the past few years. Payments services revenue (including other operating revenue) grew 21% YoY to 1,284 crore. Net payment revenue increased by 25% YoY to 613 crore, due to improved payment processing margin and increase in merchant subscriptions which grew by 27 lakh YoY to reach 1.44 crore. Payments GMV grew 24% YoY to 6.2 lakh crore. In Q3 FY 2026, distribution of financial services revenue grew 34% YoY to 672 Cr, driven by continued growth in distribution of merchant loans and wealth products. This is despite lower volumes under the Default Loss Guarantee (DLG) program, which leads to lower revenue and lower

other direct costs. Indirect expenses declined 8% YoY to 1,092 crore, driven by lower employee costs (including ESOP costs) and lower Provisions for Doubtful Debt (PDD). Cash balance stood at 12,882 crore as of the quarter ending December 2025, providing continued capital flexibility to expand business. During the quarter, the offline merchant business was transferred to Payments Services Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of the company, in line with regulatory guidelines. Payments Services Limited received final approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as an Online Payment Aggregator. Further, the RBI authorised PPSL to operate as a Payment Aggregator for offline and cross-border payments.

SYRIAN GOVERNMENT REACHES DEAL WITH KURDISH-LED FORCES

Syria's government has reached a deal with the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) militia alliance that would see the gradual integration of Kurdish forces and institutions into the state. This comes after weeks of clashes which saw Syrian troops reclaim large swathes of territory in the north-east that had been under SDF control for more than a decade. US envoy Tom Barrack called it "a profound and historic milestone in Syria's journey toward national reconciliation, unity, and enduring stability". Earlier this month - and after its major territorial losses - the SDF



agreed to a ceasefire that saw much of its hold brought under government control, but reports of clashes continued. Much like that 14-point agreement, Friday's deal would see SDF withdraw from points of contact, its members join the Syrian army and government, and the

integration of its administrative and civil bodies into those of the state. The SDF said the agreement also includes the formation of a military division consisting of three brigades made of its members. The statement on X added that an agreement on the civil and education-

al rights for Kurdish people was also reached, as well as a guarantee that those displaced would be allowed to return to their homes. Part of the deal saw the transfer of prisons, oil and gas fields - which were under SDF control - to Damascus. Syrian troops seized control of the Omar facility, the country's largest oilfield, after the SDF pulled back. Earlier, the army took the strategic Tabqa dam on the Euphrates river. The Kurds previously controlled nearly a third of Syria's territory with the support of the US after it helped defeat the Islamic State (IS) group.

Panama voids Hong Kong-based firm's canal port contracts



Panama's Supreme Court has annulled contracts allowing a Hong Kong-based company to operate container ports on the Panama Canal. The ruling comes a year after US President Donald Trump claimed China was "operating the Panama Canal" - the main shipping link between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans - in his inaugural speech. CK Hutchison Holding, through its subsidiary the Panama Ports Company (PPC), has operated two of the five ports since the 1990s. It had previously agreed to sell them to a group led by a US investment firm under a wider deal. The court found that laws allowing the firm to operate the ports were "unconstitutional", but PPC said the ruling "lacks legal basis". Trump has made repeated claims that the Central American canal is under Chinese control. During his address last January, he said: "China is operating the Panama Canal and we didn't give it to China. We gave it to Panama and we're taking it back." The following month, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio also

demanding that Panama make "immediate changes" to what he called the "influence and control" of China over the canal. Panama has previously rejected the US government's claims and President Jose Raul Mulino has said the canal "is and will remain" in his country's hands. There is no public evidence to suggest China exercises control over the canal, though Chinese companies have a significant presence there. CK Hutchison, founded by Hong Kong billionaire Li Ka-shing, is not owned by the Chinese government. But Beijing's tighter political control over Hong Kong in recent years has changed how the company is viewed internationally. Its global assets - which include ports and logistics hubs - are now often seen through the lens of wider concerns about China's influence. Against a backdrop of rivalry between the US and China over global trade routes, as well as the Trump administration's focus on US dominance over the western hemisphere, the ruling on Thursday is likely to be seen as a victory for Washington.

