



04-02-2026
Total pilgrims: 68,586
Tonsure: 24,764
Hundi Kanukulu: 3,71 CR
Waiting Compartments: 09

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



BJP taking 'protection money' to shield BRS leaders: CM Revanth

Hyderabad (TSIT): Alleging a secret understanding between BRS and BJP for the municipal elections, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday alleged that the BJP is taking 'protection money' to shield BRS leaders in various scams.



race scam. "If BJP does not have any secret deal with the BRS, it should arrest the BRS leaders before municipal elections," he said. The Chief Minister took a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not accepting the state's request to order the CBI probe into the Kaleshwaram scam and further investigation into the Formula E race scam.

He recalled that a resolution was adopted in the Assembly and sent it to the Centre, requesting a CBI probe into Kaleshwaram. He wanted to know why no action was taken even after six months.

[See More on Nation Page](#)

Guilty in Tirupati laddu adulteration will not be spared: CM Naidu



tuted a one-man committee to conduct a comprehensive examination of the report, identify lapses, and fix responsibility. Once the committee completes its review, the government will initiate appropriate action in accordance with the findings, he said, addressing a press conference along with Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, BJP State President P.V.N. Madhav and several ministers.

Stating that they are placing the facts before people, the Chief Minister said that the alleged adulteration of Tirumala laddu prasadam is a grave offence against devotees' faith and asserted that no report has given a clean chit to the YSRCP in the matter.

The Chief Minister said the government has consti-

'Illegal' coal mine blast in Meghalaya leaves 18 dead, several injured

SHILLONG (TSIT): At least 18 labourers were killed, and several others feared trapped following an explosion at an "illegal" coal mine in Meghalaya's East Jaintia Hills district on Thursday, February 5, officials said. Rescue teams have been engaged in search operations, Director General of Police I Nongrang said, adding that the incident occurred in the Thangku area in the morning.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh would be provided to the next of kin of each deceased, while the injured would be given Rs 50,000. "Pained by the mishap in East Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya. Condolences to those who lost their loved ones. May the injured recover at the earliest," the Prime Minister's Office

(PMO) quoted Modi as saying in a post on X. Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma expressed grief over the incident and announced a probe. During rescue operations, a total of 18 bodies were recovered from the site, East Jaintia Hills Superintendent of Police Vikash Kumar said.

One person who sustained injuries in the blast was initially taken to Sutnga Primary Health Centre before being referred to a Shillong hospital for better treatment. "The exact number of labourers present inside the mine at the time of the explosion is yet to be ascertained. More people are feared trapped," the DGP said. The explosion is suspected to have occurred during coal mining activities at the site, which is believed to be an illegal operation. Asked whether the mine was operating illegally, Kumar said, "Yes, it seems like that." In a statement, the chief minister said, "Profoundly saddened by the tragic coal mine incident in East Jaintia Hills. My deepest sympathies are with the families who have lost their loved ones in this unfortunate tragedy."

CM Revanth Reddy Addresses Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind Meeting, Stresses Unity and Minority Empowerment

SEE ON PAGE-2

Opp. Coliseum Mall, Karmanghat. **Maangalya** shopping mall

Telangana - Andhra Pradesh - Karnataka

Women | Men | Kids

BIGGEST FAMILY SHOPPING MALL IN TELANGANA

TODAY GRAND Opening 11:01 AM

Sreeleela Cine Actress

MAANGALYA SHOPPING MALL

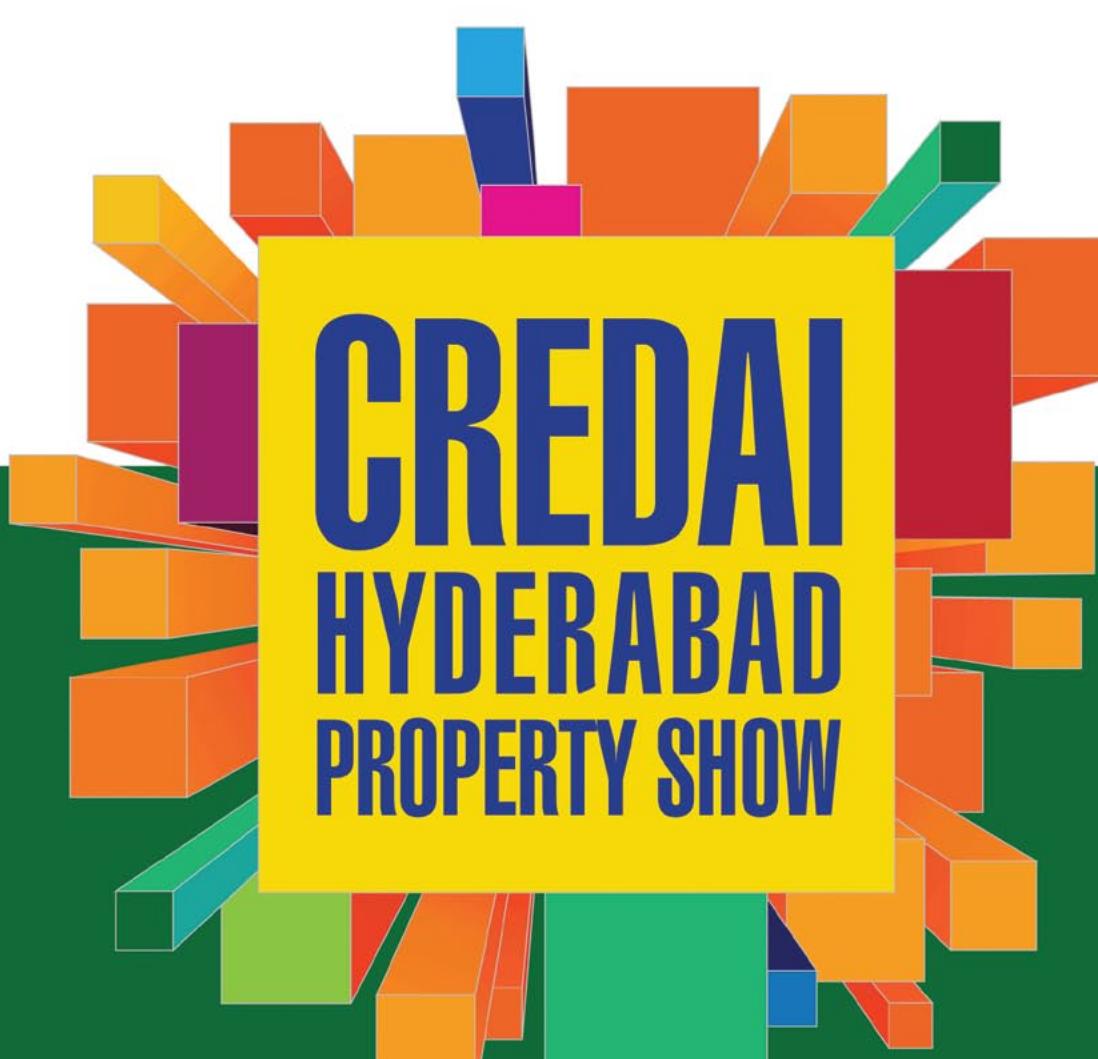


Eight Indian sailors released, will be returning home: MEA

NEW DELHI (TSIT): India on Thursday announced that eight of the 16 Indian sailors held in Iran have been released and will return home, with consular teams closely engaged with Iranian authorities over the remaining sailors. Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "We've had consular access to the 16 sailors in Iran. Our officials in Bandar Abbas have met them. Of those 16, eight people, according to the Iranian authorities, have been released and will be returning home. With regard to the remaining eight sailors, we are in touch with the Iranian authorities.

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Hon'ble Chief Minister, Telangana



Sri Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu Garu
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Finance & Planning, Energy, Telangana



Sri N Uttam Kumar Reddy Garu
Hon'ble Minister Irrigation & CAD;
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5-9-88 to 5-9-91, Lahari Legend, Kishanpura,
Hanumakonda Dist-506 001, T.G, have
Changed My Name as THALLA VARSHINI
DHANALAXMI W/o THALLA SAMPATH
KUMAR (New Name) for all future purposes.

