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THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES

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No personal agenda, will meet anyone for State's development: CM Revanth Reddy

January 16 TSIT : Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday asserted that he had no personal agenda and would meet anyone, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, solely in the interest of Telangana's development and for securing funds and projects for the State. Addressing a public meeting at Nirmal after laying foundation stones and inaugurating several development works in the erstwhile Adilabad district, the Chief Minister said politics should be confined to elections and that collective focus should thereafter shift to development. He recalled that the people of Nirmal had placed their trust in him, enabling him to become Chief Minister. Describing Adilabad as a land of valour and struggle, he referred to



the legacy of Kumuram Bheem and the historic fight for 'jal, jangal and zameen', and said the district had not received the level of development it deserved. Mr. Reddy assured that funds on par with those allocated to the Palamuru region would be sanctioned for Adilabad district as well. He announced that a university would be established at the Basara IIIT

and sought the cooperation of all public representatives for the project. The district would also be developed as an industrial hub, he said. The Chief Minister proposed the establishment of an airport in Adilabad district and said about 10,000 acres of land would be required for the project. He suggested that Prime Minister Modi be invited for the inauguration



once the airport becomes operational. Stressing the need to ensure irrigation water for the region, he said the Tummidihatti project must be taken up and completed. Mr. Reddy said he had been meeting the Prime Minister once every three months to seek central assistance for State projects. Responding to criticism over his frequent meetings with

Mr. Modi, he said it was the Centre that had to provide funds and projects, and that unless the State's requirements were conveyed, the Union government would not be aware of them. He alleged that the previous government had failed for a decade to effectively pursue Telangana's demands with the Centre, resulting in significant losses to the State. He

urged BJP leaders in Telangana also to approach the Prime Minister and help secure projects and financial assistance for the State. Announcing further initiatives, the Chief Minister said an Advanced Technology Centre would be sanctioned for Nirmal district, 22 crore would be allocated for the development of the Nagoba Jatara, and 300 crore had already been spent on the reconstruction and development of the Sammakka-Saralamma Jatara.



Israel kills 11 Palestinians
despite ceasefire agreement
entering Phase 2

RBI issues revised Integrated Ombudsman Scheme 2026

Mumbai: The central bank on Friday, January 16, issued the revised Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, 2026, aimed at further improving the efficiency of the resolution of complaints filed by aggrieved customers of banks and other regulated entities. It will come into force on July 1, 2026. "As the intent



of the Scheme is to provide a cost-effective and expeditious grievance redress, the proceedings

under the Scheme shall be summary in nature and shall not be bound by any rules of evidence," according to the circular on the revised Scheme. The Reserve Bank will appoint one or more of its officers as RBI Ombudsman and RBI Deputy Ombudsman, to carry out the functions entrusted to them under the Scheme. The appoint-

ments will be made generally for a period of three years at a time. The Reserve Bank said it will establish a Centralised Receipt and Processing Centre at one or more locations, as may be decided, to receive complaints filed under the Scheme and process them. Complaints can also be filed online.



57th Edition of #SundaysOnCycle

The City of Pearls

HYDERABAD Welcomes the Ride

18th January 2026 | 06:30 am

Gachibowli Stadium

Celebrating #CWG2030InBHARAT



DEMAND NOTICE

(Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act) read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) All of you the below-mentioned Borrowers are hereby informed that the Bank has initiated proceedings against you under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the Demand Notices on the dates mentioned below u/s 13(2) of the Act sent to you by Registered Post/ Ack due have been received by bank undelivered. All of you are hereby called upon to take notice and pay the outstanding loan amount mentioned below within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the Bank will proceed against all of you by exercising its right under Sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the Act by enforcing the below mentioned security to realize its dues with immediate effect to mention that the notice is addressed to all of you without prejudice to any other remedy available to the Bank. As security for the repayment interest and costs, The account has been classified as Non Performing Asset in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, it is the said loan to Axis Bank Ltd., all of you executed Loan Agreement, and also created, equitable mortgage by deposit of title deeds of the property detailed herein below : We draw your attention to Sec 13 (8) of the Securitisation Act as per which, no further steps shall be taken for transfer or sale of the secured asset, if the dues of the secured creditor together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by secured creditor is tendered by you at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer of the secured assets.

SL No: 1/Ref No. SARFAESI/1/3/2/AGRI/DEC/2025 **Date:** 30-12-2025

MR. NAGULA BHAGWANDU (Applicant): S/o. Nagula Ramulu, H.no. 4-3-74/3, Hamid Puram, Gsr Travels Adilabad, Telangana - 500401. **Demand Notice Date :** 30-12-2025. **Loan Account No:** 81670559. **NPA Date :** 04-12-2025. **Amount Outstanding:** Rs. 25,15,701/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh Fifteen Thousand Seven Hundred One Only)

(Description of the immovable properties): All That Part And Parcel Of The Existing R.C.C Roofed House With Open Place Bearing Municipal No. 4-3-74/63, Admeasuring 90 Sq Yds Or 75.34 Sq Mtrs Out Of 266.68 Sq Yds (middle Portion), Situated In Ward No. 4 Block No.3, At Backside Of Anand Bhavan (hameedpur), Adilabad, With Municipal Limits Of Adilabad, Within The Jurisdiction Of Registrar And Sub Registrar Adilabad Standing In The Name Of Mr. Nagula Bhagwandu Vide Doc No: 1661/2006 And Bound By: **Boundaries:** North: Remaining Part Of H.no.4-3-74/63, East: Road, South: Meera Bai Temple & House Of Shanker.

SL No: 2/Ref No. SARFAESI/1/3/2/AGRI/JAN/2026/1 **Date:** 06-01-2026

M/s. Balaji Traders (applicant), Rep By Its Proprietor: G. Seetha Ramajanyeyulu, S/o. Gubba Thirumalaiah, Shop No. 12-64, Ramakrishna Talkies Road, Nagarkurnool, Mahabubnagar, Telangana - 502092-1. **Mr. Gubba Seetha Ramajanyeyulu, S/o. Gubba Thirumalaiah, H.no. 12-39/1, Ram Nagar Colony, Nagarkurnool, Mahabubnagar, Telangana - 502092 Demand Notice Date :** 06-01-2026. **Loan Account No:** 81511616. **NPA Date :** 21-12-2025. **Amount Outstanding:** Rs. 81,07,813/- (Rupees Eighty-One Lakh Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Thirteen Only)

(Description of the immovable properties): Property-1: All That Part And Parcel Of The Existing R.C.C Roofed House With Open Place Bearing Municipal No. 4-3-74/63, Admeasuring 90 Sq Yds Or 75.34 Sq Mtrs Out Of 266.68 Sq Yds (middle Portion), Situated In Ward No. 4 Block No.3, At Backside Of Anand Bhavan (hameedpur), Adilabad, With Municipal Limits Of Adilabad, Within The Jurisdiction Of Registrar And Sub Registrar Adilabad Standing In The Name Of Mr. Nagula Bhagwandu Vide Doc No: 1661/2006 And Bound By: **Boundaries:** North: Remaining Part Of H.no.4-3-74/63, South: Remaining Part Of H.no.4-3-74/63, East: Road, South: Meera Bai Temple & House Of Shanker.

SL No: 3/Ref No. SARFAESI/1/3/2/AGRI/JAN/2026/3 **Date:** 06-01-2026

1.Mr. Gopu Amarend Reddy (applicant), S/o. Gopu Shiva Reddy, H.no. 5-11-49/61, Street No.3, Sri Nagar Colony, Naim Nagar, Hanamkonda, Warangal, Telangana - 508001. **Also, At:** Mr. Gopu Amarend Reddy, S/o. Gopu Shiva Reddy H. No: 1-4, Vellampally, Near Hanuman Temple, Tekumallik Mandal, Warangal, Telangana - 506356. **Mr. Gopu Shiva Reddy (co-applicant),** S/o. Gopu Ram Reddy H.no. 5-11-48/61, Street No.3, Sri Nagar Colony, Naim Nagar, Hanamkonda, Warangal, Telangana - 508001. **Also, At:** Mr. Gopu Shiva Reddy (co-applicant), S/o. Gopu Ram Reddy, H.no. 1-4, Vellampally, Near Hanuman Temple, Tekumallik Mandal, Warangal, Telangana - 506356. **Demand Notice Date :** 06-01-2026. **Loan Account No:** 81084109. **NPA Date :** 08-12-2025. **Amount Outstanding:** Rs. 46,91,580/- (Rupees Forty-Six Lakh Ninety-One Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Only). **(Description of the immovable properties):** All That Part And Parcel Of The House Bearing Municipal No. 5-11-48/61, In Plot No. 48 To An Extent Of 266 Sq Yards Or 222.90 Sq Meters Out Of Survey Nos. 66,67,68/1, Sy. No. 38, Plot No. 14 And 26/29, Sy. No. 36/29, Plot No. 61/29, Sy. No. 33/29, Plot No. 62/29, Sy. No. 62/29, Plot No. 63/29, Sy. No. 63/29, Plot No. 64/29, Sy. No. 64/29, Plot No. 65/29, Sy. No. 65/29, Plot No. 66/29, Sy. No. 66/29, Plot No. 67/29, Sy. No. 67/29, Plot No. 68/29, Sy. No. 68/29, Plot No. 69/29, Sy. No. 69/29, Plot No. 70/29, Sy. No. 70/29, Plot No. 71/29, Sy. No. 71/29, Plot No. 72/29, Sy. No. 72/29, Plot No. 73/29, Sy. 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TELANGANA

Telangana to Launch India's First 'Global AI Proving Ground' at Davos 2026

Hyderabad: The Government of Telangana will unveil a landmark ini-

tiative in Artificial Intelligence at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2026 in Davos with the launch of the Telangana AI Innovation Hub (TAIH) on January 20. Visioned as the world's first "Global AI Proving Ground,"

TAIH is a purpose-built autonomous institution designed to accelerate enterprise-grade and population-scale AI solutions. The initiative aims to position Telangana as a global leader in AI, deep-tech innovation, and digital transformation. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said Telangana has

evolved from India's technology hub into a global innovation capital, adding that the State is inviting global partners to collaborate and build the future of AI in Telangana, where innovation is backed by talent and trust. TAIH will function as a unified execution platform integrating talent development,

infrastructure, datasets, startups, enterprise innovation, applied research, product design, testing, and capital support under one umbrella. The Hub will also catalyse innovation across frontier technologies such as AI, quantum computing, and chip design. Industries and IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu

said TAIH is designed as a live innovation sandbox rather than a conventional incubator, enabling the creation of safe, enterprise-grade AI products for global markets. Special Chief Secretary (ITE&C) Sanjay Kumar said the institution's unique design blends startup agility with government

scale and credibility, positioning Telangana among the world's top global innovation hubs. The official launch of TAIH will take place on January 20, 2026, from 7 PM to 8:30 PM at the Mountain Plaza Hotel, Davos, in the presence of global policymakers, industry leaders, and technology experts.

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/SCRailwaysIndia)
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

e-TENDER NOTICE

Divisional Electrical Engineer (Maintenance), Guntur acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites the following E-Tenders through GEM portal <https://gem.gov.in>

1. Tender Ref No: GEM/2026/B/7095100 dated 09.01.2026 with corrigendum dated 12.01.2026

Tender Title : GUNTUR Division - Investment Grade Energy audit of Repalle Railway Station, Mangalagiri Railway Station, Piduguralla Railway Station, Chemburum Railway Station, Macherla Railway Station, Nalgonda Railway Station, Narasaraopet Railway Station, Donakonda Railway Station, Markapur Road Railway Station, Giddalur Railway Station, Divisional Railway Manager Office, Guntur.

Approx. value in : (₹) 10,10,965-00 Earnest money deposit in (₹) 20,300-00 Cost of tender form (non-refundable) in : (₹) 0/-

Last Date and time for online submission of E-bids: 30.01.2026 up to 17.00 hours

Any further Communication/ corrigendum will be published in E-portal <https://gem.gov.in>.

Divisional Electrical Engineer/M/ Guntur

Open Tender Notice No: E-29

TRD-TNDR-36-2025-26 dt:13.01.2026

Tender No: B-E29-TRD-TNDR-36-2025-26. Name of the Work: Vijayawada Division- Replacement of worn-out, failure prone NICO/Weekayak make contact wire to improve safety and reliability across BZA Division

Approx. value: (₹) 2,22,58,707.34

Completion period: 12 Months

Bid Security (EMD) (₹) 2,61,300/- Date of closing: 06.02.2026 Cost of Tender form: Nil

For full details and conditions visit our site at www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, TrD/Vijayawada

TENDER NOTICE NO: LGD/16/2025-26-OT Dated : 16.01.2026

Dy.CEE/LGDS acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No LGD/16/2025-26-OT-E-TENDER- closing date 09.02.2026 at 15:00 hrs.

Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards earnest money (Bid Security) shall be deposited either in cash through e-payment gateway or submitted as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents.

The Bank Guarantee bond shall be as per Annexure-VIA and shall be valid for a period of 60 days beyond the bid validity period. The original Bank Guarantee should be delivered in person to the official nominated as indicated in the tender document within 5 working days of deadline of submission of bids. Non submission of scanned copy of B.G. with the bid on e-tendering portal (IREPS) and/or non-submission of original B.G. within the specified period shall lead to summarily rejection of bid.

1. Tender No.: LGD/16/2025-26/OT Description of work: Provision of Cable transit entry sealing and foot/proof protection system to rodent entry in HT Compartment of SBC of LHB type AC coaches at Carriage Workshop, Lalguda. Advertised value : (₹) 4655688.77/- (Forty six Lakhs fifty five thousand six hundred Eighty eight rupees and seventy seven paisa only). Bid Security : 93,100/-

Period of Completion : 24 Months from the date of issue of letter of acceptance. Date of Closing : 09.02.2026 at 15:00 hrs

Website Particulars: www.ireps.gov.in

Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen.: Office of the Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, Carriage Workshop, Lalguda, Secunderabad-500017.

For further Tender conditions/details (available in the tender documents) and for downloading of tender documents, corrigendum, please visit our website <https://www.ireps.gov.in>.

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, CWS, Lalguda, Secunderabad

Open e-Tender Notice No. B/E EG/18/2025-26 Dt. 12.01.2026

For and on behalf of the President of India, the undersigned invites e-Tender for the following works up to 15:00 hours on the date mentioned below:

Tender No: B/E.29/1/EGS/30/25-26 Dt.12.01.2026 Name of work:

Vijayawada Division - Electrical Power Supply Arrangements for 29 Nos of Additional lifts at Amrit Station. Period of completion: 06 months

Tender value : (₹) 2,80,66,142/- E.M.D/Bid Security : (₹) 2,90,300 Cost of Tender document : Nil Date of closing : 03.02.2026

1) Tender conditions/other particulars such as the details of Name of work in full, the similar nature of the above works, eligibility criteria etc., are available in the Tender documents published in website at www.ireps.gov.in.