TRUMP NOMINATES FEDERAL RESERVE CRITIC KEVIN WARSH TO RUN US CENTRAL BANK

US President Donald Trump says Kevin Hassett, who had been seen as a frontrunner for the Fed role, would have made "a great Chairman" but that he couldn't afford to spare him. Hassett is a long-time conservative economist and key Trump economic adviser. Taking to Truth Social in the last few minutes, Trump says Hassett is "highly respected" and "is doing such an outstanding job". "I just didn't want to let him go. Kevin is indescribably good so, as the expression goes, "if you can't do better, don't try to fix it!" In our next post, we'll bring you more on who Kevin Hassett is. Kevin Warsh has been at the top of Trump's list of favourites to lead the Federal Reserve since the president's

first term in office. The fact it took Trump this long to name him is down to one problem: that Warsh has for years been seen as a voice for higher interest rates. That's at odds with Trump - a self-described "low interest rate guy" of longstanding, who has put unprecedented public pressure on the Fed to slash borrowing costs. Since Trump's election, Warsh has taken steps to shed his reputation in media appearances and opinion columns. But Trump has remained uneasy, openly worrying about whether candidates would say one thing while jockeying for the job but do another once it was secured. But he also needs his pick to pass muster in Congress and on Wall Street, where the



potential for an independent streak is seen as a plus. For now, Warsh seems to have satisfied the president's concerns. But Trump's swift turn on his last pick for Fed chair - Powell - should serve as a cautionary tale for anyone taking the job. Trump said Kevin Warsh was from "central casting" - and in many ways he is a fairly typ-

ical central banker, as a former Federal Reserve governor and adviser to the Bank of England. Hence the markets' reaction to rumours of his appointment. Gold prices had been soaring to record highs. This was partly driven by fears that Trump would choose a Fed chairman who would cave in to his demands to cut interest

rates, leading to a falling dollar and rising inflation. Buying gold is a strategy to protect against those things. Compared to other candidates, Warsh is seen as a "relatively safe choice", in the words of Capital Economics' analyst Stephen Brown, and less likely to "morph into a full-blown Trump stooge". Gold slumped as reports of his impending appointment emerged, even falling below \$5000 an ounce at one stage this morning. Kevin Warsh, a Wall Street veteran and a former Federal Reserve member, faces one of the world's most coveted policy-making jobs - but perhaps also one of the trickiest. This selection process has not just been about who gets to be the world's most powerful

banker - but also the future of the central bank's independence. Kevin Warsh is a rare candidate who appears to appease both the president and investors. Warsh believes that rates should be lower and that the AI revolution can help contain inflationary pressures - aligning with the president. Meanwhile, some investors believe Warsh's track record on taking a tough line on inflation during his previous stint as Fed Chair hints at a pragmatic approach. He now undergoes a Senate confirmation, where there is resistance to appointing a new chair while an investigation into the present chair is ongoing. And then, once in post, he will need to prove his credibility to markets.

Australian Open semi-finals: Djokovic leads Sinner by break in fourth set

Serbian tennis star Novak Djokovic takes on Italy's Jannik Sinner in the second semi-final of the Australian Open 2026. Djokovic, currently ranked No. 4 in the world, was two sets down against Lorenzo Musetti in the quarters, but entered the semis after Musetti was forced to retire due to injury. On the other hand, Sinner has been in imperious form. Apart from a short third round scare against Eliot Spizzirri, Sinner is yet to drop a set in any other match. When will the Novak Djokovic vs Jannik Sinner, Australian Open 2026 semi-final match take place? The Novak Djokovic vs Jannik Sinner, Australian Open 2026 semi-final match will take place on Friday, January 30 (IST). Where will the Novak Djokovic vs Jannik Sinner, Australian Open 2026 semi-final match be held? The Novak Djokovic vs Jannik Sinner, Australian Open 2026 semi-final match at the Rod



Laver Arena in Melbourne, Australia. What time will the Novak Djokovic vs Jannik Sinner, Australian Open 2026 semi-final match start? The Novak Djokovic vs Jannik Sinner, Australian Open 2026 semi-final match is expected to start from 2:00 PM IST. Which TV channels will show the live telecast of the Novak Djokovic vs Jannik Sinner, Australian Open 2026 semi-final match? The Novak