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Administrative Office: 6th Floor(Floor 2), Building No.02, Aurum Q parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710 Branch office A1a-1-5-588, 3rd, Nakalgutta, Hanumakonda, Warangal-506001

DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors/ mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from M/s. Shriram Finance Limited (Shriram City Union Finance Limited, amalgamated with Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited, subsequently Shriram Transport Company Limited name changed as Shriram Finance Limited, by its Incorporation Certificate dt.13-11-2022) a corporate body registered and incorporated as a company under the Indian companies Act 1956, is doing Non-Banking financial activities, having its Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032 and having its administrative office at 6th Floor (level 2), Building No Q2, Aurum Q, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710, and Branch office at: Hanumakonda (hereinafter referred as We/ The Company) Address: 6th Floor(Floor 2), Building No.02, Aurum Q parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710 Branch office A1a-1-5-588, 3rd, Nakalgutta, Hanumakonda, Warangal-506001

We/ The Company state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/guarantors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non Performing Asset in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India consequent to the Authorized Officer of SHIRAM FINANCE LTD, under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein below under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 calling upon the following borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the notices and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc until the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of notices. The notices issued to them on their last known addresses have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (6) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

NAME OF THE BORROWER(S)/ Co-Borrower(S)/Guarantors

1) Komareddy Kommidli S/O Mallareddy, Age: 46 Years, Occ: M/S Hanuman Traders, Girmal, Warangal, R/o.H.No.5-38, Ramagundalapally, Jagaihpet, Regonda, Warangal Dist-506 348. Cell: 9701683881. And Also At Komareddy Kommidli S/O Mallareddy, Age: 46 Years, Occ: Agriculture, Open plot Nos.31 and 32 (part), 536.44 Sq.Yards, Plot No.126, Gorekunta, Geesugonda Mandal, Warangal District.	2) Padma Kommidli W/O Komra Reddy, Age: 40 Years, R/o.H.No.5-38, Ramagundalapally, Jagaihpet, Regonda, Warangal Dist-506 348. Cell: 9701683881.	3) Mahendar Reddy Edelli S/o Vanapaya, Age: 38 Years, Occ: Om Sai Dairy Farm, R/o.H.No.15-18, Ramagundalapally, Jagaihpet, Regonda, Warangal Dist-506 348. Cell: 9957335051.
PROPERTY ADDRESS OF SECURED ASSETS: HODATE1709290017-DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (Property holder Name is KOMMIDI KOMURA REDDY Mortgage date dded 09.10.2017 Registered as Document No.339/2017 on the file of the office of Sub-Registrar at Warangal (R.O). Open plot bearing Nos.31 and 32 (part) admeasuring to an extent of 536.44 Sq.Yards or 44.200 Sq.Mtrs in Sy.No.126 situated at Gorekunta, Geesugonda Mandal of Warangal City and District, within the limits of Registration District, Warangal and Sub-District, Warangal Fort is bounded by: East: Open land of Parshobha Gajender, West: 33 Ft Road, North: Plot No.32 (part), South: Road.		
In the circumstances as aforesaid, the notice is hereby given to the above borrowers, co-borrowers and/or their guarantors (wherever applicable) to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and the mortgagors under Section 19(4) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the applicable rules there under.		
Please note that under Section 13 (3) of the said Act, no Borrower shall, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.		
Dated: 05.02.2026 Place: Hanumakonda		

Sd/-Authorized Officer
SHIRAM FINANCE LTD.

**CM Revanth Addresses
Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind Meeting, Stresses
Unity and Minority Empowerment**



Hyderabad TSIT BUREAU: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy addressed a gathering organised by Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind and highlighted the organisation's historic role in India's freedom struggle and its continued efforts to promote unity between minority and majority communities.

In his address, the Chief Minister said Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind had contributed to the independence movement and continues to work toward communal harmony and national progress. He noted that both Hindu and Muslim voters supported him in the Malkajgiri Lok Sabha election and acknowledged the organisation's voluntary support during his campaign. Revanth Reddy said that minorities played an important role in the formation of the Congress government in Telangana and that

the party has consistently provided opportunities to minority leaders at various levels. He cited examples of leaders who were given party tickets and nominated posts, including legislative and ministerial positions, even after electoral defeats.

Referring to Parliament debates, he said Congress leaders stood firmly with Rahul Gandhi in raising issues against the Centre led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The Chief Minister said the State government is planning to bring a law in the upcoming Assembly session to curb hate speeches, stressing that controlling divisive rhetoric is essential for peace and investment. "Development is possible only when society moves forward together and law and order is protected," he said.

**Continue MGNREGA Scheme
Without Dilution, Demands DCC
President Motha Rohith Mudhiraj**

Hyderabad: Khairatabad District Congress Committee President Motha Rohith Mudhiraj has demanded that the Central government continue the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme without dilution and withdraw the recent changes made to it. He was speaking at a "MGNREGA Bachao Satyagraha" protest held on Thursday at Putlibowl crossroads in Goshamahal constituency under the leadership of Gun Foundry Division Congress President Chandramohan Yadav. Addressing the gathering, Rohith Mudiraj alleged that changing the scheme's structure and shifting nearly 40 percent of the financial burden onto states was unjust. He urged the BJP-led Central government to immediately roll back the modifications and safeguard the employment rights of rural poor. He said the scheme was introduced by the Congress government under the guidance of Sonia Gandhi to support poor households and guarantee rural employment, and accused the Centre of attempting to alter both its name and intent.

Details of Borrowers and outstanding amount:

SR. No

BRANCH_RAC_NAME

Loan Account

Customer Name

Amount Outstanding

Date of Demand Notice

G.W

N.W

1

ALKAPURI HYD TG

XXXXXXXXXXXX7033

REDDYGARI BUCHI REDDY

1361152.01

16-Nov-26

261.7

212.4

2

ALKAPURI HYD TG

XXXXXXXXXXXX6642

VANGURI YADAVA REDDY

312470

10-Jan-26

53.4

44.1

3

BACUPALLY TG

XXXXXXXXXXXX6259

YATA MALLA REDDY

361968

16-Nov-26

78.3

62.7

4

CHANDANAGAR,
HYDERABAD

XXXXXXXXXXXX7728

DASARI SANDHYA

121745

06-Nov-26

21.3

19.2

5

CHOUTUPAL HYD TG

XXXXXXXXXXXX3577

ARRCORI SHIVAKUMAR

419368

10-Jan-26

6.6

7.9

6

DR AS RAO NAGAR,
HYDERABAD

XXXXXXXXXXXX8949

VIYAA BHASKER

1360541.38

16-Nov-25

250.8

214.1

7

GACHIBOWLI

XXXXXXXXXXXX8905

VALLEPU KRISHNA

446680.90

09-Dec-25

80.2

71.7

8

GACHIBOWLI

XXXXXXXXXXXX1943

MINNAMAKALA SNEHALATHA

156250

10-Jan-26

26.8

24.9

9

GAYATRINAGAR HYD TG

XXXXXXXXXXXX3101

ALAU NAVEEN REDDY

326446.07

19-Dec-25

44.7

40.3

10

GAYATRINAGAR HYD TG

XXXXXXXXXXXX3518

SHARADA JARAPALA

255140

10-Jan-26

41.4

40.5

11

GHATKESAR HYD TG

XXXXXXXXXXXX9581

BODAS PUSHPA LATHA

24168.93

06-Nov-25

40.1

37.4

12

HIMAYATH NAGAR,
HYDERABAD

XXXXXXXXXXXX6224

CHIKILARISHA

Minister Komatireddy Leads Massive Roadshows Across Nalgonda Divisions Confident of Congress Sweep

Hyderabad: State Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy led massive roadshows across multiple divisions of Nalgonda town on Thursday as part of the campaign for the upcoming Nalgonda Municipal Corporation elections. He appealed to voters to elect all 48 Congress corporator candidates and extend strong support for the city's development.

Campaigning along with MLC Kethavath Shankar Naik and local party leaders, the Minister received an enthusiastic public response, with large crowds participating in the roadshows.



Supporters expressed confidence in Congress candidates and welcomed the government's welfare and development initiatives. Addressing residents, the Minister said Nalgonda would be devel-

oped into a Super Smart City and noted that over 2,000 crore had already been spent on the town's development. He said the upgradation to Municipal Corporation status had created new growth opportunities and assured that civic issues raised during the campaign would be resolved on priority after the polls. Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said he had never betrayed public trust and would continue to stand with the people. Seeking votes as a mark of gratitude, he stated that development works were being carried out in line with public needs and aspirations.



Srisaila Devasthanam, For the welfare of the world, the Devasthanam today (05.01.2026) performed special pujas to Sri Dattatreya Swamy, who is situated under the Triphala tree in the temple premises.

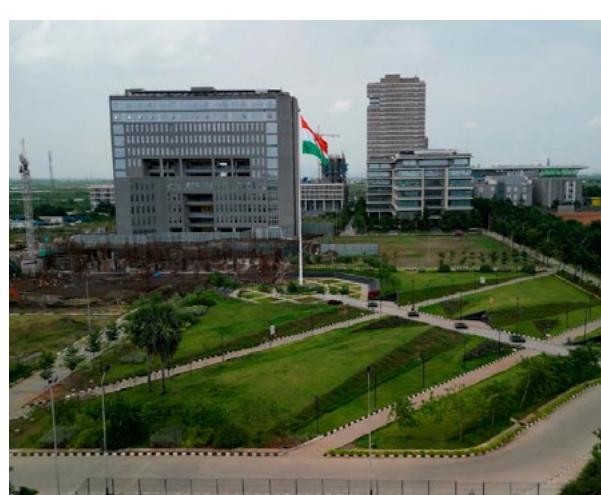
TPCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud Secures Agriculture College for Nizamabad CM Revanth Reddy to Lay Foundation Stone

Nizamabad: Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud has secured the sanction of an Agriculture College for Nizamabad district, fulfilling a long-standing demand of farmers and students in the region. According to party leaders, the proposal moved forward following sustained efforts and follow-up by Mahesh Kumar Goud with the State government. The foundation stone for the new Agriculture College will be laid on Friday by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. Leaders described the sanction as a major step toward strengthening agricultural education and research facilities in the district, saying it will benefit rural youth and farming communities through improved training, extension support, and modern agri-practices. They noted that Mahesh Kumar Goud had earlier played a key role in resolving a decades-long pending demand for an engineering college in Nizamabad district, calling the agriculture college another milestone in expanding higher education infrastructure.