2) The prospective tenderers are advised to visit website www.ireps.gov.in before the date of tender closing to note any changes/corrigenda for any tender.

3) The Tender Notice is also displayed in the Notice Board located in the office of Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, Maintenance, S.C. Railway, Vijayawada, which can be seen.

4) The Railway reserves the right to cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereto.

Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical) Vijayawada

PRTU Telangana Demands Official Holidays for Medaram Jatara

Hyderabad: PRTU Telangana State General Secretary Puli Devender Mudhiraj has demanded that the State Government officially declare three days of holidays across Telangana in view of the Medaram Jatara, citing its massive public participation and cultural significance.

Speaking at a meeting held on Friday at the Union Office in Hanumakonda, under the chairmanship of Hanumakonda District President Punnam Chander, Puli Devender Mudhiraj attended as the chief guest and addressed the gathering.



He stated that Medaram Jatara, which began as a tribal festival, has now grown into one of the largest

religious congregations in the country, attracting lakhs of devotees from various states. Considering the large

influx of devotees and the deep faith of people, he urged the State Government to declare three days of official holidays in all districts of Telangana to facilitate smooth participation of devotees. He also demanded that the Central Government accord national status to the Medaram Jatara, recognizing its cultural and spiritual importance. PRTU Telangana State Working President Ravula Kaar Venkatesh, State Leader Davu Ramesh, District President Punnam Chander, Suresh, and other union leaders participated in the meeting and extended their support to the demand.

TENDER NOTICE NO: 55/2025 Dt.16.01.2026 SUPPLY OF STORES ITEMS e-Procurement Tender Notice

The Following Tenders Have Been

Floated Online. Tenders Are

Requested To Visit The Website

www.ireps.gov.in And Submit Their

Offers Online. The Tender Description,

Qty, EMD, SD May Be Seen In

Website. Offers Submitted Manually

Will Not Be Accepted. Offers By Post

Will Not Be Entertained. Tender

Closing Time Is 14.30 Hrs Of The Due

Date Of The Tender. "For All

Indigenous Offers, EMD Will Be

Accepted Only Via Online System As

Available On www.ireps.gov.in."

Tender No: LGD/16/2025-26-OT Dated : 16.01.2026

Dy.CEE/LGDS acting for and on behalf

of the President of India invites

E-Tenders against Tender No

LGD/16/2025-26-OT-E-TENDER-

closing date 09.02.2026 at 15:00 hrs.

Bidders will be able to submit their

original/revised bids up to closing date

and time only. Manual offers are not

allowed against this tender, and any

such manual offer received shall be

ignored.

Contractors are allowed to make

payments against this tender towards

earnest money (Bid Security) shall be

deposited either in cash through e-

payment gateway or submitted as

Bank Guarantee bond from a

scheduled commercial bank of India or

as mentioned in tender documents.

The Bank Guarantee bond shall be as

per Annexure-VIA and shall be valid

for a period of 60 days beyond the bid

validity period. The original Bank

Guarantee should be delivered in

person to the official nominated as

indicated in the tender document within

5 working days of deadline of

submission of bids. Non submission of

scanned copy of B.G. with the bid on e-

tendering portal (IREPS) and/or non-

submission of original B.G. within the

specified period shall lead to

summarily rejection of bid.

1. Tender No.: LGD/17/2025-26-OT

Description of work: Provision of

Cable transit entry sealing and

foot/proof protection system to

rodent entry in HT Compartment of

SBC of LHB type AC coaches at

Carriage Workshop, Lalguda. Advertised

value : (₹) 4655688.77/- (Forty six

Lakhs fifty five thousand six hundred

Eighty eight rupees and seventy seven

paisa only). Bid Security : 93,100/-

Period of Completion : 24 Months

from the date of issue of letter of

acceptance. Date of Closing : 09.02.2026 at 15:00 hrs

Website Particulars: www.ireps.gov.in

Notice board location where

complete details of tender can be

seen.: Office of the Dy. Chief Electrical

Engineer, Carriage Workshop,

Lalguda, Secunderabad-500017.

For further Tender conditions/details (available in the tender documents) and for downloading of tender documents, corrigendum, please visit our website <https://www.ireps.gov.in>.

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, CWS, Lalguda, Secunderabad

Open e-Tender Notice No. B/E EG/18/2025-26 Dt. 12.01.2026

For and on behalf of the President of

India, the undersigned invites

e-Tender for the following works up to

15:00 hours on the date mentioned

below:

Tender No: B/E.29/1/EGS/30/25-26

Dt.12.01.2026 Name of work:

Vijayawada Division - Electrical Power



I-PAC raids: ED's probe obstruction very serious, says SC, stays FIR against officers

AGENCY

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday, January 15, described the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) allegation that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee caused "obstruction" in its probe as "very serious" and agreed to examine whether a state's law-enforcing agencies can interfere with any central agency's investigation into any serious offence. The top court stayed the FIR filed in West Bengal against ED officials who raided the I-PAC office and the residence of its director, Pratik Jain, on January 8 and directed the state police to protect the CCTV footage of the raids. A bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Vipul Pancholi issued notices to CM Banerjee, the West Bengal government, DGP Rajeev Kumar and top cops on the ED's petitions seeking a CBI probe against them for



allegedly obstructing raids at I-PAC premises. "According to us, adherence to the rule of law in the country and to allow each organ to function independently, it is necessary to examine the issue so that the offenders are not allowed to be protected under the shield of law-enforcing agencies of a particular state. "Larger questions are

involved and have been raised, which, if allowed to remain undecided, would further worsen the situation, and there will be a situation of lawlessness prevailing in one or the other state, considering that different outfits are governing different places," the bench said. The apex court said a central agency has no power to interfere with the

election work of any party. But at the same time, if central agencies are acting bona fide to investigate any serious offence, the question arises whether agencies can be restricted from carrying out duties under the shield of party activity, it said. The matter is posted for further hearing on February 3. Earlier in the day, the top

court said that it was very much disturbed by the comment at the Calcutta High Court during its hearing in the Enforcement Directorate raids case. The Calcutta High Court had adjourned till January 14 the hearing on petitions related to the ED's search and seizure operations at sites linked to political consultancy firm I-PAC, citing unmanageable chaos inside the courtroom. As the hearing commenced, the ED said the West Bengal government's "interference and obstruction" during the probe agency's raids reflects a very shocking pattern. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the ED, told the bench that in the past also, whenever statutory authorities exercised statutory power, Banerjee barged in and interfered. "It reflects a very shocking pattern," Mehta said while contending that this will only encourage such acts, and the central forces will be demoralised. "The states will feel they can barge in, commit theft, and then sit on a dharma. Let an example be set, officers who were explicitly present there should be suspended," the solicitor general said. Mehta submitted that there was evidence leading to the conclusion that incriminating material was lying in the I-PAC office. "Let an example be set, and officers explicitly present there should be suspended. Direct the competent authority to act, and please take cognisance of what is happening. We are here to protect our officers' fundamental rights. We are acting under the law and do not seek personal gains," he said. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal opposed Mehta's plea and said the case should be heard by the Calcutta High Court first, and proper hierarchy should be followed.

Hyderabad teen attacked during Puranapul violence lodges complaint



Hyderabad: A 19-year-old man, Shaik Amaan, who was attacked during violence at Puranapul in Hyderabad, lodged a complaint on Thursday, January 15. In the complaint, he mentioned that on the night of January 14, 2026, he was returning home from a friend's function with a companion. As he rode his Activa scooter near Puranapul Darwaza Circle, unidentified individuals suddenly blocked the road and began indiscriminately pelting stones. One stone struck the back of his head, and another hit him above his right eyebrow, causing bleeding injuries. In the ensuing chaos and panic, he also lost his mobile phone, an iPhone 11 Pro Max.

HIS ACTIVA SCOOTER DAMAGED
The attack escalated when the assailants poured petrol on his parked Activa scooter and set it ablaze. Bystanders at the location acted quickly to extinguish the fire, but the vehicle was signifi-

cantly damaged. The miscreants also damaged other vehicles on the road at that time.

Medical treatment
Suffering from physical injuries, mental trauma, and financial loss from the damaged vehicle and lost phone, the victim first went to Osmania General Hospital for medical treatment. Following his treatment, he filed a complaint at the Kamatipura Police Station on January 15, 2026. He has stated that the persons involved are unknown to him and has requested that legal action be taken against them for their serious offences.

Hyderabad's Puranapul violence
Ten people, including an inspector and a few constables, were injured in the stone pelting, and several vehicles were damaged late on Wednesday, January 14, night. Trouble started after unidentified persons tore a flexi at the Puranapul temple.

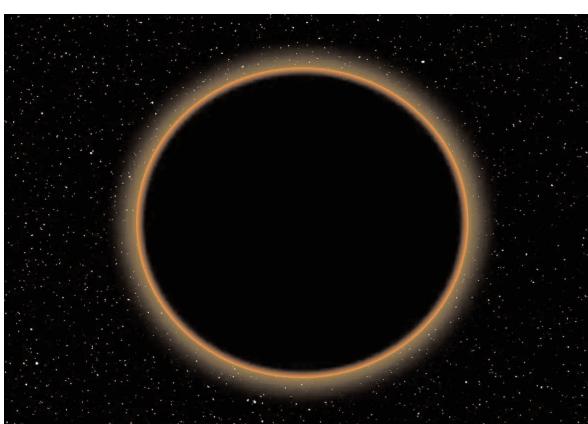
GITAM Congratulates Dr. Adurthy Srivaly on Ph.D. Achievement

GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, congratulates Dr. Adurthy Srivaly on the successful completion of her Ph.D. in Mathematics. Her doctoral thesis, "Mathematical Modeling and Analysis of Electroosmotic Flow in Microchannel for Microfluidic Applications," makes a significant contribution to the field of fluid dynamics and microfluidics. Guided by Dr. Motahar Reza, Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics, her research provides theoretical insights into electroosmotic and electromagnetohydrodynamic flows of complex fluids



in microchannels, with relevance to advanced microfluidic applications such as Lab-on-Chip systems and targeted drug delivery. The achievement was lauded by Prof. D. S. Rao, Pro Vice-Chancellor, DVVSR Varma, Resident Director, Dr. M. Reza, Principal, School of Science.

SOLAR ECLIPSE TO CREATE 'RING OF FIRE' ON FEB 17: WILL HYDERABAD WITNESS IT?



17, crosses Antarctica's coastline by the Ronne Ice Shelf and ends in the southern Atlantic Ocean. The greatest eclipse will occur at 12:11 UT (5:41 pm IST). All Indian cities,

including Hyderabad, will not be able to witness this annular solar eclipse and the "ring of fire." Different eclipses, like solar eclipses, occur due to the rotation of the

Earth around the Sun and the Moon around the Earth. Due to this rotation, at some point, the Sun, Moon and Earth come into a linear configuration. Because of this, either the Sun or the Moon becomes invisible from the Earth. In a solar eclipse, the Sun becomes invisible because its rays will not reach the Earth, as they will be blocked by the Moon. In contrast, in a lunar eclipse, Sun rays will not reach the Moon, as they will be blocked by the Earth. In an annular solar eclipse, because the Moon is farther from Earth, it appears too small to completely cover the Sun.

Amazon Republic Day Sale: Sennheiser Offers Up to 50 Percent Off on Premium Audio

January 2026 – Sennheiser, a global leader in audio technology, announces exciting offers on its premium product range during the Republic Day Sale 2026, which begins on January 16 for all customers, including Prime and non-Prime members. Prime members will enjoy early access to the sale beginning at midnight on January 15.

Customers can also benefit from up to 24 months of No Cost EMI and additional discounts on select bank cards for Sennheiser's top products. The offers cover a wide range, including the Profile Wireless microphone, MD 421 Kompakt, Neumann TLM 102, HD 630VB, MOMENTUM 4 Wireless headphones, and MOMENTUM True Wireless 4 earbuds, with discounts of up to 50 percent.

PROFILE WIRELESS 2-CHANNEL SET
Take your content to the next level with the Sennheiser Profile Wireless, a compact, all-in-one, two-channel wireless microphone system designed for creators and videographers on the move. Featuring a 2.4 GHz dual-channel receiver, two clip-on micro-

phones, and an ultra-portable charging bar that also functions as a handheld interview microphone, it delivers professional-grade audio with minimal setup. Available at 21,990 during the Republic Day Sale. Click here to purchase.

Sennheiser MD 421 Kompakt
Designed for demanding studio and live environments, the Sennheiser MD 421 Kompakt brings the iconic MD 421 sound into a more compact and versatile form.

Internationally Acclaimed Director Anooya Swamy Prajavahini

Internationally Acclaimed Director Anooya Swamy? Prajavahini – Bengaluru A new milestone has been created in the history of the Kannada film industry. Bengaluru-based young director Anooya Swamy's short film Pankaja has earned the distinction of being the first Kannada short film to be officially selected for the world-renowned Sundance Film Festival, held in the United States. A Government School Girl Is the Star Anooya Swamy, who is currently pursuing her postgraduate studies in film and television in New York, returned to Bengaluru with the desire to introduce a story from her homeland to the world. She selected Padmashree,



a third-grade student from the government school in Agara, Bengaluru, to play the lead role. Actress Harshani plays the role of the girl's mother. Government School Students Celebrate There

is an atmosphere of celebration at the Agara government school as a film featuring one of their students has gained international recognition. On Friday, the film team watched the movie along with the students and teachers. On this occasion, child actor Padmashree was felicitated and sweets were distributed. Expressing her happiness, Padmashree said, "I am very happy

that our film is being screened in America. I was not scared at all during the shooting. Everyone supported me a lot. I am thankful to Anooya for giving me this opportunity."