Djokovic vs Jannik Sinner, Australian Open 2026 semi-final match will be televised live on the Sony Sports network. Where to follow the live streaming of the Novak Djokovic vs Jannik Sinner, Australian Open 2026 semi-final match? The Novak Djokovic vs Jannik Sinner, Australian Open 2026 semi-final match will be live streamed on the FanCode app and website. Ten-time

Australian Open winner Novak Djokovic has broken reigning champion Jannik Sinner, taking a 5-4 lead in the fourth set of the Australian Open 2026 semi-final at the Rod Laver Arena in Melbourne on Friday. World No. 2 Sinner leads World No. 4 Djokovic two sets to one, having won the third set 6-4. Sinner won the first set 6-3, having broken Djokovic at the first time of asking.

However, Djokovic roared back to clinch the second set 6-3. Djokovic has not beaten Sinner in more than two years, but is gunning for his 11th Australian Open final. The winner of the match will take on World No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz in the final, who battled through injury to beat Alexander Zverev in a five-set thriller. Jannik Sinner has now smashed 21 aces today, making it his career best in a single match! He takes the ninth game to keep the set alive at 5-4, but Djokovic will win the set if he holds serve next time out. Djokovic bounces back, cancels Sinner's advantage and then goes on and wins the game to hold serve. Make that 5-3 to Djokovic in the fourth set. The crowd continues to chant "Novak, Novak". Sinner will now serve to stay in the set. Enthralling game between Sinner and Djokovic. Sinner threatens to break and takes a 30-40 lead, but Djokovic fights back to pull it to deuce. "

THE CURIOUS CASE OF VIRAT KOHLI'S INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT DISAPPEARING FOR HOURS

In a move that sent shockwaves through the digital world, Indian cricket legend Virat Kohli's Instagram account suddenly vanished on Friday morning. The profile, boasting over 274 million followers, left millions of fans in a state of confusion and panic as it appeared to be deactivated without warning. The disappearance was first noticed in the early hours of Friday. Users attempting to access the handle @virat.kohli were met with the standard error messages: "This page isn't available" or "The link may be broken." However, the anxious fans were able to catch their breath hours later when Kohli's Instagram account was reactivated, just hours later after its disappearance. The timing was particularly baffling given Kohli's red-hot form. He recently reclaimed the No. 1 ICC ODI batting ranking, though for a short interval, after a masterful 124-run knock against New Zealand earlier this month. As his Instagram went dark,



his profile on X (formerly Twitter) remained active, though the "King" offered no immediate explanation. With Virat silent, fans turned to the next best source: his wife, actor Anushka Sharma. Her recent posts were quickly repurposed as a community helpdesk, with comments ranging from the desperate to the hilarious. Here are some of the comments left on Anushka's Instagram by fans: It's 2 AM man and Kohli FC has started spamming under Instagram's official handle. Anushka maintained the

couple's trademark privacy, leaving the queries unanswered while fans speculated about everything from a high-level hack to a voluntary "digital detox." What Really Happened? As of Friday morning, the mystery has reached a semi-conclusion: Virat Kohli's account has officially returned to Instagram. While neither Meta nor Kohli's management team has released a statement, the "Nihilist Penguin" meme trend, which shows a penguin walking off into the distance, became the internet's favourite explanation for his brief exit.

Sri Lanka Breaks Silence On ICC-Bangladesh T20 World Cup 2026 Row

The Bangladesh vs International Cricket Council (ICC) T20 World Cup row continued for over three weeks before the apex cricket board gave its final verdict on the issue. Bangladesh had requested the board to shift their T20 World Cup 2026 matches out of India. They were set to play four matches in Kolkata and Mumbai in the initial stage of the tournament. Bangladesh wanted their games to be moved to Sri Lanka, citing security concerns in India. This request had arrived in the wake of Mustafizur Rahman's exit from the Indian Premier League. While the ICC rejected Bangladesh's request, it gave the side a 24-hour



deadline to make a final decision. As Bangladesh stayed firm on its stance, the apex cricket board eliminated the side and replaced it with Scotland, the top-ranked nation among those failed to qualify for the tournament. Several reports are suggesting that Pakistan may also boycott the event



in solidarity with Bangladesh or decide not to play their matches against India. While so much drama is taking place all around, Sri Lanka stayed silent for a long time. Given they are the co-hosts of the tournament alongside India, there was a lot of attention on their reticence.