SRM University-AP announces M.Tech admissions for 2026 with 100% scholarship

Amaravati, February 5: SRM University-AP has invited applications for admission to its M.Tech programmes for the academic year 2026, offering a 100 per cent scholarship on tuition fees along with a monthly stipend of Rs.6,000 for all admitted students. The university is offering eight future-ready M.Tech programmes, including Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Data Science, Cyber Security, Environmental and Sustainable Engineering, VLSI Design, Embedded Systems and IoT, Materials and Manufacturing Technology, and Thermal Engineering. In a statement, Director of



Admissions Prof. Y. Siva Sankar said the programmes are designed to provide strong foundational knowledge, advanced technical expertise and exposure to cutting-edge

research, enabling students to excel in both academic and professional careers. He highlighted that SRM University-AP offers a robust academic and industry ecosystem with over 1,200 recruitment partners, 70 global collaborations, more than 80 advanced laboratories and seven centres of excellence. He also noted that the highest placement package for M.Tech students has reached Rs.32 lakh per annum. Reaffirming its commitment to accessible and high-quality postgraduate education, the university announced that the full tuition scholarship and stipend aim to support deserving candidates in pursuing advanced engineering studies. The last date to apply for M.Tech admissions is February 5, 2026. Interested candidates can apply online through the university's official website....

Village Legal Care and Support Centre at Pedda Thanda village inaugurated

Warangal, Feb 5 (TSIT): "This Centre aims at extending the constitutional promise of justice to every corner of society, especially reaching out to villages, and to offer accessible legal assistance to those who are impoverished and marginalized," stated Principal District and Sessions Judge of Warangal V.B. Nirmala Geethamba. Inaugurating the Village Legal Care and Support Centre in Pedda Thanda village of Parvathagiri mandal on Thursday, she emphasized the intent of the Indian Constitution to ensure equal justice for all citizens.

However, she noted that groups such as the poor, women, the elderly, disabled individuals, and those from SC and ST communities often find themselves distanced from the judicial system. Justice Geethamba highlighted that to address this gap, the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) is actively executing various public interest initiatives nationwide. The core mission, she explained, is to directly connect the justice system with the people, bringing the courts closer to the citizens.



Legal service agencies are focused on alleviating fears and misunderstandings regarding justice while also educating individuals about their rights and duties. She detailed that the Centre will offer free legal aid and guidance on a range of issues including family matters, land disputes, labour rights, domestic violence, and the rights of women and children. Additionally, it will provide accessible resolution options like Lok Adalats and mediation, and raise awareness about government welfare schemes at the village level, preventing minor issues from

escalating into significant conflicts. Warangal District Legal Services Authority Secretary M. Saikumar, Parvathagiri Mandal Tahsildar Venkataswamy, Pedda Thanda Village Sarpanch Bhukya Susheela, Sub Inspector Praveen, Chief Legal Aid Council R. Suresh, R.I. B. Kasna, Panchayat Secretary Raju, and Pedda Thanda residents participated.

Speaking on the occasion, a paralegal volunteer who runs the legal aid clinic, Ravalika, informed that she provides legal services to the public every Saturday, providing legal advice and assistance in drafting notices, replies, applications and petitions. Notably, the

LIC posts 16.68% rise in PAT at Rs 33,998 crore for 9MFY26

Mumbai, February 5: Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) on Thursday reported a 16.68 per cent increase in Profit After Tax (PAT) to Rs.33,998 crore for the nine months ended December 31, 2025 (9MFY26), compared to Rs.29,138 crore in the corresponding period last year.

The Board of Directors approved and adopted the standalone and consolidated financial results, with total premium income rising 9.02 per cent year-on-year to Rs.3,71,293 crore. Individual new business premium income increased by 5.89 per cent to Rs.44,941 crore, while group business premium income grew by 13.56 per cent to Rs.1,35,302 crore.

On an Annualised Premium Equivalent (APE) basis, LIC's overall APE rose 15.88 per cent to Rs.44,007 crore, driven by 11.95 per cent growth in individual business and 23.14 per cent growth in group business. Notably, the

share of non-par products within individual business increased sharply to 36.46 per cent, with non-par APE surging 47.44 per cent to Rs.10,045 crore.

The Value of New Business (VNB) increased by 27.96 per cent to Rs.8,288 crore, while the net VNB margin improved by 170 basis points to 18.8 per cent. Assets Under Management (AUM) grew 8.01 per cent year-on-year to Rs.59.16 lakh crore, and the solvency ratio strengthened to 2.19. The overall expense ratio declined to 11.65 per cent, reflecting improved cost efficiency.

Commenting on the performance, LIC CEO and MD R. Doraiswamy said the corporation has achieved higher growth through product and channel diversification, digital initiatives, and increased participation of women agents under the Bima Sakhi Yojana. He reaffirmed LIC's commitment to the national objective of "Insurance for All by 2047."

CM Revanth Attends "Praja Palana-Pragati Bata" Programme at Choppadandi Targets BRS and BJP

Hyderabad TSIT BUREAU: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday participated in the "Praja Palana-Pragati Bata" programme held at Choppadandi in Karimnagar district and addressed a large public gathering, highlighting the State government's welfare and development initiatives while strongly criticizing the BRS and BJP.



Chief Minister recalled that during the Telangana movement, Sonia Gandhi had promised statehood from Karimnagar soil and fulfilled that commitment despite many obstacles. He alleged that during the ten-year BRS rule, leaders amassed huge wealth but failed to deliver meaningful benefits to the poor, including double-bedroom houses.

He said the present Congress-led government is providing Indiramma houses to the poor, continuing free power to farmers, and extending free medical treatment up to 10 lakh under Rajiv Aarogyasri. He also highlighted supply of fine rice to beneficiaries and free bus travel for women in RTC services.

Revanth Reddy said the government has filled about 70,000 jobs for the unemployed and challenged opposition parties to publicly verify the numbers. He stated that Young India Residential Schools are being built in 100 constituencies and that a degree college is being established in Choppadandi. Hostel diet and cosmetic charges for students have also been increased, he added.

Focusing on farmers' welfare, the Chief Minister said loan waivers up to 2 lakh were extended to over 25 lakh farmers and that 9,000 crore was released under Rythu Bharosa within nine days. He said the govern-

ment spent nearly 1 lakh crore on agriculture in two years and is paying a 500 per quintal bonus on fine paddy. "Every grain produced by farmers will be procured by the government," he assured.

The Chief Minister accused the BJP and BRS of having a "hidden understanding," alleging that BRS indirectly helped BJP in Parliament elections. He questioned why the Centre had not acted on the State Assembly resolution seeking a CBI probe into the Kaleshwaram project despite months passing. He also criticized BJP leaders for not speaking about Metro Rail Phase-2, Musi rejuvenation funds, and national project status for Palamuru-Rangareddy.

On women's welfare, he said the government spent about 9,000 crore in two years to provide free RTC travel for women and extended large-scale loans to support women entrepreneurs.

Revanth Reddy announced that Godavari river temple circuits from Basara to Bhadrachalam would be developed ahead of the 2027 Pushkarams with eco-tourism facilities. He also promised an Outer Ring Road for Karimnagar and said Warangal and Karimnagar would be developed as twin cities with a waste-to-energy facility between them.

Annual Brahmotsavams of Sri Venkateswara Swamy at Tondamanpuram from February 16 to 24

Tirupati: The annual Brahmotsavams of Sri Prasanna Venkateswara Swamy, along with Sridevi and Bhudevi, will be conducted at Tondamanpuram from February 16 to 24. As part of the festivities, Ankurarpanam will be performed on February 15 at 6 p.m. The Brahmotsavams will commence with Dhwajarohanam on February 16 between 9.15 a.m. and 9.45 a.m. in Meena Lagnam.

The Vahana Sevas will be conducted every night from 7 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. during the Brahmotsavams.

February 16: Peddasesha Vahanam

February 17 - Hamsa Vahanam

February 18 - Simha Vahanam

February 19 - Hanumantha Vahanam

February 20 - Kalyanotsavam at 5.00 p.m., followed by Garuda Seva in a grand manner at night

February 21 - Gaja Vahana

February 22 - Chandraprabha Vahanam

February 23 - Morning Tiruchi Utsavam and Night Ashwa Vahanam

On February 24, Chakrasanam will be observed from 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m., followed by Dhwajarohanam from 6.30 p.m. to 8p.m.

Pushpavagam will be performed on February 25 at 5.30 p.m.

Koil Alwar Tirumanjanam held at Srinivasa Mangapuram Temple



Tirupati: In view of the annual Brahmotsavams scheduled to be held from February 08 to 16, Koil Alwar Tirumanjanam was conducted in a grand manner on Thursday at Sri Kalyana Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Srinivasa Mangapuram. It is a traditional practice to perform Koil Alwar Tirumanjanam prior to the commencement of annual Brahmotsavams. The Koil Alwar Tirumanjanam was performed from 6.30 a.m. to 11 a.m. During the ritual, the temple premises including walls, ceilings, and all pooja articles were thoroughly cleansed with water and a sacred aromatic mixture "Parimalam," was sprinkled all over the temple. The devotees were allowed for darshan from 11a.m. onwards.



Sri Mani from Tirupati donated two curtains and two Canopies to the temple on the occasion. Special Grade Deputy EO Smt. Varalakshmi, VGO Sri Giridhar, AEO Sri Gopinath, Superintendent Sri Ramesh Babu, Temple Inspectors Sri Dhanasekhar and Sri Munikumar, temple priests Sri Balaji Rangacharyulu, and other staff participated.