Once again, the young girl has proven that students from government schools are second to none. Director Anooya's Words Speaking on the occasion, director Anooya Swamy said, "I was born and brought up in Agara. I always wanted to direct my first short film in the place where I grew up. I give great importance to realism. I did not want to choose any well-known artists. I believed that when newcomers are given opportunities, they bring honesty and natu-

EDITORIAL

Kumaraswamy's State Comeback Sparks BJP Leadership Jitters, Exposes Weak Opposition

Kumaraswamy's re-entry into state politics has turned the gun on Congress, but the target is only BJP leaders! Vadiraj B The idea that Kumaraswamy will re-enter state politics has created a stir in state politics. It has made leaders sleepless nights, even in the ruling party, even in the alliance party BJP. If we look at the current political situation in the state, it seems that the strongest opposition party fighting against the government has declined. The reason for this is the lack of leadership in the opposition party. When it comes to the BJP issue, those in their own party are sharpening their swords against state president Vijayendra. Behind-the-scenes efforts to change the leadership continue. The high command is already considering bringing Union Minister Somanna to the state BJP by giving him the title of state president. Now, when it comes to the issue of opposition leader R Ashok, the lack of leadership is evident. The support that should be received within the party is not being received. There is a doubt that he has failed to take any issue against the government to the people so effectively. It does not seem like many within the party have accepted Ashok as a leader. The reason for this is that the label of adjustment politics is haunting him. Thus, there is a lack of strong opposition leaders to fight the government. Kumaraswamy, who was a dream come true for the BJP government. As for Kumaraswamy, was a toughest opposition leader for the previous BJP government. Even in the session, Kumaraswamy's style of presenting documents and evidence had disturbed the ruling party. In the last session, the way he exposed the BMS Educational Institution scam and documents against Minister Ashwath Narayan had attracted everyone's attention. Moreover, Kumaraswamy's words are still respected by people, forgetting party differences. Kumaraswamy also became a strong reason for the BJP's defeat in this assembly election. Prime Minister Modi himself recognized Kumaraswamy's political acumen and honored him by giving him the influential position of Steel and Heavy Industries Minister in the Union Cabinet. Kumaraswamy has also become successful though in national politics. But if we look at the current state political situation, the weakness of a strong opposition party to fight against the government is evident. In such a situation, the issue of Kumaraswamy's re-entry into state politics has now become a new weapon for the opposition party. Yes, the opposition parties should oppose everything that the ruling government stumbles. But it has been said that the opposition party has failed to demonstrate it so effectively in the state. Especially when the government takes any wrong decision, the opposition party has failed to protest effectively. However, even though a series of allegations have been made against the Congress government, it has been accused that the BJP has completely failed to use it as a weapon in the right way. In the last 2 years, despite many allegations including serial corruption and zero development, it has failed to use the issue of questioning and fighting it as a right weapon. Even when 18 BJP party members were suspended for a long period, the BJP had completely failed to protest effectively against the government. The recent government land encroachment clearance operation in Kogilu Layout of Yelahanka in Bengaluru had made an international splash. The Karnataka government's demolition of 200 illegally constructed Muslim houses was accused of being a dictatorial attitude of the Deputy Chief Ministers. There were also suspicions that the accused not only helped encroach on government land, but also created fake documents and distributed plots to people and received money. Even though the people who lost their houses were directly accusing the government, the opposition parties were not very effective in using it, and limited it by only forming a fact-finding committee and preparing a report and demanding an NIA investigation. An influential leader is necessary for state politics.

Pak Blames India For 'Losing' Afghanistan. Numbers Tell A Different Story

So finally, a Taliban diplomat is officially in charge in Delhi. The Taliban's newly appointed ambassador to India, Noor Ahmad Noor, took charge of the Afghan Embassy in Delhi last week. A statement issued by the Taliban's embassy in India on Monday said he met Anand Prakash, Joint Secretary of the Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran Division at the Ministry of External Affairs, with discussions focusing on strengthening political and trade ties, including easing visa procedures. Interestingly, just about a year ago, on January 8, India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri had met Muttaki, the Taliban foreign minister, in Dubai for "detailed discussions" on bilateral relations. This was the first high-level meeting between the two sides following the Taliban's sweep to power in Kabul in August 2021; it came after a gap of four years. Following the meeting, the Taliban Foreign Ministry termed New Delhi a "significant regional partner." By then, the rift between the Taliban and Pakistan had come to the fore - it was a time when Pakistan had launched airstrikes in Afghanistan's bordering regions to flush out terrorists, but which, according to the Taliban, had instead ended up claiming more civilian lives. The spokesperson for the Indian Ministry of External Affairs had criticised the Pakistani air strike on Afghanistan and the loss of civilian lives. A Slew Of Visits Since then, ties between India - which had been reluctant till then to extend recognition to the Taliban - and the Taliban have been dynamically developing. Three high-level visits have taken place by Taliban officials to Delhi in quick succession. The acting Taliban foreign minister, Mullah Amir Khan Muttaki, visited India in October, followed by trade minister Haji Nooruddin Azizi, and, more recently, in December, the acting Health Minister Noor Jalal Jalali. New Delhi announced that it was upgrading its representative office in Kabul to a full-fledged embassy. And now, it has welcomed the first official Taliban



envoy to be stationed in Delhi. Noori's arrival coincided with a diatribe by the Pakistani Information Minister, Attaullah Tarar. Lashing out at the growing diplomatic engagement between the Taliban and India, he questioned the nature of their cooperation. While accusing the Taliban of allowing Afghan soil to be used for attacks against Pakistan, funded by "foreign designs", he bluntly asked, "What kind of Islam is this where you take money from India to carry out explosions here?" Islamabad continues to accuse the Taliban and India of supporting Baloch separatist groups and the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). Pak Needs To Look Within The accusations come as Pakistan faces a surge in militant violence, with over 5,000 terror incidents reported in 2025. However, to allege that India was behind them is a pathetic reflection of Pakistan's own desperation. After all, even in a world of constant geopolitical realignments and strategic shifts, the speed with which India-Taliban and Pakistan-Taliban relations have redefined themselves is rare. The only consistency is that Islamabad continues to be at odds with whoever happens to be in power in Kabul. The appointment of Noor Ahmad Noor is significant for the Taliban's efforts to expand diplomatic presence abroad and gain greater international

Editorial

HYDERABAD
SATURDAY JANUARY 17, 2026

6

info.southindientimes@gmail.com

'It'll Divide Society': Why Congress Buried The Mandal Report For Years

Rahul Gandhi would rue reading how, between 1980 and 1982, Indira Gandhi was vetoed four times by her cabinet colleagues from implementing the Mandal Commission report, something that could have been a game-changer for the Congress.

In an engaging autobiography of P Shiv Shankar, soon to be published by Simon & Schuster India, the veteran legal luminary gives a graphic account of how PV Narasimha Rao, R Venkatraman, Pranab Mukherjee and Giani Zail Singh, who were holding external affairs, defence, finance and home portfolios and were part of the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs (CCPA), repeatedly rejected and stonewalled a report meticulously prepared by Bindeshwari Prasad Mandal.

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• ADVERTISEMENT - SCROLL TO CONTINUE

How The Congress Lost Out

The implementation of the Mandal Commission report, which discussed jobs and quotas in educational institutions, by the VP Singh government in 1990 altered the grammar and arithmetic of Indian politics. "Mandal politics" or the process of "Mandalisation" of society, led to a seismic shift in social and caste dynamics, redefining power structures and solidifying caste as a central factor in Indian politics. It initially benefited regional outfits and backward class leaders such as Lalu Prasad Yadav, Nitish Kumar, Mulayam Singh Yadav, but eventually consolidated the BJP at the expense of the Congress. Although VP Singh's tenure lasted for barely 343 days, his



actions made the "Mandal" identity a permanent and irreversible feature of the Indian political landscape. So, even when the Congress government under PV Narasimha Rao put the Mandal report to action, it didn't get any political dividends - both because it failed to get the first-mover advantage, and because Rao had always been against caste-based reservation.

Decades later, in 2023-24, Sonia Gandhi would tell the Congress Working Committee, "I am 100% with the caste census, we must get it done. This is our highest priority." The comment came when the Congress's apex decision-making body passed a resolution to back conducting a caste-based census and implement a quota within quota in line with numerical strength. The question that needs to be asked is, have Congress leaders - particularly those belonging to the upper caste - had a change of heart, or are they overwhelmed by Rahul's leadership qualities? After all, right from the Indira years to the UPA era, particularly in

2010-2011, caste-based quota or census was a thorny topic to even touch, causing a lot of division and disquiet. **Indira Gandhi Was For It** Shiv Shankar was the Union Law Minister in the Indira cabinet. The second Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Commission, which popularly came to be known as the Mandal Commission, had conducted a detailed study of the status of those sections of society that were defined in the Constitution as "socially and educationally underdeveloped". Rao, Mukherjee and Venkataraman kept telling Indira, both personally and in writing, that a decision taken to implement the Mandal Commission's suggestions may prove detrimental to the country by bringing about "irreversible fissures between the people of the country and lead to law-and-order problems throughout the country with riots erupting down to the village level". Shiv Shankar writes how he went numb when Indira Gandhi

showed him the letters of her communication with the CCPA. "These contained the back and forth between her and the committee. I very categorically told the PM that rejecting the report would not only mean letting down a large section of the people who have faced neglect and discrimination since times immemorial, but also denying them a chance of redeeming their lives. Implementation of the Mandal Commission's recommendations would give them access to better education and employment opportunities, and through those, economic as well as social development. I explained to Mrs Gandhi that the Backward Classes were a dejected lot because they feel they have remained underdeveloped for far too long." "I agree with every word you have spoken, Shiv Shankerji. In fact, I have been thinking exactly along the same lines. That is the reason I have sent the matter back to the Cabinet Committee of Political Affairs every time they have rejected it," Shiv Shanker writes, recounting Indira Gandhi's response. The Law Minister explains how he kept arguing that Backward Classes were losing faith in the Congress "because of a perception, right or wrong, that the party is not attentive to their interests". He said to Indira Gandhi, "They probably think the Congress has not stood by them, Madam. No doubt we have been winning elections all along, except in 1977. But our percentage of votes has always hovered around 40%. I strongly suspect that the majority of the 60% (who did not vote for us) would be from the Backward Classes. If we have their support, we would not only increase our vote share, we could become invincible."

BP Mandal's Scepticism

Indira, Shiv Shankar repeats, was personally keen to implement the report. She gave two extensions to the Mandal Commission, even though the panel was set up by the Morarji Desai government. In fact, when Desai and Charan Singh governments fell in quick succession and Shiv Shankar spoke to BP Mandal to check the Commission's progress, Mandal's scepticism was barely concealed: "I am grateful, Shiv Shankerji, but please pardon me, I don't think I would like to come. The government has changed, and I do not think the new government would be in favour of the Commission completing its work. I

Why India Can't Close Key Submarine and Fighter Deals



Chandigarh: India remains perpetual on the cusp of major defence deals, the latest being long-delayed agreements with Germany for six submarines and France for 114 multi-role fighter aircraft (MRFA) - both still unsigned, and emblematic of the services' and the Ministry of Defence's chronic inability to convert intent into action. The Indian Navy's over Rs 70,000 crore or USD 8 billion Project 75(I) submarine programme, now centred on a German-designed platform, has been more than two decades in gestation, tracing its origins to the late 1990s and early 2000s. The proposed MRFA buy, valued at between USD 25-30 billion, was formally launched in 2019 after the collapse, three years earlier, of the Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA) tender for 126 Dassault Rafales. It had, however, been under discussion for much of the preceding decade, as the Indian Air Force grappled with worryingly declining fighter squadron numbers. But years of platform evaluations, tender revisions and procedural resets for both procurements were yet to translate into contractual closure. One unresolved technical or commercial issue after another continued to surface - whether from the Services, the MoD or both. High-level political engagement between India, Germany and France repeatedly raised expectations of a breakthrough, only to fade without result. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's recent visit to Ahmedabad, for instance, fuelled expectations that the long-pending submarine joint venture between Thyssen Krupp Marine Systems (TKMS) and Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) to domestically construct six advanced Type 214 boats might be clinched, but to no avail. After more than two years of negotiations, the project remains stalled over issues that were evident from the outset - pricing, the scope of technology transfer and the level of indigenous content to be incorporated in the boats. Alongside, in recent days, focus has shifted to the impending visit of French President Emmanuel Macron on February 19, for the AI Impact Summit in New Delhi. This has also raised expectations that the stalled MRFA negotiations, with the Rafale widely seen as the frontrunner, could see some progress. A two-star Indian Navy veteran, involved with the P75I project while in service, said the operational gaps are widening as the clock keeps ticking. The prolonged uncertainty surrounding these two critical platform acquisitions reflected a procurement system paralysed by procedure and loath to take timely decisions. "Postponement, it seems, remains the default option in such cases, rather than any urgency to shape outcomes," he said, declining to be named. The result, he added grimly, was that the Indian military's capability gaps were being managed - but not closed. Few materiel procurements in recent years better reflect the systemic dysfunction within the MoD and the two services than the P75I and the MRFA buys. Initiated years ago under different governments, and driven by operational urgency to arrest looming capability gaps in two critical domains - undersea warfare and air superiority - both had morphed into case studies in drift. The P75I was formally launched 19 years ago, in 2007, and the MRFA in 2017-18. Yet, mired in a labyrinthine and over-engineered acquisition process and constantly shifting qualitative requirements, both programmes had badly faltered. It seems that as India's maritime and aerial threats mounted, the platforms meant to counter them remained stuck in files at the MoD and at respective Service headquarters.

Ria Tirk Commences Pilgrimage from Sadma Sarna to Sirsi-Ta Nale; Mass Worship Scheduled on January 23

AGENCY

Ranchi: In an effort to preserve tribal faith and religious traditions, the pilgrimage from Sirsi-Ta Nale (Gumla) was inaugurated on 15 January 2026 at 11 AM from Gram Sadma Sarna. The journey was formally flagged off by Ria Tirk, wife of Rajesh Kachhap, Deputy Leader of the Legislative Party and MLA from Khijri. Around 300 tribal devotees, including men and women, are participating in this foot pilgrimage, covering sacred



sites from Sirsi-Ta Nale to Kankardola, Gumla district. The pilgrimage aims to strengthen awareness and protection of the Sarna faith, nature worship traditions, and tribal religious sites. The journey includes multiple stops: 15 January – Tulta, Ratu (first stop); 16 January – Chachgura, Itki (second stop); 17 January – Lamkana (third stop); 18 January – Nagpheni, Sisai (fourth stop); 19 January – Bhamni, Kudukh Bhawan, Gumla (fifth stop); 20 January – Manjha Toli

(sixth stop); 21 January – Chainpur (seventh stop); and 22 January – Sirsi-Ta Nale (final stop). A mass worship ceremony will be

conducted at Sirsi-Ta Nale on 23 January 2026. The event was attended by prominent tribal and political leaders including

Ormanji MLA representative Harimohan Mahto, District Council member Komisonar Munda, Baboolal Mahli (Chairperson of the 22-Pardha Sarna Committee), Ramesh Chandra Uraon (Patron), Kudhiya Kachhap (Youth Congress President, Khijri Assembly), and Lalita Pahan (President of 22-Pardha Sarna Prayer Assembly). In addition, numerous tribal intellectuals, social workers, and devotees, including Anjan

Munda, Pammi Munda, Shani Pahan, Sadhan Uraon, Lalo Tirk, Ravi Munda, Sunil Lohra, Shumeswar Munda, Preeti Kachhap, Binod Lohra, Disco Munda, Khudan Munda, Surendra Uraon, Sukra Uraon, Dinesh Uraon, Shanu Munda, Jethu Munda, Bigoo Munda, Roshan Munda, and Pushpa Uraon, were present, making the pilgrimage a significant cultural and religious event for the tribal community.