The country has finally spoken up on the issue. Cricket Secretary Bandula Dissanayake told AFP that Colombo wanted to avoid being drawn into regional disputes. "In these disputes among India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, we are remaining neutral; all of these are friendly nations," he said. The official, however, added that Sri Lanka would be willing to host future tournaments for any of the countries if asked. Notably, Pakistan and India now play their matches at neutral venues due to deteriorating political tensions. As a result, Pakistan will be playing their T20 World Cup 2026 games in Sri Lanka, including the one against India.

"Passports Warm":

Uganda Offer ICC To Replace Pakistan In T20 World Cup After Iceland 'Withdraw' Proposal

The suspense surrounding the development is reaching a crescendo. Pakistan Cricket Board chief Mohsin Naqvi met the country's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and later posted that a decision on the "ICC matter" will be taken by Friday or Monday (February 2). Bangladesh has already been replaced by Scotland after the former's refusal to play its matches in India. If Pakistan also withdraws, there will be a big gap for the ICC to fill. In these circumstances, Uganda has offered its candidature if "a T20 World Cup seat opens." "Dear @ICC, If a T20 World



Cup seat opens, Uganda is ready - packed and padded. Passports warm (not ice). No bakers leaving ovens or ships U-turning. Heat, noise, pressure? We'll bring the bold kit," Cricket Uganda posted on X. Uganda's hilarious post

was in direct reference to what Iceland Cricket had posted a while back. They first offered to replace Pakistan and then "withdrew" as well. "It is with a heavy heart that we now announce our unavailability to replace Pakistan in the

upcoming T20 World Cup," they wrote, before adding: "Our loss is likely Uganda's gain. We wish them well." Amid the "threat," the Pakistan Cricket Board has already scheduled its T20 World Cup squad to depart for Colombo early on February 2, virtually ruling out any possibility of boycotting either the tournament or the marquee clash against India on February 15, sources close to the board told news agency PTL. "The PCB has already made travel arrangements for the World Cup squad to leave early morning on February 2 for Colombo," the source said.

MAVERICKS TEENAGER FLAGG BREAKS 46-YEAR NBA RECORD



Dallas Mavericks' Cooper Flagg became the first teenager to score 49 points in an NBA game as they lost 123-121 against the Charlotte Hornets at American Airlines Center. The 19-year-old beat Clifford Robinson's previous record of 45 points set in 1980 when playing for the New Jersey Nets against the Detroit Pistons. Flagg, making his 43rd appearance of the season, also became the youngest player to score at least 40 points and 10 rebounds. The Hornets' Kon Knueppel, who was roommates with Flagg at Duke University, also posted

impressive numbers. The 20-year-old scored a career-high 34 points and was successful with eight of his 12 three-pointer attempts - setting a rookie record for Charlotte. Their combined 83 points was the highest of any opposing rookies in more than 50 years, and they were the first pair of opposing rookies from the same college to each score 30-plus points in the same game. The Dallas Mavericks sit 12th in the Western Conference after falling to four successive defeats, while the Charlotte Hornets have won five in a row and are 11th in the Eastern Conference.