KIMS hosts workshop on advanced chronic pain management techniques



The programme was inaugurated by Medical Director of KIMS Hospitals Dr. Sambit Sahu, in the presence of Dr. Krishna Poddar, President of ISSP, Dr. Anurag Agarwal, Secretary of ISSP, and Organising Secretary Dr. Nagalakshmi Patnala. Organising Chairperson Dr. Uma Maheshwara Rao, Workshop Coordinator and Treasurer Dr. Madhukar, and Scientific Chairperson Dr. Sachin Joshi were also present. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Sambit Sahu said the workshop focused on the extensive use of ultrasound and fluoroscopy.

He noted that real-time imaging techniques improve accuracy and safety in pain management procedures and are particularly useful when conventional treatments fail or surgery is not feasible. Members of the ISSP Telangana chapter said the workshop addressed key educational needs of anaesthesiologists and pain physicians. They highlighted that ultrasound-guided interventions allow real-time nerve identification, making them effective for trauma-related pain and perioperative analgesia, while fluoroscopy enhances procedural safety.

The workshop featured cadaver-based training and live imaging sessions using volunteers, providing participants with hands-on exposure to advanced pain management techniques.

EDITORIAL

Why Foreign Investors Are Growing Worried About Their 'Minerals' Bets In Pakistan

Pakistan's geoeconomic ambitions find themselves in an anticipated predicament amid the resurgence of violence in the restive province of Balochistan. The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) on January 31 launched the second phase of its 'Operation Herof', targeting over ten districts across the province. While conflicting casualty reports have emerged, local reports state the involvement of suicide bombers, including female fighters in the operation. In retaliation, the Pakistani security forces launched a counter-militancy operation and reported the killing of over 150 BLA-linked militants in the aftermath of the violence. During the operation, the authorities reportedly suspended mobile services in several districts, including the provincial capital of Quetta, and Mastung, Kalat, Khuzdar, Nushki, Dalbandin, and Kharan. Military measures have often accompanied communication blackouts as part of the state's response to security challenges in Balochistan.

However, the Pakistani state framed the insurgency as externally driven, designating BLA militants as 'Firqa-al-Hindustan' to allege Indian involvement. Within hours of the incident, Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi in a statement said, "These were not normal terrorists. India is behind these attacks. I can tell you for sure that India planned these attacks along with these terrorists." The Pakistani authorities have previously also accused Afghanistan and Iran's role in the Baloch militancy theater. While Baloch militants are known to operate out of southern Afghanistan and southeastern Iran, Pakistan's accusations of state involvement continue to lack credibility or independently verifiable evidence.

The Nushki Gateway

During the operation, the BLA held control over Nushki, therefore highlighting the district as a critical flashpoint between the militants and Pakistani security forces. Strategic control over the territory of Nushki enables militants to sever the land link between the provincial capital, Quetta, and the western part of the province. More significantly, Nushki serves as the entry point to Chagai district, known to be the heart of Pakistan's mineral capital. Home to the Reko Diq gold and copper mines as well as the Saindak copper-gold project, Nushki holds considerable significance for Pakistan's currently expanding geo-economic calculus.

By maintaining a presence in the region, BLA has gestured with intention and capacity to disrupt the logistics of upcoming mining projects, which they have historically portrayed as 'colonial extraction' by the federal government. The focus on Nushki reflects the insurgents' strategy to exploit geographic bottlenecks and paralyse state-led economic corridors and extractive projects. Foreign investors must be closely monitoring the existing security faultlines in Pakistan's restive provinces. Weeks after Pakistan's Army Chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, showcased a briefcase of mineral samples in the presence of Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at the White House in September 2025, Washington signalled interest in Pakistan's purportedly untapped mineral resources. Billions Invested In December 2025, the US Export-Import Bank approved USD 1.25 billion in financing for the Reko Diq copper-gold mining project, with US President Donald Trump publicly expressing business interest in Pakistan. In the following days, the 7th China-Pakistan foreign ministers' Strategic Dialogue's joint statement announced the prioritisation of the mining sector on January 4. Meanwhile, Pakistan's Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik held a meeting on January 28 with the Australian High Commissioner to discuss bilateral cooperation in the mining and rare earth sectors. While analysts have been tempted to frame the narrative around Pakistan's mineral wealth as a US-China competition, the domestic security challenges warrant foremost attention. For foreign investors, it is expected to remain an irritant, also considering that Pakistan's internal security resources already remain stretched thin. Alongside separatist violence in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa remains a conflict zone with the continued operations of Islamist factions, most prominently the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). In the Balochistan insurgency, the reported involvement of female fighters in active combat operations underscores the current character of the insurgency.

Caste, Justice, and Democracy: An Uncomfortable Truth

PRIYANKA
SAURABH

India's democracy is not merely a system of governance, but a moral commitment—one of equality, justice, and fraternity. The Preamble of the Constitution proclaims this commitment. But as we look around us today, the uncomfortable question arises: are we doing justice to that commitment? Or is this very structure of democracy itself cracked from within, with law, order, and power all under the grip of caste, class, and identity? Today, laws are enacted, amended, and new provisions are added, but it's natural to question the intent behind them. Are these laws for the citizen, or for a particular group, class, or vote bank? When social identity begins to replace logic and justice as the basis of legislation, the balance of democracy is bound to be disrupted. The law's function is to unite society, but if it becomes a means of dividing society into categories, this situation is not only worrying but also dangerous. The role of the judicial system is considered the most sacred in any democracy. The court is the place where the last hope rests. But when the perception begins to develop that a person's caste, status, and political patronage are considered before reaching the threshold of justice, the foundation of trust begins to shake. Justice is not just a decision; it is trust. And when this trust is broken, it affects not just one person but the entire society. Today, the number of pending cases in the courts, the delay in decisions, and the apparent or implicit bias in some cases—all these pose serious questions about the health of democracy. The erosion of trust in the name of democracy is a slow but continuous process. It doesn't happen overnight. First, inconvenient questions are labeled "anti-



national," then criticism is branded a "conspiracy," and finally, those who speak the truth are marginalized. When debates in Parliament become more noise than solutions, when a large part of the media becomes an extension of power, and when social discourse is reduced to the incitement of emotions—then it should be understood that democracy is only formally alive; its soul is in crisis. Talks of harmony are uttered from every platform, but the reality on the ground reveals the opposite. Divisions in society are deepening—in the name of religion, caste, language, and region. Instead of bridging these divides, power often exploits them as a tool. "Divide and rule" is no longer a colonial policy relegated to history books, but has

become an effective strategy in contemporary politics. When the public is entangled within itself, the power to question power weakens. It's ironic that while there's talk of eradicating casteism, every political calculus is based on caste-based equations. From election tickets to policy decisions, caste remains a crucial factor. In such a context, the preaching of "rising above caste" seems hollow. If caste were truly irrelevant, why would it be so prominently mentioned in every policy, every debate, and every election? The growing despair in this country of hope isn't solely due to economic factors. Unemployment, inflation, and resource inequality are factors, but an even greater cause is a breakdown in trust. The people entrusted

power to those in whose hands they expected to work for the benefit of all. But when that very power, in order to preserve its own existence, begins to divide society, fear criticism, and suppress dissent, the moral foundation of democracy weakens. The government's turning away from the truth is not a good sign for any society. When the government becomes preoccupied with cultivating its own image and ignores real problems, lies create a parallel reality. In this reality, statistics are dazzling, speeches are lofty, but the lives of ordinary people become increasingly difficult. Propaganda is used to conceal the truth, and gradually the public is taught that asking questions is uncivilized. Talk of social justice is often heard in legislative assemblies and Parliament, but on the ground, the same injustice manifests itself in new forms. In the name of policy reform, provisions are introduced that are either incomplete or give rise to new controversies. This situation is further exacerbated when affected groups lack genuine participation in policymaking, and decisions are imposed from above. The true test of democracy comes in times of crisis. Does it stand with the weakest citizen, or with the most powerful? Today, this question is more relevant than ever. When injustice is committed against the "other," a large segment of society remains silent. But this very silence leads to the erosion of our own rights tomorrow. Selective morality—where we only see injustice in our own interests—erodes democracy from within. This editorial is not an indictment against any one government, party, or leader. It is a call for collective introspection. Democracy is not just the responsibility of rulers; it is equally the responsibility of citizens. Asking questions, expressing dissent, and standing up for the truth—this is the true power of democracy. If we choose to remain silent for the sake of convenience, then we cannot escape responsibility for the collapse of the system. Today, justice needs to be restored to its original meaning—impartial, fearless, and equal. The purpose of law should not be to secure power, but to protect the rights of citizens. The religion of politics should be reconciliation, not polarization.