MP and MLA Inaugurate Newly Constructed SDPO Office, Residence, and Geo Petrol Pump in Maheshpur

AGENCY

Maheshpur: A grand inauguration ceremony was held today for the newly constructed SDPO office and residence in Maheshpur block, along with the opening of a Geo petrol pump at Nandanpada. The event was graced by the popular Rajmahal MP Vijay Kumar Hansda and Maheshpur MLA Professor Stephen Marandi, who jointly inaugurated the facilities by lighting a ceremonial lamp, cutting the ribbon, and breaking a coconut, marking the beginning of these development initiatives aimed at public welfare. The ceremony saw the presence of Pakur Deputy Commissioner Manish Kumar, SP Nidhi Dwivedi, district vice-presidents Haji Samad Ali and Harivansh Choubey, central committee members Shyam Yadav, Upasana Marandi, Motilal Hansda, CO Sanjay Kumar Sinha, local police



officials, elected representatives, social workers, and a large number of local residents.

Addressing the gathering, MP Vijay Kumar Hansda highlighted that the newly opened M/S ABC Fuel Services petrol pump will provide convenient fuel access to the public and generate employment opportu-

nities locally, boosting economic activity in the region. He emphasized that the government aims to ensure basic amenities reach even remote rural areas. MLA Professor Stephen Marandi noted that the new SDPO office and residence represent a significant step in strengthening law and order. These facilities will provide an improved working environment for police personnel, enabling faster resolution of public grievances. He assured that the government remains committed to maintaining peace, security, and development in the region. District vice-presidents Haji Samad Ali and Harivansh Choubey added that the infrastructure will also support enhanced law enforcement in the area. The local community expressed enthusiasm for the inauguration and welcomed the leaders, appreciating the ongoing development work in the block. Residents noted that the new SDPO office, residence, and petrol pump are significant milestones for Maheshpur block, strengthening administrative efficiency and providing direct benefits to the public. Hundreds of JMM workers, including Soren and other local leaders, were also present at the event.

Three-Day Football Tournament Kicks Off in Dhatapada Village



AGENCY

Barhara: The three-day football tournament organized by Siddho Kanhu Youth Club in Dhatapada village commenced on Thursday with much enthusiasm. The tournament, scheduled from 15th to 17th January, features 16 participating teams. The opening event drew a large crowd of spectators from surrounding villages, who enjoyed the thrilling matches. The

organizers highlighted that four women's teams will compete in the final matches, adding a special attraction to the event. Club President and District Council member Prakash Toppo, along with Secretary Rajen Kujur and other committee members, were actively involved in ensuring the smooth execution of the tournament. President Prakash Toppo also announced that on the final day,

'Saas-Bahu-Pati' Conference Held at Ayushman Aroga Mandir, Focus on Family Planning and Health



AGENCY

Taljahi: To promote health awareness and family planning in rural areas, a 'Saas-Bahu-Pati' conference was successfully organized on Thursday, 15 January 2026, at Ayushman Aroga Mandir in Ambadia village. The event witnessed active participation from village dignitaries and numerous families. The main objective of the conference was to directly inform villagers about various welfare schemes run by the Health Department. During the conference, representatives from the Health Department provided detailed information on

key topics: Family Planning—emphasizing the benefits of small families and available resources; Maternal and Child Health—highlighting precautions before and after delivery; and Government Schemes—sharing details about free medical check-ups and treatment facilities offered by the department. The program was successfully conducted under the supervision of Sahiya Supervisor Awadhesh Kumar, with Sahiya worker Mary Karmakar playing an important role in ensuring smooth and effective communication throughout the event.

Echoes of Rajmahal Fossils to Resonate in Lucknow:

Dr. Ranjit Kumar Singh to Participate in International Round Table Discussion

AGENCY

Sahibganj: A significant step is being taken to preserve India's natural history and fossils dating back millions of years. The Paleontological Society of India is organizing an important Round Table Discussion in Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh, on 16 January 2026. For this high-level scientific dialogue, Dr. Ranjit Kumar Singh, Principal of Model College, Mundli, Rajmahal, Sahibganj, and a renowned geologist, has been specially invited. The event is being organized with the support of the Shiv Nadar Foundation. Dr. Anju Saxena, Secretary of the Paleontological Society of India, requested

■ A significant step is being taken to preserve India's natural history and fossils dating back millions of years. The Paleontological Society of India is organizing an important Round Table Discussion in Lucknow

Dr. Ranjit to bring along samples of rare fossils from the Rajmahal hills for scientific discussion. Speaking before his departure, Dr. Ranjit Kumar Singh stated that eminent geologists, researchers, and representatives from academic institutions across India and abroad will participate. The discussion will focus on Geo-Heritage (preservation of



historical geological sites), Geo-Tourism (developing fossil sites as tourist attractions), and Scientific Research (fresh studies on Jurassic and Cretaceous period fossils). Importantly, this dialogue could open avenues to explore the presence of dinosaurs in the Rajmahal hills. Conservation of these ancient fossils will not only boost tourism but

also establish Sahibganj as a hub for international geological events. Dr. Ranjit Kumar Singh has been actively working on Rajmahal fossils since 2008. His contributions in constructing the Fossils Park, supporting researchers, and safeguarding these priceless geological treasures have been pivotal. He emphasized that the round table will pave new ways for preserving geological heritage and bringing the millions-of-years-old history of Rajmahal hills to global attention. Dr. Ranjit Kumar Singh departed for Lucknow on Thursday, with expectations that this visit will place Sahibganj prominently on the global geological map.

Two Cyber Fraudsters Arrested from Karhaiya Jungle for Online Scams

AGENCY

Deoghar: In a major breakthrough against cyber-crime, the police arrested two cyber fraudsters from Karhaiya Jungle in the Sarath police station area on 14 January 2026. The operation was conducted under the guidance of Deputy Superintendent of Police Raja Kumar Mitra and on the directions of Superintendent of Police Saurabh. The accused were running scams by impersonating customer care services of Flipkart, Amazon, Airtel Payment Bank, PhonePe, and Paytm. They would post fake mobile numbers on Google to deceive people, offering



cashbacks, PM-Kisan scheme benefits, loans, and credit card links to trick victims into online fraud. The arrested individuals, Saroj Das (28) and Praveen Das (27), are residents of Fulchunwa village under Sarath police station. Both have a prior criminal record and had previously been named in fraud cases at the Deoghar Cyber

Mukesh Kumar Shah Appointed as Madhupur Nagar INTUC President; Organization to Receive New Energy: Rakeshwar Pandey

AGENCY

Madhupur: Under the guidance of Jharkhand State INTUC President Rakeshwar Pandey, Anant Mishra, the District President of Deoghar INTUC, has appointed Mukesh Kumar Shah as the President of Madhupur Nagar INTUC. This appointment is being seen as a significant step toward strengthening the organization and advancing workers' interests. Following the announcement, a wave of enthusiasm has swept through the organization. Leaders at both the state and district levels expressed confidence in Shah's leader-



ship, noting that his experience and active approach would provide new direction and strengthen INTUC's presence in Madhupur Nagar. The ceremony was attended by notable leaders including Jharkhand State INTUC Secretary Ajay Kumar, Margomunda Block INTUC President Jaishankar Sharan, Mohanpur Block INTUC President Ajaykant Thakur, and Congress leaders Mohammad Raja Shah, Saroj Singh, Bablu Ramani, Santosh Vishwakarma, Amit Pandit, among others.

Headlines

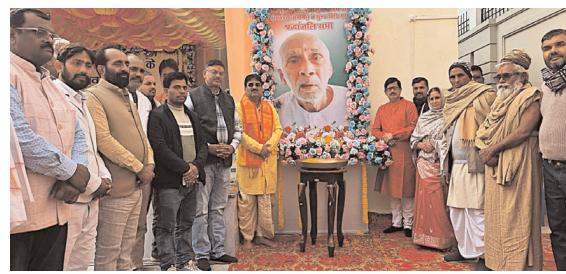
Sky Filled with Colors on Makar Sankranti: New Jharkhand Yuva Club Organizes Grand Kite Competition



AGENCY

Sahibganj: On the occasion of Makar Sankranti, the New Jharkhand Yuva Club organized a grand kite competition at the Railway General Institute under the leadership of Club President Vinod Kumar Yadav. The chief guest for the event was Bindu Didi, in charge of the Sahibganj Brahma Kumaris Service Center. The event was inaugurated by jointly flying kites by Uttam Kumar, Principal of LCC Computer Center, along with Sushila Devi, Ranjita Kesari, and Neetu. A large number of children and youth participated enthusiastically in the competition. Principal Uttam Kumar highlighted that the event promoted brotherhood, cultural tradition, and encouraged youth talent on this auspicious festival. In the competition, Rehana Ansari secured first place, Saif Ansari came second, Aman Raj third, followed by Himanshu Yadav in fourth and Krishna Kumar in fifth place.

Tribute Paid to Freedom Fighter Arjun Yadav in Sahibganj; Hundreds Gather in Bhartiya Colony



AGENCY

Sahibganj: A tribute ceremony was held on Thursday at Ayodhya Dham in Bhartiya Colony, Sahibganj, on the occasion of the eighth death anniversary of freedom fighter Arjun Yadav. The event saw the participation of Arjun Yadav's family members, including his son Amarnath Yadav and Bajrang Yadav, along with well-wishers and hundreds of local residents. Participants paid homage by offering flowers to a painted portrait of the late freedom fighter with folded hands and teary eyes. The ceremony began with a formal ritual conducted by priests, including recitation of prayers and lighting of lamps. Speakers remembered Arjun Yadav's life and contributions, noting that he was not only a freedom fighter but also a dedicated farmer and wrestler. His simplicity, honesty, and courage earned him a distinct place in society, which continues to inspire the public today. It was highlighted that following the ideals and honesty exemplified by Arjun Yadav, Bajrang Prasad Yadav, National Minister of the BJP Kisan Morcha and West Bengal election in-charge, remains actively engaged in social service and plays a significant role in various community initiatives. Other attendees included Baski Yadav, Md. Kalimuddin, Krishna Sharma, Anand Modi, Bablu Tiwari, Jai Prakash Sinha, Manoj Keshri, Kundan Paswan, Lalan Singh, Lalit Kumar, and several others from the local community.

"Learn Safety, Embrace Technology": Sahibganj Hosts Road Safety Awareness Chaupal



AGENCY

Sahibganj: On the 15th day of National Road Safety Month 2026, a grand Road Safety Chaupal was organized at the main Haat Bazar in Sahibganj to raise awareness about road safety. The event aimed to educate citizens, particularly in rural markets and at the panchayat level, about traffic rules and to reduce road accidents. During the program, road safety champions encouraged citizens under the Raheer Scheme to assist accident victims during the "golden hour" to save lives. Attendees were urged to follow traffic rules, wear helmets and seat belts, avoid overspeeding, and never drive under the influence of alcohol. Speaking at the event, M.V.I. Kumar Utkarsh and Abhishek Munda emphasized that road safety is not just about following rules, but about protecting lives. They highlighted that even small precautions can save countless lives. The program was attended by District Road Safety Manager Neeraj Kumar Sah, Road Engineer Analyst Anuj Parashar, IT assistant Rajhans, and other officials. The event successfully shared critical road safety information with the public and promoted a culture of safe and responsible traffic behavior.

MASAURHI REVENUE EMPLOYEE DISMISSED OVER CORRUPTION CHARGES

AGENCY

Masauri : A revenue employee posted at the Masauri Circle Office has been dismissed from service after being found guilty of serious corruption charges. The action was taken by Patna District Magistrate Tyagarajan S M under the Bihar Government Servants (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 2005. The dismissed employee, Raja Kumar, was accused of demanding illegal gratifi-

cation in exchange for clearing mutation-related applications. He was arrested on December 23, 2025, by a vigilance department raiding team from the Masauri Block Office premises while allegedly demanding Rs 1 lakh for processing applications.

A departmental inquiry revealed that Raja Kumar had deliberately kept applications pending and failed to provide any satisfactory explanation during the disciplinary



proceedings. The inquiry report submitted by the Additional Collector-cum-Conducting Officer, Patna, found all charges to be fully proven. Taking into account the inquiry findings and public interest, the competent authority concluded that retaining the employee in government service would be against public interest and accordingly issued the dismissal order. Reacting to the action, Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sinha said that the decision sends a strong message to officials and employees involved in corruption. He asserted

that any officer or staff member found harassing the public or indulging in corrupt practices will not be spared under any circumstances. He reiterated that bribery in the revenue department will not be tolerated and that the government is following a zero-tolerance policy against corruption. The administration has clarified that this departmental action will not affect the criminal proceedings already pending against the accused.

Headlines

Donation for Education: Janaki Kunwar Higher Secondary School Named in Mohanpur



AGENCY
Samastipur: Setting an exemplary precedent by treating education as a lifelong commitment, visionary residents Yogendra Rai and Rajendra Rai of Mohanpur block donated 80 decimals of land during their lifetime for the upgradation of the Utkramit Higher Secondary School, Mohanpur. The land was donated in the name of the Hon'ble Governor and dedicated to the memory of their aunt, late Janaki Kunwar. As per the rules of the Education Department, Bihar Government, if a donor contributes a minimum of 75 decimals or more of land, the higher secondary school can be named after a person of the donor's choice. District Primary Teachers' Association Principal Secretary Anil Kumar stated that in accordance with this provision, District Education Officer Kameshwar Gupta officially approved the naming of the Utkramit Higher Secondary School, Mohanpur as Janaki Kunwar Higher Secondary School, Mohanpur, in memory of the donor's aunt. The development has generated widespread enthusiasm across the district and the state, inspiring people to consider donating land in the names of their ancestors for educational institutions. Members of the teaching community described the initiative as a farsighted and socially transformative step.

Teachers Bid Farewell with Best Wishes for New Postings



AGENCY

Samastipur: At Ra. U. M. School for Girls, Vishnupur Bathua in Pusa block, a farewell ceremony was organised on Friday for teachers Santosh Kumar, Aarti, and Shekhar Kumar, following their transfers. They were wished success for their contributions at their newly posted schools. On the occasion, Headmaster Bindeshwar Sah and senior teacher Saghna Kumari honoured the transferred teachers by garlanding them and presenting shawls, diaries, and other tokens of appreciation. Teachers and staff members including Chandrasekhar Kumar, Kanchan, Sapna, Komal, Neelam, Deepak Kumar, and Abdul Qadir were also present on the occasion.