Sarfaraz Khan Wears Mask On Field As Pollution Row Strikes Ranji Trophy Match

The Ranji Trophy match between Mumbai and Delhi at the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) Ground on Thursday saw an unexpected controversy over pollution erupt, with players seen wearing masks on the field as play continued. While news about air quality causing discomfort to athletes usually makes headlines in Delhi, it was unexpectedly Mumbai where players complained of breathing difficulties this time. The Air Quality Index (AQI) during the first day's play on 29 January was around 160, which falls into the 'unhealthy' category. However, the AQI at the MCG-BKC Ground was likely higher due to nearby construction work, which caused the air quality to deteriorate rapidly. Despite the condi-



tions, the players had no option but to continue. India international Sarfaraz Khan, his brother Musheer Khan, and several other cricketers were seen wearing surgical masks. While these masks offer limited protection against filtering PM 2.5 pollutants, the players utilised whatever resources they had

at their disposal. "...new (building) construction work is being carried out here, and because of that, the players were feeling the pollution and having issues in breathing, so they put those on," Mumbai pacer Mohit Avasthi said on Day 1. According to a report in the Times of India, the Mumbai

team has lodged a formal complaint with the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA), urging them to take up the matter of the construction dust with the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB). A Mumbai team source told the TOI: "Mumbai's team management has written to the MCA regarding the pollution caused by the under-construction building nearby, which has led to a significant amount of dust on the ground. Players and support staff sitting outside the dressing room were also forced to wear masks. In fact, a few players from the Delhi team even requested masks from us. Running on the field is incredibly difficult in such conditions."

Suresh Raina's Clear Stance On Sanju Samson's Form, Picks India's Top 4 For T20 World Cup 2026

As the 2026 T20 World Cup approaches, former India stalwart and World Cup-winner Suresh Raina has thrown his weight behind Sanju Samson, calling for the team management to show the same level of patience with the Kerala wicketkeeper-batter as they once did with captain Suryakumar Yadav. Despite Samson's recent lean patch - averaging less than 20 since January 2025 - Raina believes the wicket-keeper batter's "class" and ability to handle both pace and spin make him an indispensable asset for the defending champions. Raina drew a direct parallel between Samson's current struggles and the period where Suryakumar



Yadav faced scrutiny over his consistency. "He hasn't scored runs in almost one year. But still, the captain and coach were backing him," Raina noted during a chat with NDTV on the sidelines of World Legends Pro T20 League, referring to Surya. "I think it's the same story with Sanju. If he gets a

chance, he'll definitely do well." Raina emphasized that Samson's experience and past performances, particularly his centuries in South Africa, prove he belongs at the highest level. He argued that the "top four" will be the engine room that determines whether India posts daunting totals of 190 or 210.

Suresh Raina on India's Top 4 A significant portion of Raina's analysis focused on the "Top 4" structure, which he believes will dictate India's success. He argued that the engine room of the batting order determines whether India posts par scores or unreachable totals of 210. Raina is particularly keen on the Abhishek Sharma and Ishan Kishan partnership. He praised their "fearless" intent, noting that they are capable of chasing 150 in just 10 overs. "The way Ishan and Abhishek are playing... they show intent from the first ball," Raina remarked. Raina highlighted the tactical advantage of having a left-right combination at the top.

FULHAM SIGN MAN CITY WINGER BOBB FOR £27M



Fulham have signed Norway winger Oscar Bobb from Manchester City for £27m. Bobb, 22, has agreed a five-and-a-half-year contract at Craven Cottage and will wear the number 14 shirt. "It feels great to be here. I had a great day meeting everyone and I'm very excited," Bobb said. He added that he consulted Fulham midfielder Sander Berge, his Norway teammate, before agreeing to the move. "I spoke to Sander, my good friend, and I spoke to the manager, and he explained what the system's like, and how the lads are, and how the club is," Bobb said. "He seemed lovely, so it was an easy decision basically." Bobb is a graduate of Manchester City's academy and made 61 appearances for the senior side, scoring 13 and assisting 27 across all competitions. Sources say City will retain a 20% sell-on clause, as well as matching rights for any future bids received by the Cottagers. An example of this being exercised by City came in the summer when they resigned goalkeeper James Trafford from Burnley after they also accepted a

bid from Newcastle. Bobb has fallen down the pecking order at City after the January arrival of Antoine Semenyo from Bournemouth. "I know there are rumours, I know there are talks," manager Pep Guardiola said on Saturday after City's win over Wolves. Asked if Bobb wants to leave the club, Guardiola replied: "I think so." Bobb, who has also had interest from Bundesliga side Borussia Dortmund, has featured 15 times for City this season without scoring. He last played on 17 December against Brentford in the Carabao Cup, when he hobbled off injured inside the opening 20 minutes. Fulham have lost only one of their last seven Premier League games under Silva and sit seventh in the table following their 2-1 win over Brighton on Saturday. Bobb has featured six times for Norway this year, helping them qualify for this summer's World Cup, and would unite with compatriot Sander Berge at Craven Cottage. He missed almost the whole of last season after fracturing a bone in his leg during training in August 2024.