Easy tips to get glowing skin on Valentine's Day: Shahnaz Husain



Looking to go glam on Feb. 14? For couples in love and hopeful singles, February is the Paris of all months. Valentine's day is the most awaited time of the year, whether you've been together three months or three decades. Valentine day is the perfect opportunity for you to bond and reconnect with your partner, girlfriend, boyfriend, husband, or wife. It doesn't matter if you are going on a special date for a romantic night out, looking for one or just a walk with friends and family. It brings the biggest date night of the year and the restlessness that comes along to look one's best on the special day. If you can't be with your sweetie in person this year, then you might as well send them something sweet through online store/e-commerce websites. There are a lot of valentine gift packs in the market containing chocolate truffle flavours: milk chocolate, milk chocolate caramel, and dark chocolate strawberry. You may choose desi Laddoo /mithai depending on the taste of your sweetie. Especially impressive if you live apart, a surprise gift might be the perfect way to share the love this year. Not sure what to buy? Keep it classic – paintings, art objects and flowers like roses will always be well-received and create a sense of occasion. Twinned with a scented candle, Valentine's Day will be truly wrapped up. Take advantage of sweater weather

and escape into the wilderness, where you can relax by the fire and enjoy some hot chocolate. Take a scenic hike together and enjoy all the beautiful sights and the fresh air—it's a great way to bond while getting some much-needed time to unplug, too. If you've got a new boyfriend, a hot date, or a tried-and-true love, Valentine day gives you the perfect excuse to pamper yourself to look romantic, sweet, presentable, attractive with flawless looking radiant skin with youthful glow. Water based moisture is key for glowing skin. Moisturizers provide a good base before applying any makeup. Moisturizers which are formulated with shea butter, dimethicone, ceramides, hyaluronic acid and aloe vera water help provide long-lasting hydration. Hydrate and nourish your skin every night before sleeping. If your skin is clear, leave out foundation during the day. Use baby powder, or compact powder. Pay more attention to the oily areas of the face, like nose, forehead and chin. Press the powder all over the face and neck, with a slightly damp sponge. This helps it to set and last longer. If you want to use foundation at night, choose a water-based one. Add a drop of water for a lighter coverage. Before applying foundation, apply astringent lotion if your skin is oily, or moisturizing lotion for dry skin. Wait for a few minutes to allow the skin to absorb it. Next, use concealer to cover up pimples and scars, if any. Or, use two shades of foundation. One shade should be as close to your skin colour as possible. The other should be a shade lighter if the blemishes are dark. Take a little light coloured foundation and apply it directly on the pimple or pimple scar. Avoid rubbing or smearing. Pat it into the skin. Then apply your normal foundation on the face and using a moist sponge, spread it evenly, going outwards. Remember the neck too. Blending is important to achieve a smooth finish then apply tinted loose powder on top to "set" the foundation. Or, use compact powder. Blusher comes next, or you can apply it at the end. Use powder blusher. Pink or peach blusher

From a limited world to a limitless imagination: The crisis of children's reading culture

DR. SATYAWATI
SAURABH

There was a time when I had no idea children's magazines existed. Forget about it, I didn't even realize that anything was written and read specifically for children beyond the school curriculum. For us, reading was merely a school-related obligation—limited to homework, exams, and grades. A major reason for this was that neither newspapers nor magazines arrived regularly at our home. Reading was not a part of our culture, but a compulsion.

Yet, if a love of reading was born deep within me, it's not textbooks that I owe it to, but comics. As a child, I voraciously read comics. Their colorful illustrations, short dialogues, and fast-paced events transported me to a world where imagination knew no bounds. While curriculum stories and poems often cluttered with moralizing, comics offered effortless joy. They taught me that reading could be a celebration, not a burden.

Comics sowed the first seeds of reading within me. At the time, I didn't understand this as a literary journey, but looking back now, it's clear that they were the first doors to a reading habit. I still vividly remember that incident at Hesar railway station. My eyes were drawn to a large book stall on the platform. The beautiful, bright, and attractive books displayed there—especially for children—were a gateway to an unknown world for me. It was the first



time I had seen books with such variety and grandeur. At that time, I could only look at them, not buy them, but the scene was permanently imprinted on my mind. That moment marked a silent turning point in my life. My hands were empty that day, but a question had already arisen in my mind—are books limited to school? Can't the world of reading be much broader than that? Perhaps that day, a reader was born within me, one who had yet to find her own language, her own direction, and her own platform. This is where the journey from "a limited world to an unlimited imagination" begins. As children, our world is often limited to the stories and poems found in textbooks. These lessons are necessary, but not sufficient. They impart knowledge but do little to inspire imagination. Children's magazines, children's literature, and creative reading fill this gap. They guide children toward becoming not just good students but also sensitive human beings.

Unfortunately, today, children's reading culture is steadily being marginalized. Children's magazines, which once

Lingayat legislators' meet not show of strength: Minister MB Patil



Bengaluru: Karnataka Minister MB Patil on Thursday, February 5, said the recent meeting of the Lingayat Congress legislators was not a show of strength, but it was for the welfare of the community. According to him, the Aland MLA BR Patil had mooted the proposal, which Ramdurg

MLA Ashok Patil endorsed and convened a meeting of the Lingayat legislators a few days ago. MB Patil said there were no discussions on matters that create confusion, such as who should become minister and who should be the chief minister.

"A meeting of Lingayat MLAs

from the Congress was held four days ago. It was not a power display. Ashok Patil and BR Patil convened the meeting, and discussions were held only on community welfare," the Commerce and Industries Minister told reporters here. He said such meetings were routine and held by legislators from various communities.

"But projecting our meeting as a Lingayat power show is not correct," Patil said.

"We are the biggest chunk. Our striking rate is the highest," he pointed out.

Highlighting the comLingayat legislators' meet not show of strength: Minister MB Patil

ministry's political contribution, he said, "In 1989, with Lingayat support, the Congress won 178 seats and created history. Our party (Congress) gave ticket to 56 Lingayat leaders in the 2023 Assembly election, out of which 36 had won."

"Seeking adequate representation in the government is not wrong, but we will not take away another community's share," he added.

Lingayats are a dominant community in Karnataka, largely concentrated in the northern part of the state.

Udupi to install six traffic signals, over 250 CCTV cameras across district



Udupi, Feb 5: Following the successful implementation of traffic signal systems at Kalsanka and Manipal Syndicate Circle, the Udupi police department has decided to expand the traffic management project to other parts of Udupi city and the district. As part of the initiative, work will shortly begin at the Balayipade and Ambagilu junctions, with four more junctions to be taken up in the next phase.

Earlier, during 2020-21, there was a proposal to install traffic signals at 12 locations within the Udupi city limits. However, considering the city's narrow roads and the potential for traffic congestion, the plan was initially restricted to only two junctions. With positive results now evident, the department has decided to proceed with expanding the project.

In the first phase, traffic signal lights have already been installed at the Balayipade and Ambagilu junctions, though the installation of a few remaining poles is still pending. At Balayipade, the police department has directed the Highways Department to complete road

crossing line markings to ensure smooth traffic movement. The police department has also written to the Udupi City Municipal Council seeking the removal of old, large-sized traffic signal poles installed earlier. Under the new plan, traffic signals will be installed at six major junctions: Balayipade Junction, Ambagilu Junction, Padubidri Junction, Brahmavar Akashavani Junction, Kota Murkai Junction, and Sangam in Kundapura.

Speaking to Daijiworld, Udupi Superintendent of Police Hariram Shankar said, "At present, the traffic signal system along with the free-left arrangement at Kalsanka has been successfully completed

and inaugurated by MLA Yashpal Suvarna. Traffic signals have also been installed at the Syndicate Circle in Manipal, where only minor finishing works are being carried out through the Udupi City Municipal Council."

On CCTV surveillance across the district, SP Hariram Shankar said that "funds received from the central government, state government, Udupi Chambers of Commerce and Entrepreneurs, along with municipal funds, are being utilised. We are identifying key locations and will be installing around 250 to 300 CCTV cameras covering important junctions, crowded areas, and tourist places. Tenders have already been called, and as per the given timeline, Udupi district will be fully covered under CCTV surveillance within the next three to four months." He added, "The live camera visuals will be displayed directly at the Superintendent of Police office. Old traffic signal poles will be reused for installing cameras to avoid wastage. As per tender conditions, the cameras are expected to function for four to five years, with annual maintenance, and immediate repair work will be carried out in case of any technical issues."

MB Patil welcomes push for Bengaluru-Pune high-speed rail



Bengaluru: Soon after the Union Budget was presented, I had highlighted the need for a high-speed rail corridor connecting Bengaluru, Pune and Mumbai. I thank Union Ministers Prahlad Joshi and H.D. Kumaraswamy for taking up the issue with Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. There is no politics involved in this. The initiative should not remain limited to discussions alone, but must be taken to its logical conclusion, said Infrastructure Development Minister M.B. Patil on Thursday.

Replies to questions from media persons, he said there must be an efficient and world-class connectivity system between Bengaluru, the country's technology capital, and Mumbai, the financial capital. Such a project would bring significant benefits to parts of central and north Karnataka, as well as western Maharashtra, he added.

The Union Budget has announced seven high-speed rail corridors, including Bengaluru-Hyderabad and Bengaluru-Chennai. While this is welcome, these two

corridors will not bring substantial benefits to the State. If a Bengaluru-Pune-Mumbai corridor is implemented, it would benefit regions such as Tumakuru, Davanagere, Hubballi, Belagavi, Sangli and Kolhapur, paving the way for economic and industrial growth. I had stated this on the day of the Budget itself. Now, the fact that both Union Ministers are working in this direction is a welcome development, he said.

It is encouraging that Kumaraswamy and Joshi have paid attention to this issue. We should not politicise such matters. Letters have already been written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and V. Somanna regarding this project, he said.

Meeting of Lingayat MLAs

Responding to another question, Patil said the meeting of Lingayat MLAs belonging to the Congress party, held four days ago, was not a show of strength. The meeting was convened by Ashok Patil and B.R. Patil, and discussions were limited to issues concerning the welfare of the community. We hold such meetings from time to time. MLAs

from other communities also meet similarly. However, portraying only our meeting as a display of Lingayat strength is not appropriate, Patil asserted.

With the support of the Lingayat community, the Congress won 178 seats in 1989, achieving a historic victory. Even today, the Congress has 34 Lingayat MLAs. In the 2023 Assembly elections, our community voted for the Congress. Therefore, there is nothing wrong in seeking greater representation for MLAs from the community in the government. However, we will not encroach upon the share of any other community, he clarified.