Blankets Distributed Among Sadhus and Saints by Social Worker in Bithan Bazaar

AGENCY

Samastipur: In a commendable initiative during the cold season, social worker Vijay Mahto distributed blankets among sadhus and saints who had arrived from the block area at his residence in Bithan Bazaar, Pithan block. The initiative also included serving refreshments to the spiritual guests. Speaking on the occasion, Vijay Mahto said that sadhus and saints are the spiritual heritage of society, and serving them is a matter of privilege. He emphasised that helping those in need during extreme cold is a social responsibility for every individual. Several local dignitaries and residents were present during the blanket distribution programme and appreciated Vijay Mahto's efforts, calling it an inspiring social act. The programme concluded peacefully in a cordial atmosphere. Among those present were Rani Devi and Laxmi Kumari.

ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS RALLY ORGANISED



AGENCY

Samastipur: Under the road safety programme, an awareness rally was organised under the leadership of headmaster Mukesh Kumar and Mahipal of the Middle School and Higher Secondary School, Bela Panchrakhi. The rally passed through the main road of Rupnarayanpur Bela with high-spirited slogans accompanied by a school band, drawing the attention of commuters and local residents. As the rally moved along the road, members of the Bal Sansad (children's parliament), including Prime Minister Shalini and Minister Ayushi, greeted passing motorcycle and Scorpio driv-

ers and appealed to them to wear helmets and seat belts while strictly following road safety norms. The students urged motorists to remember that life is precious and to drive carefully, reminding them that their families and children wait for them at home. Teachers and staff members, including Sanjeev Kumar Jha, Kailash Ram, Shiv Shankar Prasad, Anant Kumar Yadav, Vinay Singh, Diwakar Kumar Singh, Praveen Kumar, Mohammad Sadullah, Komal Pandey, Indira Kumari, Vibha Kumari, Shakeela Rahaman, Khushbu Rai, Bimla Kumari, and others actively supported the programme.

BBG Ram Ji Act Aligns With Mahatma Gandhi's Vision of a Developed India: Lajvanti Jha

AGENCY

Bihta: A one-day workshop for party workers on the effective implementation of the BBG Ram Ji Act-2025 was organised on Thursday at Hotel Atul Inn in Bihta under the chairmanship of Patna Rural district president Rajnish Kumar. The workshop was held with the objective of formulating strategies to take the provisions of the Act down to the booth and panchayat levels. State General Secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Lajvanti Jha, attended as the chief guest, while former Bikram Assembly candidate Atul Kumar was present as the special guest. Addressing the workshop, Lajvanti Jha said that it is essential to ensure that the BBG Ram Ji Bill-2025 reaches every booth and panchayat so that the general public becomes fully aware of its benefits. She stated that the Act removes

the earlier shortcomings of the MGNREGA scheme and makes it completely transparent. Under the new provisions, the number of guaranteed workdays has been increased from 100 to 125, which will provide more employment opportunities to labourers and farmers. She further noted that earlier, even people residing in cities such as Mumbai and Delhi were fraudulently registered as MGNREGA workers, but under the new system only genuinely eligible beneficiaries will receive work and wages, thereby curbing cor-

East Central Railway GM Conducts Window Trailing Inspection on Multiple Rail Sections

AGENCY

Hajipur: General Manager of East Central Railway, Chhatrasal Singh, on January 15, 2026, carried out a window trailing inspection of the Fatuha-Daniawan-Biharsh arif-Barbigha-Sheikhpura-Lakhisarai-Jhajha rail section, and on the return journey inspected the Jhajha-Mokama-Patna rail section. During the inspection, the General Manager reviewed the condition of railway tracks, bridges, and other infrastructure along the route, and directed officials to take all necessary measures to ensure better



track maintenance and safe railway operations. As part of the inspection, the General Manager also reviewed the redeveloped Lakhisarai Junction under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. The newly redeveloped station building features an attractive design and is equipped with upgraded, modern passenger amenities aimed at improving the overall travel experience. Thereafter, the General Manager proceeded from Lakhisarai to Jhajha, where he inspected the running room and the railway colony.

HIGH-LEVEL BRIEF TRAINING SESSION HELD ON DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

AGENCY

Patna: A high-level brief training session on disciplinary proceedings was organised on Thursday at the auditorium of the Old Secretariat in Patna. The session was chaired jointly by Chief Secretary Pratyay Amrit and Director General-cum-Chief Vigilance Commissioner Deepak Kumar Singh. The meeting was attended by Development Commissioner Mihir Kumar Singh, Chairperson-cum-Member of the Revenue Board Harjot Kaur Bamhra, Additional Chief Secretary of the General Administration



Department B. Rajendra, Additional Chief Secretary of the Home Department Arvind Kumar Chaudhary, along with several other senior state government officials. Disciplinary action procedures formed the central theme of the session. Addressing the gathering, Deepak Kumar Singh stated that the General Administration Department has compiled all circulars issued from time to time and released a comprehensive master circular on disciplinary proceedings. He further informed that a reference book has also been prepared,

incorporating Article 311 of the Constitution along with other relevant legal provisions and important judgments of the High Courts and the Supreme Court, with the objective of ensuring a clear and comprehensive understanding of procedures to be followed in disciplinary cases. The meeting emphasised that the use of correct terminology and strict adherence to legal procedures at the stage of instituting an inquiry is critically impor-

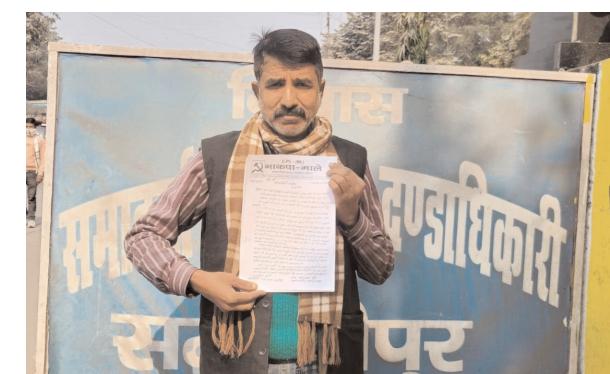
tant. Discussions were held on avoiding common procedural errors, such as awarding minor penalties without formally framing charges, seeking opinions on the defence statement of the charged officer from the disciplinary authority or administrative department, and issuing orders related to the quantum of punishment, subsistence allowance during suspension, and adjustment of suspension period within a single resolution. It was also clarified that in cases involving officers at Level 9 and above, consultation with the Bihar Public Service

Commission is mandatory before issuing any punishment order. Attention was also drawn to errors related to the appointment of presenting officers during disciplinary proceedings. The session laid special emphasis on the proper framing of charge sheets, careful examination of defence submissions made by government servants, and timely regularisation of suspension periods. It was clearly stated that delays in regularising suspension periods could render the punishment disproportionate and contrary to the very objective of disciplinary action.

Suspension of Police Officers in Third-Degree Torture Case Welcomed; Demand for Dismissal Made – Surendra

AGENCY

Samastipur: The suspension of the police station in-charge and investigating officer (IO) by Superintendent of Police Arvind Kumar Singh in connection with the third-degree torture of Manish Poddar of Tajpur, and the custodial assault on his wife and father, has been welcomed by CPI (M-L). However, the party termed the action as only a partial measure and demanded the dismissal of the accused officers. In line with this demand, CPI (M-L) block secretary Surendra Prasad Singh submitted a memorandum to District Magistrate Roshan Kushwaha and Sub-Divisional Officer Dileep Kumar on Thursday, announcing that a human chain protest will be organised at Tajpur's Rajdhani Chowk on January 24 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The memorandum also included demands for investigating the viral video showing a local official accepting bribes, providing residential plots to landless people, regularising government land occupants, improving access paths in villages, and curbing corruption in housing schemes. Surendra Prasad Singh stated that Sanjay Poddar's shop employee son, Manish Poddar, was subjected to petrol being poured on him in the toilet



pathway and was beaten with sticks. His wife was kept in custody for four days, while both his father and wife were also assaulted. The CPI (M-L) leader described the incident as a heinous case of police torture and demanded the dismissal of the guilty police officers, IO, and station in-charge. He appealed to the residents of Tajpur to actively participate in the human chain on January 24 to make the justice movement successful.

Let Blood Flow in Veins, Not on Roads: Strong Message from DTO and Civil Surgeon in Arwal

AGENCY

Arwal: In accordance with state government directives, continuous awareness programmes are being organised in the district under National Road Safety Month 2026 with the objective of reducing road accidents, promoting adherence to traffic rules, and strengthening humanitarian values among the public. As part of this campaign, a blood donation camp along with a road safety awareness programme was organised on Thursday at the district Sadar Hospital under the joint aegis of the District Transport Office and the Civil Surgeon. Addressing the programme, District Transport Officer Aman Preet Singh gave a strong message, stating, "Let blood flow in veins, not on roads." He said that blood spilled on roads takes away the support system of an entire family, and therefore it



is the duty of every individual to strictly follow traffic rules. He informed that throughout National Road Safety Month, people will be made aware of traffic and road safety norms through various outreach initiatives across the district. The District Transport Officer further said that human service should be such that it is remembered for a lifetime, and blood donation is among the finest examples of such service. He emphasised that combining road safety awareness with blood donation reflects the true spirit of saving lives. During the blood donation camp, District Transport Officer Aman Preet Singh himself donated blood along with members of the transport department's mobile enforcement team, including Sujit Kumar Sharma, Satyendra Kumar, Mukesh Kumar Yadav, and others. The event successfully conveyed the message that responsible driving and compassion for human life go hand in hand, reinforcing the broader aim of National Road Safety Month to make roads safer and society more humane.

South Indian Bank Scripts Another Record Quarter with Rs. 374 Cr. Net Profit

South Indian Bank had declared the highest ever quarterly Net Profit of Rs. 374.32 Cr. for Q3 FY 2025-26 registering a growth of 9% compared to Rs. 341.87 Cr. in Q3 FY 2024-25.

Key Highlights of Q3 FY26

Net Profit of the Bank for the quarter is up by 9% from Rs. 341.87 Cr. in Q3 FY25 to Rs. 374.32 Cr. in Q3 FY26.

Net Profit of the Bank for the 9-month ended has increased by 9% to Rs. 1047.64 Cr. for Dec-25 when compared with Rs. 960.69 Cr. for Dec-24.

Pre-Provisioning Operating Profit for quarter is up by 10% from Rs. 528.44 Cr. in Q3 FY25 to Rs. 584.33 Cr. in Q3 FY26.

Non-Interest Income increased from Rs. 409.22 Cr. to Rs. 485.93 Cr., registering a growth of 19% on Y-o-Y basis. The Bank continues to maintain positive operating leverage for the 9-month ended Dec-25 with 7.44% increase in Net Total Income over 3.61% increase in Operating Expense compared to the 9-month period ended Dec-24.

Gross NPA reduced by 163 bps from 4.30% to 2.67% on Y-o-Y basis.

Net NPA dropped by 80 bps from 1.25% to 0.45% on Y-o-Y basis.



- PCR excl. write off increased by 1177 bps from 71.73% to 83.5% Y-o-Y basis
- PCR including write off increased by 1050 bps from 81.07% to 91.57% Y-o-Y basis

o Return on Assets continued to remain above 1%

- Slippage Ratio reduced by 17 bps from 0.33% in Q3 FY25 to 0.16% in Q3 FY26

DEPOSITS

- Retail Deposit grew by Rs. 13,142 Cr. from Rs. 1,02,421 Cr. to Rs. 1,15,563 Cr., showing an increase of 13% on Y-o-Y basis
- A and above rated Corporate Advance has increased by Rs. 3,560 Cr. from Rs. 21,068 Cr. to Rs. 2,833 Cr. from Rs. 31,132 Cr. to

Rs. 33,965 Cr., showing an increase of 9% on Y-o-Y basis

CASA grew by 15% on Y-o-Y basis with growth in Savings Bank by 14% and Current Account by 20% respectively

ADVANCES

- Gross Advances grew by Rs. 9,798 Cr. from Rs. 86,966 Cr. to Rs. 96,764 Cr., showing an increase of 11% on Y-o-Y basis
- Corporate Segment went up by Rs. 3,897 Cr. from Rs. 34,956 Cr. to Rs. 38,353 Cr., showing an increase of 10% on Y-o-Y basis
- A and above rated Corporate Advance has increased by Rs. 3,560 Cr. from Rs. 21,068 Cr. to Rs. 2,833 Cr. from Rs. 31,132 Cr. to

24,628 Cr.

Business segment (incl ML) went up by Rs. 2,007 Cr. from Rs. 16,546 Cr. to Rs. 18,553 Cr., showing an increase of 12%

Gold Loan portfolio went up by Rs. 4,337 Cr. from Rs. 16,966 Cr. to Rs. 21,303 Cr., showing an increase of 26% on Y-o-Y basis

Vehicle Loan grew by 24% Y-o-Y from Rs. 1,938 Cr. to Rs. 2,393 Cr. While announcing the financial results, Mr. P. R. Seshadri, MD & CEO of the

Bank, stated that the Bank's well-defined strategy continues to underpin its strong business performance during the period. The Bank recorded healthy growth across all major segments - including Corporate, MSME, Housing, safety credentials, earning a 5-star safety rating in both Global NCAP and Bharat NCAP. Besides this, the Made-in-India SUV was also showcased to international audience at the Japan Mobility Show 2025. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Hisashi Takeuchi, Managing Director & CEO, Maruti Suzuki India Limited, said, "Maruti Suzuki's export journey is guided by the vision of Make in India, Make for the World. In calendar year 2025, with exports of over 3.9 lakh vehicles, we emerged as India's number one passenger vehicle exporter for the fifth year in a row. The year also marked our re-entry into Europe with the start of exports of our first Battery Electric Vehicle, e VITARA." He added, "If we look at growth of India's passenger vehicle exports in the past five years from CY2020 to CY2025, while the rest of the industry grew by 1.43 times, Maruti Suzuki exports grew by 4.67 times. The addition of VICTORIS will further support our export ambitions, and we are hopeful it will be well received in international markets."