Komalee Prasad Announces Powerful Female-Led Supernatural Crime Thriller 'Mandavetti', Directed by Saranraj Senthilkumar

Actress Komalee Prasad has announced her Tamil debut with Mandavetti, a powerful female-led supernatural crime thriller, marking a significant new chapter in her evolving cinematic journey. Sharing a heartfelt message seeking the love and blessings of her audience, Komalee described the project as one she and the team are deeply proud of, even as details are being kept under wra Produced by Tuskers Den Pictures and directed by Saranraj Senthilkumar, Mandavetti has officially gone on floors following a traditional pooja ceremony. Principal photography is currently underway in Usilampatti, Madurai district of Tamil Nadu, where the cast and crew have assembled to bring this performance-driven narrative to life. Komalee's announcement marks a new phase as she steps into a different language and cinematic space with Mandavetti. The film, a supernatural crime thriller, blends elements of mysticism with human emotion and is built around



a singular female perspective. Performance-centric in approach, the narrative explores themes of loss, identity, and survival, requiring both physical presence and emotional control from its lead, with

Komalee positioned firmly at the centre of the film's psychological and narrative core. Director Saranraj Senthilkumar, known for his work on Vella Kuthira, brings a cinematic sensibility rooted in atmosphere

and psychological tension. His approach to Mandavetti is mood-driven and unconventional, with a strong emphasis on restraint, texture, and character interiority. The supernatural elements function not as spectacle, but as extensions of the protagonist's inner landscape, reinforcing the film's emotional and thematic undercurrents. https://www.instagram.com/p/DS8F2XzE02P The supporting cast includes Thenappan, Gajaraj, and Amritha, each contributing to the film's layered emotional framework. The technical crew features cinematographer Prakash, editor Kuna, music director Deepak Venugopal, and stunt choreographer Gowtham, all collaborating to ensure the film's vision is realised with precision and craft. This Tamil debut marks a natural progression in Komalee Prasad's career, which has been defined by a preference for roles rooted in authenticity and emotional intelligence. Her filmography includes Telugu features such as

Napoleon, Rowdy Boys, Sebastian P.C. 524, HIT: The Second Case, HIT: The Third Case, and Sasivadane. She has also earned critical attention in the digital space with performances in Loser (ZEE5), Modern Love Hyderabad (Amazon Prime Video), and Touch Me Not (JioHotstar). Across mediums, Komalee's screen presence has consistently leaned toward inner life rather than surface display, earning recognition for her ability to carry narrative weight with restraint and honesty. With Mandavetti, she enters Tamil Cinéma not as a crossover gesture, but as a performer taking on a demanding, central role that reflects her evolving artistic choices. As production progresses, Mandavetti is shaping up to be a distinctive entry in contemporary Tamil genre cinema, one that foregrounds character, atmosphere, and a strong female point of view. Further announcements regarding the film's progress are expected in the coming months.

Grand Trailer Launch Event of ‘Sumathi Sathakam’ Held in Tirupati; Worldwide Release on February 6



‘Sumathi Shatakam’ to Release in Telugu States Through Mythri Movie Makers The trailer of the upcoming Telugu film ‘Sumathi Sathakam’ was launched in a grand manner in Tirupati. The film is set to be released across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana through Mythri Movie Makers. Produced by Sai Sudhakar Kommalapati under the Vision Movie Makers banner, Sumathi Sathakam is written and directed by MM Naidu. The film stars Amardeep Choudhary and Saylimchaudhri as the lead pair, with prominent roles played by Tasty Teja,