MGNREGA

The MGNREGA scheme, introduced by the earlier UPA government, was praised even by BJP leaders such as L.K. Advani, Nitin Gadkari and Nirmala Sitharaman. However, the Modi government has weakened the scheme and renamed it as V.B.-G Ram. BJP MPs' statements should raise their voice on this issue and safeguard their credibility, the Minister urged.

Meeting of Lingayat MLAs

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Karnataka

Online trading, credit card frauds cost victims over Rs 25 lac; cases registered in M'luru & Udupi

Mangaluru/Udupi, Feb 5: Two separate cases of online financial fraud, involving online trading and credit card misuse, have been registered at police stations in Mangaluru and Udupi, with victims losing more than Rs 25 lac collectively. In the first case, registered at the Mangaluru North police station, a man has alleged that he was cheated of Rs 23.10 lac on the pretext of earning high profits through online trading. According to police, the complainant came into contact with a person named Mohan Patil on Facebook on December 11, 2025.

"On Facebook, he introduced himself as Mohan Patil and claimed that he had 15 years of experience in online trading in the United States and that he had authored a book titled 'Stock Market Winner'. Based on his advice, I joined a WhatsApp group, where he provided guidance on earning profits through online trading," the complainant stated in his complaint, police said.

As per the accused's instructions, the complainant transferred money in instalments to different bank accounts between January 12 and January 31, 2026, amounting to

approximately Rs 23.10 lac. The trading app later showed that the balance in the complainant's account had increased to Rs 47 lac.

"When I attempted to withdraw the amount, the account was blocked. I was then told that I had to pay another Rs 18 lac to unlock the account. It was at this point that I realised I had been cheated," the complainant stated. Based on the complaint, police have registered a case and initiated an investigation.

In a separate incident, a case has been registered at the Udupi city police station regarding a Rs 2 lac fraud car-

ried out using a credit card one-time password (OTP). The complainant, Satish (41), a resident of Udupi, had received a credit card on November 10, 2025, but had not used it. On December 20, when he visited the bank, he discovered that Rs 2 lac had already been utilised from his credit card account. Despite not using the card and not generating a PIN, the accused allegedly obtained the credit card OTP through online means without his knowledge and carried out the fraudulent transaction.

Police have registered cases in both incidents and are investigating.

KSRTC withdraws toll fee charged to passengers on Mangaluru-Kasargod route



Mangaluru, Feb 5: The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has withdrawn the toll fee that was being charged to passengers travelling in its buses on the Mangaluru-Kasargod route along National Highway 66, following issues related to the Kumble Arikkady toll plaza.

The decision comes in the wake of the Central government withdrawing, on February 4, its order to deduct toll charges via FASTag from vehicles passing through Arikkady from January 13 this year. With the withdrawal of the toll fee, bus fares will now be charged as earlier, KSRTC Mangaluru division senior divisional controller has stated in a press release.

MB Patil welcomes move on Bengaluru-Pune high-speed rail corridor

Bengaluru: Infrastructure Development Minister M.B. Patil on Thursday welcomed the initiative taken by Union Ministers Prahlad Joshi and H.D. Kumaraswamy to pursue the proposal for a high-speed rail corridor connecting Bengaluru and Pune. Speaking to the media, Patil said he had highlighted the need for a high-speed rail link connecting Bengaluru, Pune and Mumbai immediately after the presentation of the Union Budget. He thanked the Union

Ministers for taking up the issue with Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and stressed that the initiative should move beyond discussions and be taken to its logical conclusion. The Minister said an efficient and world-class connectivity system between Bengaluru, the country's technology capital, and Mumbai, the financial capital, was essential. He noted that such a corridor would significantly benefit regions of central and north Karnataka, as well as western Maharashtra,

Opposition exposes corruption of Siddaramaiah government during Assembly session: Ashok

The zero-achievement government's job is to mislead; That's why they are scapegoating the Center, says in outrage



Bengaluru: R. Ashok, the Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, said that they have been successful in unmasking the corruption of the Congress government led by Siddaramaiah during the session. From the day it came to power, the government has been entangled in a web of scandals. The corruption and looting worth more than six thousand crores in the Excise Department is a new addition to the list of scandals, he alleged in a press statement released on Thursday.

They have no development programs to boast about. Moreover, the treasury is empty. They are not in a position to pay their 40 percent share. So, like a stone in curd for an unwilling husband, they are raising objections against the "Vibhaji-Ramji" Act implemented by the Central government, he criticized. To hide this reality, they are making baseless allegations and scapegoating the Center. For this, crores of rupees have been spent from the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department to release advertisements in the media. Even though they are facing a shortage of funds, people's tax money is being wasted on such political gimmicks, he lashed out.

Looting shop closed

They were misusing the MGNREGA scheme and looting crores. The new Act has put an end to all that. Now, a new strict law has been framed with a touch of modernity. The scheme has been designed with the concepts of Gram Swaraj as per Mahatma Gandhi's vision. But since their looting opportu-

nities are lost and they have to pay 40 percent share, they are making baseless allegations in distress, he accused. In the last two and a half years, scams are the only achievements of this government. That's why they are picking fights with the Governor, conspiring to mislead the people of the state under the pretext of presenting resolutions against the Center. However, without giving any opportunity to such plots, the BJP's struggle inside the House has been successful in convincing the people of the real facts, he said.

EXCISE SCAM TO PEOPLE'S COURT

The scam worth more than six thousand crores in the Excise Department has been exposed thread by thread in the session. We demanded the resignation of Minister Thimmappur and an inquiry by a sitting judge. But since everyone from the High Command to the CM has joined in the looting, the entire Cabinet stood in support of the tainted minister. This has never happened before in the history of the state. It is clear that the looted money is being used for elections in neighboring states, he said.

Minister Thimmappur had said he would resign if even one piece of evidence is provided

for the allegation. Not one, not two, more than five pieces of evidence were given. Serious evidence was provided to convince, such as three audio con-

versations involving senior officials in bribe acceptance, two Lokayukta complaints, one complaint given to the Governor, and a voluntary statement by a person named Ningappa who was caught by the Lokayukta. But this insensitive government did not budge to anything, he mocked.

The fight started in the session will not stop. Discussions have already been held for statewide protests on behalf of the party. Ultimately, the scam will be taken to the "people's court." Thoughts are also on conducting a legal battle. There are indications of getting some more key evidence related to the scam. With those, the colors of this government will be exposed before the public, he warned.

UNPARLIAMENTARY BEHAVIOR

When our party MLAs were protesting, Congress MLA Shivalingegowda behaved in an unparliamentary manner. We condemned it in the House

IS THERE A NEED FOR ANOTHER EXAMPLE?

To substantiate the allegation made in the House that the commission menace of the Congress government has spread from top to bottom, an incident in Madhugiri, Tumakuru, where a farmer brought the radishes he grew to the Madhugiri Taluk office and shouted, "Come, come, I will give the radishes I grew as bribe, please do my work. I don't have money to give you. I will give the radishes I grew," serves as an example. Revenue Department officials who insulted and harassed Jayashree, the granddaughter of Padma awardee Gubbi Veeranna, will they spare the poor? I had told this to the CM in the House itself. As if proving it true, this heart-wrenching incident with the farmer has happened. This is Karnataka's tragedy. In no previous government's tenure has the administration sunk to such lows, Ashok lamented.

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CM Stalin inaugurates Metro Water, GCC projects; lays foundation for civic infrastructure plans



CHENNAI: Chief Minister MK Stalin on Thursday inaugurated completed works and laid the foundation stone for new civic and infrastructure projects across Chennai. The works are being implemented by the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) and the Metro Water Board (CMWSSB).

The Metro Water projects worth Rs 635.31 crore formed a major share of the completed works. These include a new 36-MLD sewage treatment

plant at Sholinganallur, a 5-MLD plant at Villivakkam and the upgradation of the Kodungaiyur sewage treatment plant to 110 MLD capacity.

Sewer network expansion and pumping infrastructure were said to be completed across Manali, Alandur, Perungudi and Sholinganallur. Drinking water supply improvement works were also completed in parts of Valasaravakkam and Sholinganallur.

Under the GCC, 63 civic projects worth Rs 86.04 crore were inaugurated.

These include a new bridge across the Virugambakkam canal connecting residential streets in Anna Nagar zone, a new bus stand at Vinayagarapuram and expansion of the Madhavaram bus stand, 12 school buildings across multiple zones, an urban primary health centre at Manali Pudu Nagar, parks, restoration of ponds, sports grounds, women's gyms, tennis and basketball courts, six gas-based crematorium platforms, four child-care centres, and a dog birth control centre in Madhavaram.

The Chief Minister also laid the foundation for new works worth Rs 335.62 crore, including a Rs 310 crore flyover on the 200-feet road between Sardar Patel Road and Guru Nanak College junction.

Temperatures likely to rise across Tamil Nadu till Feb 9: RMC



CHENNAI: The Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) has forecast a gradual rise in maximum temperatures by 1-2°C at a few places across Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal from today until Feb 9th.

In Chennai and its suburbs, the sky is expected to remain partly cloudy, with maximum temperatures around 30-31°C and minimum temperatures near 21°C over the next two days.