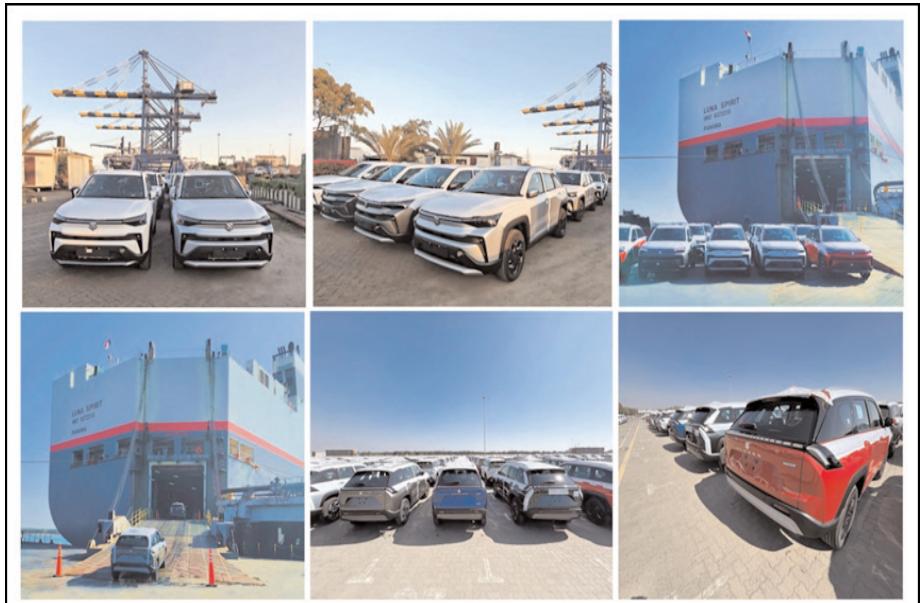
Auto and Gold loans - with a steadfast focus on maintaining asset quality.

He further highlighted that, in line with the Bank's strategic intent of achieving Profitability through Quality Credit Growth, the Bank successfully onboarded fresh advances with a low risk profile. This approach, he noted, reflects the Bank's continued commitment to sustainable growth, prudent risk management and value creation for all stakeholders. Bank's Capital adequacy Ratio stood at 17.84% in December 2025, indicating a strong capital position, underscoring the Bank's sound capital management practices and capacity to support future business growth. The Bank's financial results include the financial results of its wholly owned subsidiary SIBOSL.

About South Indian Bank

South Indian Bank is a leading Kerala-based Private Sector Bank with a nationwide presence. The Bank's shares are listed on The Stock Exchange Mumbai (BSE) and The National Stock Exchange of India Ltd., Mumbai (NSE). South Indian Bank has 948 branches, 2 Ultra Small Branches, 3 Satellite branches, 1143 ATMs and 126 CRMs across India.

Maruti Suzuki commences exports of VICTORIS, badged as 'Across'



New Delhi, 16 January

2026: Maruti Suzuki

India Limited ("Maruti

Suzuki") today

announced the start of

shipment of its premium

SUV, VICTORIS, for

exports. Over 450 vehi-

cles have set sail from

Mundra and Pipavav

ports for global markets.

The SUV, which embod-

ies the brand's 'Got It All'

philosophy, will be glob-

ally sold as 'Across'.

Engineered as a truly

modern SUV, VICTORIS

combines intelligent

technology and indul-

gent comfort with futur-

istic styling. The SUV

has demonstrated global

safety credentials, earn-

ing a 5-star safety rating

in both Global NCAP and

Bharat NCAP. Besides

this, the Made-in-India

SUV was also showcased

to international audience

at the Japan Mobility

Show 2025. Speaking on

the occasion, Mr. Hisashi

Takeuchi, Managing

Director & CEO, Maruti

Suzuki India Limited,

said, "Maruti Suzuki's

export journey is guided

by the vision of Make in

India, Make for the

World. In calendar year

2025, with exports of over

3.9 lakh vehicles, we

emerged as India's num-

ber one passenger vehi-

cle exporter for the fifth

year in a row. The year

also marked our re-entry

into Europe with the

start of exports of our

first Battery Electric

Vehicle, e VITARA." He

added, "If we look at

growth of India's passen-

ger vehicle exports in the

past five years from CY2020 to CY2025, while the rest of the industry

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PERNOD RICARD INDIA LAUNCHES SEAGRAM'S XCLAMAT!ON IN TELANGANA

Telangana, 16 2026: Pernod

Ricard India announces the launch of Seagram's Xclamaton in Telangana, marking the company's most ambitious innovation in 30 years. Seagram's Xclamaton is India's singular brand portfolio having five distinct spirit categories, Whisky, Vodka, Gin, Rum, and Brandy, all at a uniform price point, in the premium admix segment. The brand is strategically positioned in a sizeable white space at the entry-level premium price segment, catering to India's rapidly growing young adult consumer base. The target consumer is 26 - 30 years. These consumers are effortless statement makers and gravitate towards what's distinct. They connect in tribes and when they get together in mixed gender gatherings, everyone has a different preference of beverage. That explains the growth of categories beyond Whisky, such as Gin, Vodka, Rum and Brandy. With over 20 million consumers entering



the legal drinking age category annually, Xclamaton addresses an unmet market need for quality spirits at accessible premium pricing. The brand's proposition, "It's time for Xclamaton", positions it as a catalyst that transforms ordinary moments into extraordinary experiences, for India's new generation of consumers.

Jean Touboul, CEO, Pernod Ricard India, said, "For over three decades, Pernod Ricard India has been at the forefront of shaping the country's premium spirits industry. Xclamaton is a brand born from deep consumer insight, designed for India's next-gen consumer

price point. The unified brand spans five categories, each crafted to deliver unmatched value with distinct design, taste and positioning. The whisky is made from Speyside's Scotch malts matured in dual cask, blended with Indian grain spirits to give a smooth indulgence. The brandy depicts a perfect mixture of Indian and French grape, matured in French Limousin cask to give a refined palate. The rum offers a recherche of India jaggery rum and aged Jamaican spirit, crafted in copper stills to give a bold taste. The vodka is a unique rhythm of Indian terroir, triple filtered with Russian moonstone technology to give unmatched purity. The gin rises from the infusion of the natural flavors of the juniper berries from Germany with mixed botanicals of India to give 7 distinct flavors. Xclamaton is more than just a brand; it is a statement of boldness, innovation, and celebration.

TBZ-The Original celebrates 25 years of presence in Hyderabad. Launches new showroom at Himayatnagar with Inaugural offers Celebrating 161 Years of an Iconic Legacy

HYDERABAD, 16th

January, 2026: In a momentous

occasion that intertwines

history, culture, and

luxury, TBZ-The Original,

India's most esteemed jew-

ellery brand, today

announced the opening of

its new showroom at

HIMAYATNAGAR, Hyderab

ad. Already having

built a strong brand

and unique connection

with the city, this new store

will offer its customers a

superior experience, locat-

ed in the prime high street

area of Himayat Nagar

Main Road. The store also

commemorates the celebra-

tion of TBZ-The

Original's presence in

Hyderabad for over 25

years. An integral part of

the city's jewellery buying

rituals, TBZ-The

Original's

announced a month long

celebratory offers valid

across its 3 stores in

Trusted by Hyderabad for 25 YEARS

Assured Gifts on Purchase + Exciting

Offers: Upto Rs. 500/- per gram off on Gold

Rate Upto 100% off on

Making charges of

Jewellery Assured Gold

Budget 2026: Industry calls for stronger push to domestic manufacturing

New Delhi, Jan 15 (IANS) Industry stakeholders have called for stronger push to domestic manufacturing and the 'Make in India' initiative among the top priorities for the Union Budget 2026-27, a pre-Budget survey conducted by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham) said on Thursday.

The survey, conducted among professionals across manufacturing, services, infrastructure, IT/ITeS, startups and allied sectors, found that 55 per cent of respondents remain optimistic about the business outlook over the next 12 months, while 32 per cent maintain a neutral stance and only 13 per cent expressed a pessimistic outlook.



Boosting domestic manufacturing emerged as the single most important Budget priority to advance the vision of an Aatmanirbhar and Viksit Bharat, followed by strengthening

MSMEs and simplifying tax and compliance systems.

According to the apex industry chamber, infrastructure and logistics development, skills and job creation, and accelerated

digital and AI-led growth also featured prominently among industry expectations from the Budget. To accelerate manufacturing growth, industry participants said the budget should focus on providing cheaper long-term capital, enhancing credit availability and offering targeted tax incentives for technology upgradation, automation and artificial intelligence adoption. Expansion of PLI schemes to more sectors, tax incentives linked to Industry 4.0, rationalisation of customs duties on critical raw materials, and faster clearances at industrial parks, SEZs and industrial clusters were also highlighted.

The survey further underscored the close link between

manufacturing growth and MSME health, with 55 per cent of respondents being MSMEs themselves.

"Delayed payments and working capital shortages were identified as the most critical pain points for MSMEs, reinforcing the demand for cash-flow-based lending, green-channel credit linked to GST and e-invoice data, and incentives for timely payments," the findings showed.

The survey report highlighted that the Union Budget 2026-27 should prioritise execution-oriented reforms, rationalise compliance frameworks and deploy targeted fiscal incentives to unlock private investment, strengthen MSMEs and enable manufacturing scale-up.

India's startup ecosystem accelerated under PM Modi's leadership: Top entrepreneurs

New Delhi, Jan 15 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi has played a decisive leadership role in strengthening India's startup ecosystem, with his vision, top entrepreneurs said on Thursday.



According to them, the development of digital public infrastructure such as the JAM Trinity (Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile) and UPI for making business easier and more inclusive. Healthcare platform 1mg CEO Prashant Tandon said India today offers everything an entrepreneur needs to build and scale a business. "Since Prime Minister Modi took charge, startups have moved into the spotlight. India has successfully established itself on the global startup map," he said.

the country's real needs," Tandon added. Urban Company co-founder and CEO Abhiraj Singh Bahl said that when his company started, India had only one or two unicorns. "Over the last eight years, the ecosystem has transformed dramatically. Today, India has over 110 unicorns and thousands of startups across sectors. This growth is a result of the leadership and support provided by Prime Minister Modi," he said.

Nuvocore reports record Q3 cement sales, EBITDA up 50% YoY

Jamshedpur, Jan 15: Nuvoco Vistas Corp. Ltd., a leading building materials company in India, announced its financial results for the quarter ended December 31, 2025. The Company continues its progress on the strategic capacity expansion in the East, coupled with the project execution at the Vadrav Cement facilities, which remains on track, with the operationalisation of the Clinker unit and Grinding units planned in phases starting in Q3 FY27. These initiatives position Nuvoco's total cement capacity at 35 MMTPA, thereby consolidating its position as the fifth-largest cement group in India for the long-term.

The Company sustained improved YoY performance despite macro headwinds in the initial part of the quarter. The Company achieved its highest-ever third-quarter cement sales volume of 5 MMTPA in Q3 FY26, registering a 7% YoY growth. Consolidated revenue from operations grew 12% YoY to Rs. 2,701 Cr. in Q3FY26. The Company also reported 50% YoY rise in consolidated EBITDA



to Rs. 386 Cr. in Q3FY26.

Premium products continued their strong momentum with premiumisation sustaining at a historic high of 44% for the second consecutive quarter. The robust performance highlights rising brand traction for the NuvocoConcreto and NuvocoDuraguard franchises, with increasing recognition as trusted choices in building material applications. RMX business is witnessing volume traction within its Concreto range of products. Capitalising on the demand, the division launched Concreto Tri Shield, a specialised product offering three-layer durability and a 50% increase in structural lifespan. Meanwhile, the MBM business launched the Nuvoco Zero M Unnati App, a digital loyalty platform

designed to enhance influencer engagement, transparency, and data-driven channel growth.

Commenting on the performance of the Company, Jayakumar Krishnaswamy, Managing Director, Nuvoco Vistas Corp. Ltd., stated, "Despite early macroeconomic challenges from prolonged monsoon and festivities that softened demand in October and November, December saw healthy double-digit growth, demonstrating strong recovery momentum. The Company delivered its highest-ever third-quarter volume and a 50% YoY rise in EBITDA, driven by a sustained focus on premiumisation and operational excellence. The Company also achieved the lowest blended fuel cost in the last 17 quarters, at Rs. 1.41 per Mcal. Therefurbishment and project execution at the Vadrav Cement Plant are progressing steadily as planned. These strategic expansions, supported by our focus on premiumisation, cost and operational efficiency, will drive our long-term competitive advantage."

Netherlands-based Nexperia's dispute with China disrupts supply chains, hits automakers

New Delhi, Jan 15 (IANS) Europe's legal and political conflict with China over control of chipmaker Nexperia has disrupted cooperation between raised longer-term questions about stability within global supply chains, a report said on Thursday.

The report from Investment Monitor said the conflict between Nexperia's Holland-based company and a key manufacturing site in China's Guangdong halted production at multiple car manufacturing plants.

"As countries jockey for control over different stages of the semiconductor value chain, it's going to lay out these potential breaking points," the report cited Georgetown University Center for Security and Emerging Technology senior data research

analyst Jacob Feldgoise. Guangdong facility had produced about 50 billion units annually, roughly half of the company's output before the dispute. Semiconductor manufacturer Nexperia is a Dutch subsidiary of Wingtech Technology, a Shanghai-based electronics firm

partly owned by the Chinese government. A Dutch court placed Nexperia under trustee supervision in October, stripping parent Wingtech Technology of ownership rights and suspending founder Zhang Xuezheng as chief executive, Investment Monitor said citing a Bloomberg report.

The Dutch court placed Nexperia under the supervision following allegations of improper technology transfers and resource diversion. Wingtech appealed before the Dutch Supreme Court denied any wrongdoing and negotiations with trustees but political tensions have persisted, the report said. Some banks withdrew financing to the company, including an unused \$800 million credit line, it added. Both organisations took steps to prepare for future operations independently and the Dutch side committed approximately \$300 million to expanding production capacities outside China, aiming for 90 per cent non-Chinese output by mid-2026. Expansion efforts focus on facilities in Malaysia and the Philippines.

81 pc Indians optimistic about future, outpacing global peers



New Delhi, Jan 15 (IANS) India is ranked fourth globally in public confidence, and the country is headed in the right direction, with 81 per cent expressing optimism compared with a 48 per cent global average, a report said on Thursday.

The report from SEC Newgate stated that India holds organisations to high standards, with 89 per cent of respondents ranking socially responsible business as highly important versus a global average of 80 per cent.

It highlighted a gap between expectation and performance as 89 per cent expected organisations to act responsibly, while only 78 per cent saw visible performance.

Further, India has also been

ranked third globally in the community's expectations of businesses to communicate their values and speak out on social issues.

The report, based on a survey conducted among 20,000 people across 20 countries, showed that stronger climate ambition is widely supported, with 85 per cent respondents believing businesses should speak up on environmental issues, though affordability pressures continue to shape public acceptance.

Fewer respondents prioritised climate action over business profitability (69 per cent), keeping costs low for consumers (62 per cent), or increasing pay or benefits for employees (57 per cent).

Familiarity with the term ESG

(Environmental, Social, and Governance) is higher in India, with 81 per cent aware of the term and 47 per cent claiming a strong understanding, the report said.

"Notably, 61 per cent of Indian respondents express a strong interest in ESG issues once explained, compared with 35 per cent globally rating high interest."

India is less fatigued by ESG debates and more focused on visible impacts that are locally relevant," it said.

Communities in India also show clear support for businesses investing in local communities, domestic employment, and responsible sourcing.