Mahesh Vitta, JDV Prasad, Akella Gopi Krishna, Kiran Vijay, Mirchi Kiran, Nellore Neeraja, Malakpet Shailaja, and others. The film has cinematography by S Halesh and editing by Naheed Mohammed. The previously released first look, teaser, and songs received a positive response from audiences. As part of the promotions ahead of the theatrical release on February 6, the trailer launch event was held today at Sri Ram Engineering College, Tirupati, in the presence of students and the film team. Director MM Naidu said: “I sincerely thank the man-

agement and students of Sri Ram Engineering College for hosting our trailer launch so grandly. Our producer Sai Sudhakar garu is the main strength of this film, who never compromised on quality. Hero Amardeep delivered an outstanding performance and completed the shoot despite a serious hand injury, showing great dedication. Tasty Teja plays an important role, and the film blends comedy, suspense, and devotional elements. Mahesh Vitta will be seen in a refreshing romantic role as a sarpanch, and Shaili impresses with her charm and performance.

Is Rakul Preet Singh quietly cutting ties with Hyderabad? Rumours fly

Hyderabad: Rakul Preet Singh is one of the most popular Indian actresses who enjoyed immense craze in South India, especially Tollywood. With her glamour, fitness appeal, and strong screen presence, Rakul quickly became a household name in

Telugu cinema. Rakul delivered several superhit Telugu films including Loukham, Kick 2, Nannaku Prematho, Dhruva, and Rarandoi Veduka Chudham. At one point, she was among the most sought-after actresses in Telugu cinema, working with top heroes and major production houses. Rakul later shifted her focus to Bollywood and married Bollywood actor-producer Jackky Bhagnani. She currently has Hindi films like De De Pyaar De 2 and Mere Husband Ki Biwi in the pipeline.

Moving Away from Hyderabad?

As per reports, Rakul has largely stayed away from Hyderabad since 2023 and has not signed new Telugu films. Industry buzz suggests she may be scaling down her Hyderabad footprint.



Heroes Sundeep Kishan and Vishwak Sen release Hero Thiruveer’s “Bhagavanthudu” movie teaser

Young and talented hero Thiruveer's new film is titled “Bhagavanthudu”. Faria Abdullah is playing the female lead in this film, while Kannada actor Rishi will be seen in a crucial role. The movie is being presented by Asian Films Narayan Das Narang and Panasa Shankaraya Goud, and produced by successful producer Ravi Panasa under the Ravi Panasa Film Corporation banner as Production No. 1. With this film, G. G. Vihari is making his debut as a director. “Bhagavanthudu” is being made as a romantic period political action drama and is gearing up for a summer release. The teaser of the film was released today in Hyderabad by heroes Vishwak Sen and Sandeep Kishan. At the event: Producer Seven Hills Satish said: "Ravi Panasa is a good friend of mine. At one point, he used to tell me not to get into film production. Now he himself is producing a film. Ravi Panasa has been successful as a businessman, and I hope he scores a big hit as a producer with this film as well." Actor Krish said: "I played an important role in “Bhagavanthudu”. My makeover in the film will be something new. We have seen



the film from the making stage itself. This movie will become a big hit and will be remembered as a notable film in the Telugu industry." Actor Jabardasth Abhi said: "Watching the teaser of “Bhagavanthudu” gave me goosebumps. This is a very different film in my career. Some people may not even recognize me in the teaser. We often talk about Kantara, and after “Bhagavanthudu” releases, people will speak about this film in the same way." Actor Ravinder Vijay said: "Venu Udugula always encourages me. He promised to give me a good character, and he kept his word by get-

ting me a strong role in this film. I want to talk about this movie at the success meet of “Bhagavanthudu”." Actor Mime Madhu said: “Bhagavanthudu” will be a memorable film in my career. The way the characters are designed and how the director extracted performances is superb. We are not saying this, you will say the same after watching the film. Thanks to director Gopi Vihari and producer Ravi Panasa for giving me this opportunity." Music director KP said: "I am happy to be introduced to the Telugu audience as a music director with “Bhagavanthudu”.