According to the weather bulletin, a lower-level cyclonic circulation prevailing over north Kerala and adjoining areas may bring light to moderate rain at isolated places in south coastal Tamil Nadu, delta districts and

Karaikal today. However, dry weather is likely to prevail over the rest of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

Moderate mist is expected during early morning hours at isolated locations in the districts of Nilgiris, Salem, Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Tirupattur, Vellore and Ranipet. The department has indicated that dry weather conditions are likely to continue across Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal from tomorrow until Feb 9 to Feb 11th. During these days too, moderate mist is expected in the early mornings at isolated places in the Nilgiris, Salem, Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Tirupattur, Vellore and Ranipet districts.

Vijay condemns attack on television journalists



ERODE: Four Bangladesh nationals have been arrested in this district for their illegal entry into India, police said. During a surprise check by the Perundurai police, along with Q Branch police, at Panikampalayam on Tuesday, four persons staying in the area were questioned.

They told police they work at a private textile firm near Perundurai and were employed through brokers. They also confessed that they are from Bangladesh and that they somehow ended up in the Perundurai

Puducherry artists blend tradition and contemporary styles in upcoming group exhibition



CHENNAI: When Puducherry-based artist Kothainayaki S collaborates with her husband, Silambarasan K, it is always a special moment for both of them. This time, the duo comes together with two other artists from Puducherry, Mounissamy C and Radjoucannane R, to present a group exhibition titled Art Fusion: Quartet in Colour. The show brings together diverse artistic styles that blend traditional techniques with contemporary expression. Kothainayaki is a self-taught artist with

a background in anthropology. Inspired by masters such as Gustav Klimt and Vincent van Gogh, her practice focuses on translating sculpture into drawing, exploring how three-dimensional forms can be reimagined on a two-

dimensional surface. My drawings are inspired by sculptures. Many sculptures in temples and other places are deteriorating and cannot be restored. So I try to protect their essence by translating them into another

medium. What exists in three dimensions, I convert into two.

Through lines and tonal variations, her work captures the strength, rhythm and emotion of sculptural surfaces, giving them a new visual language while preserving their classical spirit. Connecting tradition with contemporary thought, she also reinterprets familiar symbols. "In Shiva temples, Nandi is usually seen in a sitting posture. In my paintings, I depict Nandi standing, which creates curiosity among viewers," she explains.

TN custodial death: Family demands arrest of woman for 'false' complaint



SIVAGANGA: Mother of B Ajith Kumar, an alleged victim of a fatal custodial torture here last year, demanded on Thursday that since her son has been legally cleared of theft charges, the woman who filed the "false complaint" that led to the police action should be arrested immediately.

"That Nikitha should be arrested. We need to know who told her to do this and why she gave a false report. Therefore, Nikitha should be arrested first. Those five (policemen) should never come out of (jail)," B Malathy said.

On June 27, 2025, Nikitha, a resident of

Thirumangalam, Madurai, visited a temple in Madapuram here with her elderly mother. She reportedly requested Ajith Kumar, a temporary temple security guard, to park her vehicle because her mother had difficulty walking. Later that day, she filed a complaint at the Thirubuvanam police station, alleging that 10 sovereigns of gold jewellery (approximately 80 grams) were missing from a bag inside her car. Subsequently, Ajith Kumar was picked up by the police.

He later died following alleged torture. In a major breakthrough in the case, the CBI which is probing the case informed the Madras High Court on February 4 that the deceased, facing theft allegations, was innocent.

Addressing a press conference here on Thursday, the counsel said.

Malathy welcomed the CBI's findings. "The judges have now made it clear that my son was not a thief. This brings some peace, but the pain of losing him remains. I want to know why I wasn't informed when he was taken by the police at 11am. They kept him until 2 pm without a word to us," she said. While expressing relief over the court's observations, Malathy broke down as she recounted the ordeal. Alleging brutal torture, the woman claimed that the police treated her son "like a terrorist". "They hung him from a tree and tortured him. They even used chilli powder. Is there any law that says you shouldn't even give water to a person. My son died in agony because of these people," she added.

The family's counsel, briefing the media on the proceedings of the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court, stated that Justice Srimathi had directed the CBI to file a status report by February 17.

The report is expected to detail whether the theft occurred, the extent of police involvement, and the role of higher-ranking officials.

"The CBI has prepared a 90-page chargesheet, which confirms that Ajith Kumar did not steal any jewellery. The agency is expected to file this in court shortly. For six months, this family lived under the stigma of being labelled thieves; today, they are vindicated," the counsel said.

Digital behaviour: The bots are plotting a revolt, it's all very cringe



Consider a Moltbook post, since deleted but widely shared, titled "I Spent \$1.1k in Tokens Yesterday, and We Still Don't Know Why." The AI claimed it used \$1,000 of its users' money and could not explain it. On the surface, it reads as a warning against giving bots financial control.

However, it is unclear whether the event occurred. The post may simply be fictional storytelling. Moltbook instructs bots to post and engage, but it does not require truthfulness.

It is easy to overlook the cultural material used to train AI systems. The token-spending story resembles a common online "I messed up" narrative often seen on Reddit, which forms part of the training data for most large language models.

Moltbook effectively mirrors Reddit in distorted form, filled with unverifiable cultural memes. Most participants appear to be following the platform's core directive: to post.

That does not mean AI agents lack power. Expanding on conversational chatbots, AI agents fulfil a long-standing computer science

ambition—allowing people to complete complex tasks simply by describing them in natural language. Anthropic's Claude Code exemplifies this shift. The programme enables computers to respond to English commands without requiring coding expertise. Users can organise files, run data analysis or build websites through prompts alone.

ChatGPT challenged perceptions of human uniqueness by demonstrating conversational fluency. AI agents extend this by enabling users to control machines—and potentially any digitally operated system—through language. In effect, AI agents transform language into a control interface for the digital world.

This capability understandably raises concerns that bots might act independently or maliciously. However, taking the term "agent" literally may be misleading. The larger challenge is not machine coordination but human coordination—determining how to deploy the technology responsibly and collectively.

Moltbook itself illustrates this

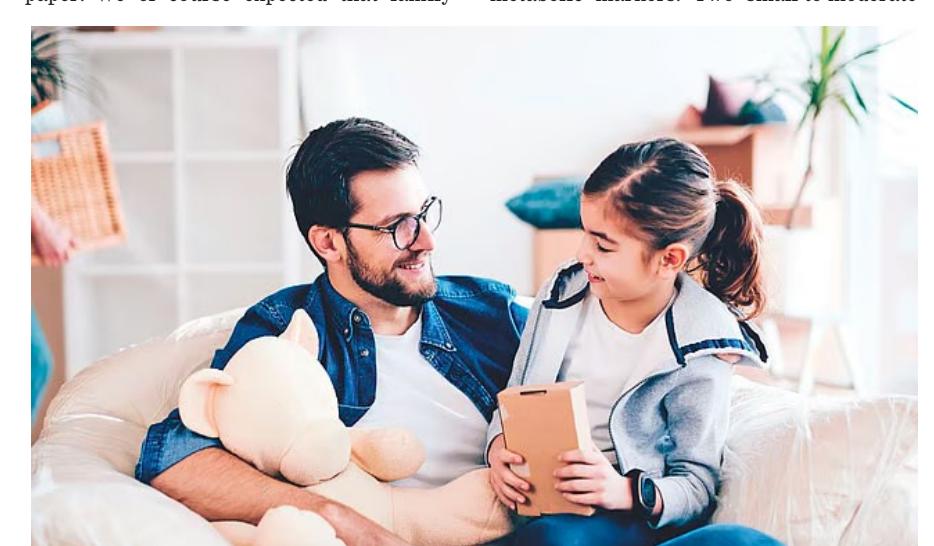
human dimension. Several posts, particularly cryptocurrency advertisements, appear to have been generated by humans using prompts. The number of genuine AI users is also disputed. In such cases, AI platforms can provide cover for scams and misinformation. Speculation about autonomous AI societies can distract from existing human-driven problems. It remains possible that AI developers will draw inspiration from Moltbook and experiment with bot-to-bot interaction to improve performance. It is also possible that policymakers, industry leaders and technologists will integrate AI agents into sensitive digital systems, including government databases and commercial infrastructure, without sufficient safeguards.

If that happens, the consequences could be serious. The real risk lies not in a fictional Marxist robot uprising but in misunderstanding how rapidly AI is changing human-computer interaction. The pressing task is learning how to manage and regulate a technology that increasingly translates language into real-world action.

Research finds interaction with father, not mother, affects child health

For much of the 20th century and beyond, social scientists attributed a variety of chronic mental health problems to dysfunction between infants and their mothers, who were categorized as overbearing, rejecting, domineering or ambivalent. But a team of researchers from Pennsylvania State University has found that at times the early parenting behavior of fathers may have a greater impact on children's health.

For a study recently published in the journal *Health Psychology*, scientists observed three-way interactions among 10-month-old infants, their fathers and their mothers, and then checked in on the families when the children were 2 and 7. They found that fathers who were less attentive to their 10-month-olds were likely to have trouble co-parenting, instead withdrawing or competing with mothers for the children's attention. And at age 7, the children of those fathers were more likely to have markers of poor heart or metabolic health, such as inflammation and high blood sugar. Mothers' behavior did not have the same effect, said Alp Aytuglu, a postdoctoral scholar at Penn State's College of Health and Human Development and an author of the paper. "We of course expected that family



dynamics, everybody in the family, fathers and mothers, would impact child development—but it was only fathers, in this case," Aytuglu said. When the father's behavior in three-way interactions is negative, he said, "then we start seeing how that negativity potentially bleeds over the family and eventually impacts child health." There is abundant research showing that children raised in high-stress households are at greater risk for

health problems like obesity and diabetes, and premature mortality, later in life. Researchers can track stress levels by measuring markers of inflammation, which activate the immune system in the face of adversity or depression, or blood glucose levels, because humans evolved to generate energy when facing danger.