50 pc of Indian startups emerging from Tier 2, 3 cities; women lead inclusive growth



New Delhi, Jan 15 (IANS) Startups are increasingly bridging India's rural-urban divide by deploying solutions across agri-tech, telemedicine, microfinance, tourism, and ed-tech, directly addressing developmental gaps and supporting rural livelihoods, an official statement said on Thursday, ahead of the National Startup Day. Notably, women-led startups are emerging as a key driver of inclusive and regionally balanced growth, with more than 45 per cent of recognised startups having at least one-woman director/partner as of December 2025.

"This reflects the emergence of innovation not only as an economic engine but also as a driver of social equity and balanced regional development," according to the official statement.

Over the past decade, India has rapidly evolved into one of the world's largest startup ecosystems, with more than 2 lakh startups as of December 2025.

Major hubs like Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Mumbai, and Delhi-NCR have been at the forefront of this transformation. At the same time, smaller cities are also steadily contributing to the momentum, with around 50 per cent of the startups emerging from tier 2 and 3 cities, reflecting the democratisation of entrepreneurship.

The Startup India Initiative, led by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has emerged as the cornerstone of India's innovation and entrepreneurial

India's unemployment rate remains largely stable in December

New Delhi, Jan 15 (IANS) India's unemployment rate (UR) for persons aged 15 years and above remained largely stable in December, estimated at 4.8 per cent compared to 4.7 per cent observed in November, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Statistics on Thursday.

The rural UR remained stagnant at 3.9 per cent, while the urban UR stood at 6.7 per cent. Among rural males aged 15 years and above, the UR remained low and stable at 4.1 per cent in December 2025.

Further, the urban female UR moderated to 9.1 per cent last month, compared to 9.3 per cent in

November 2025. The overall Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) among persons aged 15 years and above showed an upward trend at 56.1 per cent in December, compared to 55.8 per cent in November.

According to the official statement, in rural areas, the LFPR was

estimated at 59.0 per cent in December 2025, in comparison to 58.6 per cent in November 2025. The urban LFPR experienced a slight dip to 50.2 per cent from 50.4 per cent during this period.

Overall labour force participation for females aged 15 years and above edged up to 35.3 per cent from 35.1 per cent in November 2025.

In rural areas, it witnessed an increase to 40.1 per cent during December 2025 -- from 39.7 per cent in the previous month and in urban areas, it slipped slightly to 25.3 per cent in December from 25.5 per cent in November 2025.

NITI Aayog unveils blueprint to empower MSMEs by boosting scheme implementation, service delivery

New Delhi, Jan 15 (IANS) NITI Aayog on Thursday released a detailed blueprint to improve outcomes for the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) by streamlining scheme implementation, strengthening inter-ministerial coordination, and enhancing the delivery of financial, skill, marketing, and innovation support.

The report, titled 'Achieving Efficiencies in MSME Sector through Convergence of Schemes', outlines a strategic roadmap to strengthen the effectiveness of government support for MSMEs in the country.

Among other suggestions, the report proposes an AI-powered centralised digital platform inte-

grating MSME schemes, compliance, finance, and market intelligence.

"Drawing on global best practices, the portal would feature information, process, compli-

ance, and market research modules, supported by AI chatbots, dashboards, and mobile access for real-time support to MSMEs," NITI Aayog said in a statement. Further, the report evaluates existing government schemes and programmes for the MSME sector, assesses the current level of convergence among them, and identifies best practices from central, state, and international experiences, offering actionable recommendations to unlock convergence opportunities and undertake corrective measures to improve efficiency, outreach, and impact of MSME schemes. There are 18 schemes spanning critical support areas such as credit assistance, skill development, marketing support, innovation and R&D, technology and quality upgradation, and infrastructure development.

The report recommends a two-pronged approach to convergence, comprising information convergence and process convergence. "Information convergence focuses on integrating government-generated data at the central and state levels to improve coordination, enable informed decision-making, and strengthen governance outcomes," it highlighted.

Two, process convergence aims at aligning and unifying schemes to reduce redundancies, streamline operations, and improve service delivery.

This includes merging similar schemes, combining common components, and fostering collaboration across ministries and states to create a cohesive MSME support ecosystem.

Tesla sells 225 electric vehicles in India in 2025

New Delhi, Jan 15 (IANS) US-based Electric vehicle (EV) manufacturer Tesla sold 225 units of its only electric vehicle in India, Model Y SUV, in calendar year 2025, according to industry data.

Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) data showed that Tesla retailed 64 units in September, 40 in October, 48 in November and 73 in December. US electric vehicle maker is yet to complete a year of retail deliveries in India as it opened its maiden showroom in July.

The company currently offers the Model Y in India as a completely built unit with a rear-wheel-drive (RWD) powertrain. The standard RWD variant of Model Y is priced at Rs 59.89 lakh (ex-showroom), while the Long Range RWD is priced at Rs 67.89 lakh (ex-showroom). Prices are significantly higher than those in overseas markets due to India's high import duties on fully built vehicles. Tesla operates experience centres in Gurugram, Mumbai and Delhi, with around 12 superchargers and 10 destination chargers across those cities.

Tesla claims a range of up to 500 km and the Long Range up to 622 km for Model Y.



Men's U19 World Cup: Henil Patel's fifer helps India beat USA by six wickets

Bulawayo (Zimbabwe), Jan 15 (IANS) Henil Patel bagged the first five-wicket haul of the tournament and helped multiple-time champion India make a winning start to their campaign in the ICC Under-19 Men's Cricket World Cup with a six-wicket victory (via DLS Method) over the USA at the Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo on Thursday.

Five-time winners India inserted in the USA after winning the toss, and Henil Patel instantly validated that decision by delivering a fiery opening spell that broke the resistance of the USA top order. The right-arm pacer picked up three wickets inside the first 12 overs as the USA were reduced to 35/4.

The Indians then tightened the screws on the USA middle-order



to pick up wickets at regular intervals as DeepeshDevendran, Ambarish RS, Khilan Patel, and VaibhavSooryavanshi all picked up a wicket each. Patel then returned to clean up the tail and bag the first fifer of the

tournament to bowl USA out for just 107 inside 36 overs.

SOORYAVANSHI SETS RECORD

The USA made a good start to proceedings with the ball, dismissing early Vaibhav

Sooryavanshi, who set a world record by making his debut in the U19 World Cup at the age of 14 years and 294 days, breaking the 18-year-old record held by Indian-origin player Nitish Kumar, who made his debut for Canada at the age of 15 years and 245 days.

Just when skipper Ayush Mhatre and Vedant Trivedi appeared to steady the innings, the game was halted because of the lightning protocols. Rain followed and ensured the game was suspended for long enough for it to be reduced to 37 overs when it resumed after a long break. Chasing a revised target of 96, India were rocked by two quick wickets as skipper Mhatre (19) and Trivedi (2) were dismissed, leaving India struggling at 25/3. But Abhigyan Kundu and Vihaan Malhotra

weathered the storm and slowly turned the tables on the USA bowlers, stitching together a counter-attacking 45-run partnership that got India closer to the target. Malhotra's dismissal didn't prevent the five-time winners from cruising home and putting their first points on the board.

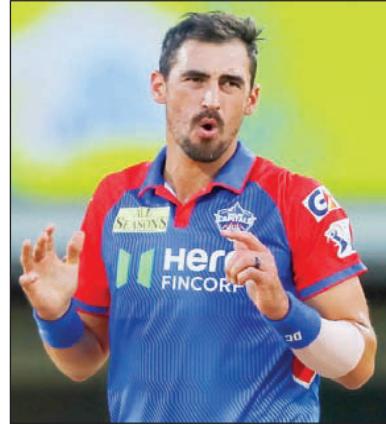
India will be back in action against Bangladesh for their second game in Group A on Saturday. The USA will take on New Zealand on Sunday, with both matches set to take place at the Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo.

Brief scores: USA U19 107 all out in 35.2 overs (NitishSudim 36; Henil Patel 5-16) lost to India U19 (revised target 96 - AbhigyanKundu 42 not out; RitvikAppidi 2-24) by 6 wickets (DLS method).

Mitchell Starc bags ICC Men's Player of the Month Award

Dubai, Jan 15 (IANS) Australia's talismanic bowler Mitchell Starc has been named as the winner of the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for December, following his splendid performance against England in the Ashes 2025-26.

The 35-year-old was on a roll in the recently concluded Ashes series, taking 31 wickets and contributing with two half-centuries. His outstanding all-round performance earned him the Player of the Series award. Australia's left-arm fast bowler was nominated for the Player of the Month award after he took 16 wickets and scored 139 runs across three tests in December. Starc was proud to have won the award on the back of a successful home Ashes win.



Adelaide International: Andreeva, Shnaider set up all-Russian semis clash

Adelaide, Jan 15 (IANS) World No. 8 Mirra Andreeva stormed into the semifinals of the Adelaide International, setting up an all-Russian clash against Diana Shnaider after a dominant victory over local hope Maya Joint in Adelaide on Thursday.



The Adelaide International serves as a crucial warm-up event ahead of the season's first Grand Slam, offering players a final chance to fine-tune their form for Australian hard courts. Andreeva, the third seed, proved too strong for local hope Maya Joint in a battle between two rising teenagers. The Russian star dispatched the 32nd-ranked Australian with a commanding 6-2, 6-0 victory to book her place in the final four.

India Open 2026: Lakshya Sen beats Kenta Nishimoto to reach QFs; Srikanth, Prannoy crash out

New Delhi, Jan 15 (IANS) Former champion LakshyaSen relied on his strong defence and injection of pace to defeat Japan's Kenta Nishimoto, while KidambiSrikanth and HS Prannoy's inspired performances were not enough in the second round of the India Open 2026 at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi on Thursday. Sen packed off Nishimoto 21-19, 21-11 to advance into the quarterfinals after Srikanth had gone down 21-14, 17-21, 21-17 against BWF World Tour Finals winner Christo Popov of France, and Prannoy lost to eighth seed Loh Kean Yew of Singapore 18-21, 21-19, 21-14.

India's challenge in the women's section of the BWF World Tour Super 750 event being organised by the Badminton Association of India also came to an end after the fifth-seeded Chinese Han Yue accounted for MalvikaBansod 21-18, 21-15. The going was tough even for Sen in the initial stages of the first game against Nishimoto, as the Indian was struggling to find his rhythm and the length of his strokes. The Indian Oil employee trailed the Japanese 11-10 in the opening game and then 14-18, but kept on engaging his opponent in long rallies and came up with some brilliant defensive strokes to parry Nishimoto's smashes to

claw back. He won five straight points to take the lead and then wrapped up the opening game on the very first opportunity. Sen was much more clinical in the second game, varying his pace and going for the kill whenever he found an opportunity. As he grew in confidence, the 24-year-old mixed his half smashes with clever reserve drops to keep his opponent guessing and sealed his quarterfinal spot in 50 minutes.

Important results: Men's singles: Lakshya Sen bt Kenta

Nishimoto (Jpn) 21-19, 21-10; 5-Christo Popov (Fra) bt Kidambi Srikanth 21-14, 17-21, 21-17; 3-Jonatan Christie (Ina) bt Yushi Tanaka (Jpn) 21-15, 21-19; 8-Loh Kean Yew (Sin) bt HS Prannoy 18-21, 21-19, 21-14; 2-Kunlavut Vitidsarn (Tha) bt Lu GuangZu (Chn) 21-14, 21-16. Women's singles: 1-AN Se Young (Kor) bt Huang Yu-Hsun (Tpe) 21-14, 21-9; 7-Ratchanok Intanon (Tha) bt Mis Blichfeldt (Den) 21-16, 21-11; 5-Han Yue (Chn) bt Malvika Bansod 21-18, 21-15; 4-Chen Yu Fei (Chn) bt Busan Ongbamrungphan (Tha) 21-11, 21-13; Natsuki Nidaira (Jpn) bt 8-Tomoka Miyazaki (Jpn) 21-19, 8-21, 21-



Washington Sundar ruled out of NZ T20Is with rib injury

New Delhi, Jan 15 (IANS) India all-rounder Washington Sundar has been ruled out of the five-match T20I series against New Zealand, as he is still recovering from a rib injury he suffered during the ODI series opener in Vadodara, sources told IANS on Thursday. The five-match T20I series, which is set to begin on January 21 at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium in Nagpur, is part of India's preparation for the T20 World Cup, which starts on February 7. It remains unclear whether the all-rounder will recover



in time for the marquee tournament. "Washington is ruled out of the T20Is against New Zealand, as he would take at least a few more weeks to recover from the injury suffered in the Vadodara ODI.

It is yet to be known if he will be fully fit in time for the T20 World Cup," said a source familiar with the matter to IANS. The source further said, "Washington is likely to report to the CoE in Bengaluru on Saturday and will know more about his recovery timeline once he reaches there."

Najmul sacked as players' revolt puts BPL in limbo

Dhaka, Jan 15: The crisis-ridden Bangladesh Cricket Board stared at the prospect of its flagship T20 league coming to a halt after senior national players revolted against it for not sacking director Najmul Islam for his disparaging comments against them even though the BCB removed him as head of its finance committee.

Despite the removal of Najmul from the key BCB post, two matches of the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) scheduled on the day were postponed and the tournament itself looked in disarray due to the players' firm stance.

The cricketers taking part in the BPL were unified in their demand for immediate removal of Najmul as BCB director. BCB removed Najmul as chairman of the board's finance committee but he remains a Board director, a position that can be taken from him on disciplinary grounds. "...Following a review of recent developments and in the best interest of the organisation, the BCB President has decided to release Mr. Najmul Islam from his responsibilities as Chairman of the Finance Committee with immediate effect," said the BCB in a statement. "Until further notice, the BCB President will assume the role of Acting Chairman of the Finance Committee. The BCB reiterates that the interests of the cricketers remain its highest priority."

Keys loses to Mboko in Adelaide International QF

Adelaide, Jan 15 (IANS) Defending champion Madison Keys suffered a shock exit from the Adelaide International on Thursday, crashing out in the quarter-finals after a three-set defeat to Canada's rising star Victoria Mboko. World No. 17 Mboko, 19, defeated ninth-ranked Keys 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 in one hour and 53 minutes for her second career victory against a top-10 opponent. Eighth seed Mboko struck first by breaking Keys early to take the opening set but struggled to match the American's powerful serving in the second. In the deciding set, Mboko was clinical on serve, winning 75 percent of points on her first delivery and capitalising on the only break opportunity she earned. "I know she won this tournament last year and, of course, the Australian Open. I knew coming into this



match it had to be a big fight, so I'm glad I got it done," Mboko said on court after the match, as reported by Xinhua. Keys had won the Adelaide International title in 2025 before going on to claim her first career Grand Slam title at the Australian Open weeks later. She will be in action in Melbourne on January 18 to defend her title. Mboko will play Australia's Kimberly Birrell in Friday's semifinal, after the world No. 107 came back from a set down to beat Romania's JaquelineCristian 5-7, 6-1, 7-5 in a three-hour epic. Birrell led 5-2 in the first set and had five set points but could not make the most of the opportunities as Cristian won five games in a row to seal the set. Birrell flipped the momentum in a dominant second set where she won the opening five games.