Thanks to director Gopi Vihari and producer Ravi Panasa for this opportunity. The songs and background score will impress you. I hope everyone supports our film “Bhagavanthudu”." Director and producer Madhura Sridhar Reddy said: "I have known Ravi Panasa since 2005. We both started our journeys in the industry around the same time. Ravi Panasa has worked on many films along with us. When he said he wanted to produce films, I was the one who warned him about production risks. Seeing his dream come true after 20 years makes me very happy.

'With Love' is a feel-good entertainer that everyone can connect with: Hero Rana Daggubati at the trailer launch event

'With Love' is a feel-good romantic entertainer starring Abhishan Jeevinth and Anaswara Rajan in the lead roles. Written and directed by Madan. The film is jointly produced by Soundarya Rajinikanth, Najarath Pasilian, and Mahesh Raj Pasilian under the banner of MRP Entertainment. 'With Love' is scheduled to release worldwide on February 6, 2026. Telugu theatrical distribution is handled by Suresh Productions. The makers recently held a trailer launch event. Speaking at the trailer launch event, hero Rana Daggubati said.. Hi everyone. Everyone here spoke very beautifully about unspeakable love. Everyone who saw the trailer also connected very



much. While watching it, it feels like this is our story. I wish Soundarya garu to do more films in Telugu. All the best to everyone. Thank you. Hero Abhishan Jeevinth said.. Greetings to

everyone. You all have given a great reception to the Tourist family. With Love is also a film with a very wonderful emotion. Everyone will connect with it. It will make us remem-

ber our memories. I definitely want everyone to watch this film and support it. This will be a favorite film of all of you. Rana garu has taken this film to a greater level. Thank you to

our directors and producers. I am very happy to come to Telugu with this film. Heroine Anaswara Rajan said.. Hello everyone. I am very happy that you all are correct after watching the trailer. The audience also corrects themselves when watching the movie. This is a very cute movie. I hope everyone will watch the movie in the theater and enjoy it. It is very happy to be back in Hyderabad once again. We made this movie with a lot of love. Thank you Rana garu. This movie will definitely entertain you all. Producer Soundarya Rajinikanth said.. Hello everyone. I am very happy to bring this film to Telugu. Rana is a childhood friend. I have many childhood memories with him. As

soon as I told him about this film, he brought it forward as his film. I am very happy that he is releasing this film. I am very happy to launch Abhishan as a hero. He gave a good success directly. He performed wonderfully in this film. Anaswara is already doing films in Telugu. I hope you all will definitely watch this film in theaters on February 6th. Producer Mahesh Raj said.. Greetings to everyone. Rana garu is very happy to release this film in Telugu. We made this film with a lot of love. I hope you will support this film like a tourist family. The film will be released on February 6. I hope you all will definitely support this film. I believe you all will enjoy this film.

Do you know how much Margot Robbie’s viral Taj Mahal necklace costs?



Hyderabad: Margot Robbie made a powerful style statement at the world premiere of Wuthering Heights held at the TCL Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles. The Australian actor arrived on the red carpet in a dramatic custom Schiaparelli couture gown, instantly catching the attention of fans and fashion lovers. But beyond the striking outfit, it was the jewellery around her neck that truly became the talking point of the evening.

her 40th birthday. The necklace is closely associated with their famous love story, which began during the filming of Cleopatra. Over the years, the piece has come to symbolise old Hollywood romance, luxury, and timeless glamour.

● The necklace’s deep Indian connection

What makes the necklace even more special is its strong connection to Indian history. The heart-shaped, table-cut diamond carries a Parsi inscription that reads “Love is Everlasting” and also has the name of Mughal empress Noor Jahan engraved on it. Historians believe the gem originally belonged to Mughal emperor Shah Jahangir, who gifted it to Nur Jahan. The diamond was later passed down to their son Shah Jahan. Some experts believe Shah Jahan then gifted the jewel to his wife Mumtaz.

● Everything about Margot Robbie’s necklace

Margot Robbie wore a legendary heart-shaped diamond necklace once owned by Hollywood icon Elizabeth Taylor. According to media reports, the necklace is valued at around eight million dollars, which is approximately Rs. 74 crore. The iconic jewel was gifted to Elizabeth Taylor by her fifth husband, actor Richard Burton, on