Jsr officials appointed arbiters at National School Games

Jamshedpur, Jan 15: The 69th National School Games Championship 2025-26 is currently underway at Khelgaon, Ranchi, with over 300 participants competing in the Under-14 boys' and girls' categories. The prestigious event has drawn participation from 31 sports units, representing states from across the country.

Two officials from Jamshedpur, Dr SuchetaBhuyan and Mrs ShwetaKumari, have been invited to serve as match arbiters for the championship. Their selection reflects recognition of their experience and contribution to the sport.

Narendra Kumar Tiwary, General Secretary of the East Singhbhum District Chess Association, extended his best wishes to both officials and the participants for a successful and competitive championship.



Sabuj Kalyan Sangh to host first Rapid Chess Tournament on Jan 18



Jamshedpur, Jan 15: Sabuj Kalyan Sangh, Telco, will organise its first-ever Rapid Chess Tournament 2026 on January 18 at the Sabuj Kalyan Sangh campus, marking a new milestone for chess promotion in the area.

The event has already received an encouraging response, with over 100 players registered so far. Top seed of the tournament will be Kumar Sankalp, with an Elo rating of 1771, while Ishani Choudhary (rating 1462) will be the top-seeded player in the women's category. The organisers have announced a total cash prize of Rs 40,000, along with 36 trophies for boys and girls across various age groups.

Reporting time for players will be 8:00

PST-11 clinches Chamber Premier League 2026 title

Jamshedpur, Jan 15: PST-11 emerged champions of the Chamber Premier League (CPL) 2026, defeating PRW-11 by a convincing margin of 134 runs in the final match held at the Tube Makers Club Ground. The two-day fifth edition of the tournament was organised by the Singhbhum Chamber of Commerce and Industry on January 13 and 14.

The final began at 7:00 pm and witnessed an impressive performance by PST-11, which dominated the match from start to finish.

VikasAgarwal was named Man of the Match for his outstanding contribution in the final. The details were jointly shared by Chamber President ManavKedia and Honorary General Secretary PneetKanawati.

The closing ceremony took place at 8:30 pm at the same venue. MukulChaudhary, Chief Sports, Tata Steel, attended as the chief guest, while Rajiv Badhan, Secretary of Cricket Country Club, Ranchi, was the guest of honour. They presented trophies to the winning and runner-up teams and distributed consolation prizes to all participating players.

Addressing the gathering, MukulChaudhary appreciated the enthusiasm of business owners and entrepreneurs for sports despite their busy schedules, and praised the Chamber for promoting a healthy lifestyle.

Rajiv Badhan also lauded the initiative and encouraged the



Chamber to continue supporting sports activities. President ManavKedia said the Chamber has begun organising sports events alongside its regular activities to promote fitness, camaraderie and sportsmanship among its members. He added that the number of teams is likely to be increased to eight in the next CPL season.

Six teams-PST-11, Executive-11, PRW-11, Trade-11, Industry-11 and Tax & Finance-11 participated in the tournament. The top four teams qualified for the semi-finals played on January 14.

Individual honours went to Vinil Kumar Lal (Man of the Series), Pritam Jain (Best Batsman), AshutoshKabra (Best Bowler), VinilSala (Best Fielder) and SugamSaraiwala (Best Wicketkeeper).

“Heartfelt thanks to every single audience for giving us such a massive success” – Star Entertainer Naveen Polishetty at the Anaganaga Oka Raju Thank You Meet

“This is the first Sankranti in six years that truly gave me satisfaction” – Producer Suryadevara Naga Vamsi Arriving as a Sankranti gift and showering theatres with nonstop laughter, Anaganaga Oka Raju is racing ahead toward a sensational blockbuster status. Starring star entertainer Naveen Polishetty in the lead, the film is produced by Suryadevara Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya under the banners of Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas, and presented by Srikara Studios. The film is directed by debutant Mari, with Meenakshi Chaudhary as the female lead. Released on January 14 amid huge expectations, Anaganaga Oka Raju received an extraordinary response from the very first show. Along with rib-tickling comedy, the film touched hearts with its emotional moments, earning praise as a true festive entertainer. In just two days, the film created a sensation by collecting a massive ₹41.2 crores worldwide. With collections pouring in at the box office backed by overwhelming audience support, the team organized a Thank You Meet to express their gratitude. Speaking at the event, Naveen Polishetty said, “First of all, Sankranti



greetings to everyone. My heartfelt thanks to each and every audience member who gave us such a big success, and to our media friends who stood by us with immense support. Sithara Entertainments is a blockbuster production house that has delivered many milestone films. Recently, one or two films from the banner did not perform as expected. At such a time, audiences giving a blockbuster in the form of Anaganaga Oka Raju has brought great happiness to all of us. Seeing a smile on Naga Vamsi garu's face especially made me very happy. I wish he always stays smiling like this. I must specially talk about our gurus Trivikram garu and

Chinna Babu garu. They trusted us and encouraged us greatly for this film. The episodes they believed in and allowed us to retain are now receiving tremendous appreciation from audiences. From the very first scene to the interval, audiences are laughing continuously in the first half. The political entertainment in the second half is also getting an excellent response. I always prioritize entertainment in my films, but this time we also wanted to deliver strong emotions along with it. I admire Rajkumar Hirani's films, and with that inspiration, we attempted something similar in Telugu. We watched the film in a mass theatre like Sriramulu, and the way

audiences enjoyed the entertainment and showered applause during the emotional scenes made us feel that our story connected with all sections of viewers. As a hero, this is only my fourth film and my first Sankranti release. Despite competition from big films, audiences made our film a blockbuster. A dialogue from a Trivikram film says there's some power behind you. The power behind me is the audience. They are the ones carrying my films forward. From someone who once went around asking for just one

chance, to receiving four consecutive hits, I sincerely thank every Telugu family for this love. I'll continue to work harder than ever to entertain you. Director Maari's contribution is unforgettable. He also played a key role in the writing. When I was feeling low while writing the story after an accident, our co-writer Chinmayi filled me with motivation. Meenakshi Chaudhary and Rao Ramesh garu delivered outstanding performances. Thanks to Mickey J. Meyer garu for the wonderful music. When writers, artists, and directors are trusted and given creative freedom, this is the kind of output that comes. My heartfelt thanks to Naga Vamsi garu for trusting us and giving us complete freedom. Thanks to everyone who was part of this Sankranti, our distributors stood strongly by us and allotted sufficient theatres, which helped us achieve a ₹41 crore gross in just two days. My thanks to all distributors who trusted me and Naveen and stood by us. Releasing a film during Sankranti and delivering a hit is very special to me. Special thanks to Naveen for being a key part of this success. Meenakshi Chaudhary dedicated an entire year exclusively to this film, and I sincerely thank her. For any script-related doubts, I constantly discussed with creative director Chinmayi, and I promised her that if this film succeeds, I'll introduce her as a director under our banner. Trivikram

Sankranti that gave me true satisfaction after six years. After Ala Vaikuntha Puramuloo in 2020, this is the first Sankranti to give me that level of fulfillment. My heartfelt thanks to audiences for delivering such a big success this Sankranti. Thanks to the media for the tremendous support. Many producers wished for this film to succeed, and with everyone's blessings, we achieved this level of success. Fans are also showing massive support on social media, and a big announcement that will make them happy is coming soon. Even though two big films released this Sankranti, our distributors stood strongly by us and allotted sufficient theatres, which helped us achieve a ₹41 crore gross in just two days. My thanks to all distributors who trusted me and Naveen and stood by us. Releasing a film during Sankranti and delivering a hit is very special to me. Special thanks to Naveen for being a key part of this success. Meenakshi Chaudhary dedicated an entire year exclusively to this film, and I sincerely thank her. For any script-related doubts, I constantly discussed with creative director Chinmayi, and I promised her that if this film succeeds, I'll introduce her as a director under our banner. Trivikram

Energetic Mass Track Basavanna From Arjun's Seetha Payanam Unveiled

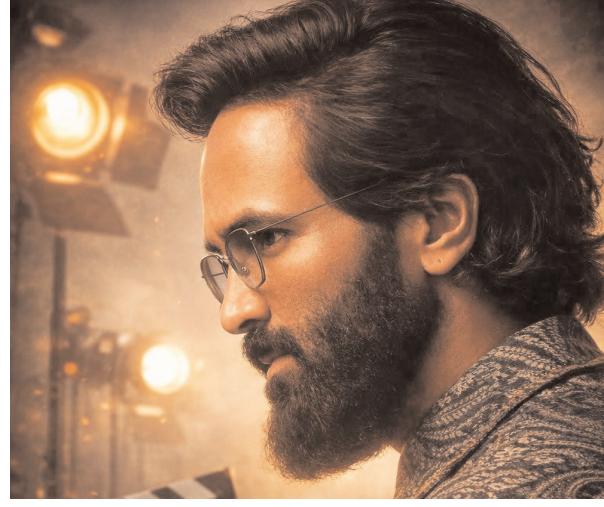


Multi-talented actor and director Action King Arjun is gearing up with his upcoming film Seetha Payanam. Produced under the Shree Raam Films International banner, the movie marks the silver-screen debut of Arjun's daughter Aishwarya Arjun as the female lead. The film also features Niranjan, Sathyaraj, Prakash Raj, and Kovai Sarala in key roles. Along with directing, Arjun himself plays a special character, while his nephew Action Prince Dhruva Sarja appears in a striking cameo. The newly released song 'Basavanna', introducing Dhruva Sarja's character, has grabbed instant attention. The track hints at Dhruva Sarja portraying a powerful and intense role as Basavanna.

Anup Rubens' composition is packed with high energy, showcasing the importance of the Basavanna character in the film. Kasarla Shyam's lyrics deliver goosebumps, while the vocals by Nakash Aziz and L. Keerthana are vibrant and appealing. Choreographers Lalitha Shobi and Srishti Varma have added dynamic visuals to the song. From the glimpse this track offers, Dhruva Sarja is all set to become one of the film's biggest strengths. The team has now completed the shoot and post-production work. The makers have already announced that the film will release on February 14, hitting screens on a grand scale in Telugu, Kannada, Tamil, Malayalam, and Hindi.

From a 10-Minute Short Film to a Rs. 10-Crore Feature Film: AVAA International Short Film Contest Season 1 Announced

On the auspicious occasion of Sankranti and Pongal, AVAA Entertainments announces the launch of the AVAA International Short Film Contest – Season One, a unique, director-centric initiative aimed at discovering and encouraging new filmmaking talent across India. The production house extends warm wishes to everyone for a very Happy Sankranti and Pongal. Designed as a director-focused reality format, the contest invites aspiring filmmakers to submit short films with a maximum duration of 10 minutes, judged purely on storytelling and directorial vision. The standout highlight of the contest is its grand reward — the winning director will get an opportunity to direct a ₹10-crore feature film,



produced by actor and film producer Mr. Vishnu Manchu. Known for his constant support of emerging talent, Vishnu Manchu's vision behind this initiative is to provide deserving directors a genuine gateway into mainstream cinema. With this initiative, AVAA Entertainments reinforces its commitment to nurturing fresh voices and shaping the future of Indian cinema.

Introducing The Graceful Nabha Natesh As Parvathi From Nagabandham, Pan-India Release In Theaters This Summer

Abhishek Nama's ambitious mythological action drama- Nagabandham, starring Virat Karrna, continues to scale new heights as it nears the final stages of production. While the film is already making waves for its massive scale and mystical storyline, the team has now unveiled the captivating first look of lead actress Nabha Natesh as Parvathi. Marking the occasion of Makara Sankranti, the poster showcases the graceful Nabha Natesh in a gorgeous and traditional avatar. Draped in an elegant saree and adorned with intricate jewellery, she radiates poise, purity, and spiritual warmth. Her soulful expression hints at a character deeply rooted in devotion and mythic grace. Adding to the visual richness, a vivid blue peacock rests near her hand, complemented by the



presence of a majestic peacock and a temple backdrop. This poster perfectly captures the essence of the character and the film's thematic core. Iswarya

Menon is the other heroine, with stalwarts like Jagapathi Babu, Jayaprakash, Murali Sharma, and B.S. Avinash in key roles. Nagabandham unfolds against the backdrop of India's ancient Vishnu temples. The storyline explores the sacred mysteries of the Nagabandham tradition, weaving mythology, suspense, and divine legacy into a gripping contemporary narrative. With Soundar Rajan S handling cinematography, RC Pranav overseeing editing, and Ashok Kumar taking care of production design, the film promises visual excellence. Backed by producers Kishore Annappureddy and Nishitha Nagireddy, Nagabandham is gearing up for a grand multi-language release in Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam, this summer. In "Miracle,"

PRABHAS NIMMALA'S "MIRACLE": FIRST LOOK RELEASED



Starring Randheer Bheesu - Hebbah Patel as the lead pair, with senior actors Sriram and Suresh in key roles, "Miracle" is being made as an out-and-out action entertainer. Produced jointly by Ramesh Eggidi, Srikanth Mogadasu, and Chander Goud under the Saida Family Entertainment banner, "Miracle" is directed by Prabhas Nimmala, known for films like "Satya Gang" and "Fighter Shiva." The first look of the film was released today (January 16) as a Sankranti special. Mrs. Jyotsna is the co-producer of the film. The film's first schedule, packed with high-octane action sequences, has been completed successfully. The second schedule is set to commence from January 22 in and around Hyderabad. In "Miracle,"

Randheer Bheesu plays the hero, while Hebbah Patel stars as the female lead. Akshara Nunna Sujana appears as another heroine. Senior actors

Sriram and Suresh will be seen in crucial roles. Naidu Pendra is being introduced as the villain. Veteran film journalist Dheeraj Appaji will be seen in a special role as a Forensic Officer. The film also features Janardan, Yogi Katre, Vijay Surya, Inthiyaz, Sai Baba, Dil Ramesh, Jhansi, Suryanarayana, Sridhar, Srikanth, Shiva, Aamani, Haimavathi, Navya (Ammu), Bezwada Mastan, R. Kumar, and several others in important roles. Speaking on the occasion, the producers said:

"After proving his directorial strength with Satya Gang and Fighter Shiva, director Prabhas Nimmala is now coming up with his third film 'Miracle.' Hebbah Patel's glamour, powerful performances by senior actors Sriram and Suresh, and high-voltage action blocks will be the major highlights of the film. The second schedule will begin from January 22."