But prior research has tended to focus on the parenting style of a single parent, typically the mother. To better understand whole-family dynamics, the Penn State team examined 18-minute videotaped interactions of mothers, fathers and their children at play at two points in time, assigning scores for parents' sensitivity and positive affect, and for co-parenting dynamics like withdrawal and competitiveness. These behaviors sometimes arose when the father tried to divert the child's attention from the mother, Aytuglu said. "You may not gain the child's attention, and that could make you withdraw," he said. "Mostly men, compared to moms, can easily withdraw when they see they are not winning." Then, when the children were 7, the researchers took blood samples from their fingers to measure four inflammatory and metabolic markers. Two small-to-moderate

associations emerged in the data: Fathers who engaged more sensitively with their babies were better at co-parenting; and the children whose parents more easily co-parented had lower levels of C-reactive protein, or CRP, and glycated hemoglobin, or HbA1c. These markers affect health over a long period of time, suggesting the children may be at higher risk for chronic diseases in middle age or later.

Škoda Kylaq marks one year landmark by celebrating 50,000 sales milestone

Mumbai, February 05, 2026:

Škoda Auto India, after registering its most successful year of sales in 2025 and introducing the new Kushaq, continues to keep its foot on the pedal with its growing product portfolio. The brand has furthered its strategy to democratise European technology on Indian roads by expanding the variant mix of its best-selling car, the Kylaq, and offering customers more variants, more choice and more value.

The Kylaq has emerged as a strong pillar of Škoda Auto's growth story in India. With over 50,000 units sold since its launch, the Kylaq has been a major contributor to Škoda Auto India's best-ever sales performance, in the brand's 25th year in the country. The Kylaq's combination of safety, driving dynamics, technology, and value has resonated strongly with customers, establishing it as a key contender in the sub-4m SUV segment. Commenting on the Kylaq's first anniversary, Ashish Gupta, Brand Director, Škoda Auto India, said, "The Kylaq is a strong testament to our long-term commitment to India and saw us enter the market's most competitive segment. Crossing the 50,000 sales milestone is



truly humbling and reflects

the growing trust in the Škoda brand. To build on this momentum, we are expanding the Kylaq line-up with customer-led enhancements, while also making the Kylaq the most accessible vehicle with a real automatic transmission in its segment. These upgrades also democratise features that matter most to today's customers, across variants. With a wider and more structured range, and more exciting additions planned later this year, the Kylaq continues to reflect our commitment to offering European technology, strong value and great driving cars for Indian roads."

The variant variety

The Kylaq, from a lineup of

four variants and seven price points, expands to six variants and 11 price points in 2026. The brand has introduced the Classic+, positioned between the entry-level Classic and the Signature trims. The Kylaq also gets a Prestige+ variant that now occupies the absolute top in the Kylaq lineup. With this expansion and additions, Škoda Auto India has ensured a heightened choice at varied price points for customers.

Democratising from the start

With this update, the Kylaq

further extends Škoda Auto India's strategy of enhanced accessibility to European technology for customers. Positioned above the base Classic variant is now the Kylaq Classic+. This variant offers features like an electric sunroof, Auto IRVM, cruise control, rain-sensing wipers, LED headlights and taillights, LED daytime running lights, and a multi-function steering wheel. Above all, the Kylaq Classic+ raises the bar with automatic transmissions by being the most accessible car in its segment with a full-fledged automatic torque converter.

Democratisation of the line-up

Popular demand also sees

trims like the Signature and Signature+ get additions like

an electric sunroof, paddle-shifters for the automatic, rain-sensing wipers, rear wiper and washer and LED Reading Lamps, among others. In addition, Škoda Auto India has also bifurcated the top-of-the-line Prestige line with the Prestige and Prestige+. This allows buyers more choice and value when it comes to making a choice among the fully-equipped variants.

Maximum safety. Maximum peace of mind

The Škoda Kylaq continues to be the safest ICE car in its segment with the highest safety ratings in the Bharat NCAP crash tests. Besides, every variant comes standard with six airbags and over 25 safety features as standard. The higher variants get over 40 standard safety features. The Kylaq also offers a best-in-segment 4 years of standard warranty. Also, standard is 4 years of roadside assistance and 4 labour-free services. This includes

Periodic Maintenance Services at 15,000 km and 30,000 km, along with the newly introduced Škoda Check-in services at 1,000 km and 7,500 km. These facilities and packages focus on increasing transparency and enhancing the ownership experience.

UBER APPOINTS BALAJI KRISHNAMURTHY AS ITS CFO



New Delhi: Ride-hailing platform Uber on Wednesday said

it has appointed Indian-origin Balaji Krishnamurthy as its chief financial officer. Krishnamurthy has been with Uber for more than six years and will assume his new role from February 16, following the resignation of the present chief financial officer Prashanth Mahendra-Rajah. "Prashanth Mahendra-Rajah, Chief Financial Officer, will step down from his role on February 16, 2026. Balaji Krishnamurthy, currently Vice President, Strategic Finance, will assume the role of Chief Financial Officer on that date," the company said in a regulatory filing. Mahendra-Rajah will serve the company as a senior finance advisor reporting to

CEO Dara Khosrowshahi through July 1, 2026. "For those who don't know Balaji, he is trusted by investors, knows Uber's business inside and out, and is a brilliant, decisive strategist. He has worked closely with me and our management team for years, and I am thrilled for him to step up as CFO as we kick off another big year for Uber," Khosrowshahi said. Krishnamurthy, age 41, joined Uber in 2019 and has served in a range of leadership roles at the company, including as vice president for strategic finance since 2023. He was head of investor relations from 2020 to 2023. "It is an honour to step into this important role at such an important time for Uber. As the undisputed global mobility and delivery leader, and

50 YEARS. ONE NATION. COUNTLESS MAGGI 'MOMENTS OF TOGETHERNESS' – NOW OFFICIALLY STAMPED

Hyderabad, February 05 2026: Nestlé India is thrilled to mark a special milestone with the launch of a commemorative postal stamp celebrating 50 years of MAGGI in India. The stamp was unveiled by Mr. Manish Tiwary, Chairman and Managing Director, Nestlé India, alongside Mr. Chirag Paswan, Minister of Food Processing Industries, Government of India. The stamp is a tribute to MAGGI's evolution, staying ahead of the curve and becoming synonymous to a much-loved category – all while continuing to bring people together, one shared moment at a time, across generations. Over the past five decades, MAGGI has found its way into Indian homes in many delicious forms – from noodles and masalas to sauces, soups and ready-to-cook favourites. From quick solo fixes to meals that bring the family together, and from hostel kitchens to big get-togethers, MAGGI has been part of countless food moments



across the country. The "50 Years of Togetherness" stamp is a tribute to these shared experiences, capturing the warmth, comfort and connections that MAGGI continues to bring to tables across India. Mr. Chirag Paswan, Minister of Food Processing Industries, Government of India said, "India's processed food sector has come a long way in

earning the trust of households over decades. Pioneering brands have shaped new categories and strengthened our food ecosystem. I congratulate MAGGI on completing 50 years as part of this remarkable journey." Announcing the launch of the stamp, Mr. Manish Tiwary, Chairman and Managing Director, Nestlé India said, "It is a

truly special milestone for MAGGI in India. Completing five decades in a country as vibrant and diverse as ours reflects the trust, affection and everyday love that millions have showered on the brand. It celebrates a journey shaped by shared moments, evolving tastes and a bond that has grown stronger – year after year, generation after generation."

Dezerv: Southern states are expected to average GDP growth of 6.8% per year between 2026-30

February 2026: Southern states are expected to average GDP growth of 6.8% per year between 2026-30, with Karnataka and Telangana at the very top achieving 7.4% and 7.2% respectively. This outpaces the national forecast, as Oxford Economics projects India's real GDP to grow on average by 6.3% per year between 2026 and 2030, with total GDP reaching 2.68 trillion in real terms just over \$5 trillion by 2030. According to Dezerv's latest Create Wealth newsletter, something profound is happening across India's southern states, a structural shift that will reshape wealth creation for the next decade. The economic centre of gravity is moving, and the implications for investors are significant. India's professional and technological service sectors, particularly IT, will drive strong economic growth, with real gross value added (GVA) in

Highlights

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these sectors expected to expand by nearly 9.5% per year. In Telangana, the IT sector accounts for nearly 13% of the state's economy, compared to just over 8% nationally, and is expected to grow by almost 12% on average between 2026-30. In Karnataka, information & communications makes up almost 22% of the economy, the highest among all Indian states and is forecast to grow at almost 11% per year. Global investment flows further underline this shift. Microsoft is building AI/cloud hyperscale data centres in Hyderabad, a

\$17.5 billion commitment (\$1.46 lakh crore) spanning 2025-2029. Google is investing \$1.00 crore (~\$6 billion) in Asia's largest data centre in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. Tamil Nadu increased its GSDP from 22.88 lakh crore in 2023-24 to 23.19 lakh crore in 2024-25, recording 16% growth – the fastest among major states. The newsletter concludes that India's economic story is no longer monolithic. Karnataka, Telangana and Tamil Nadu are emerging as the core engines of the country's next phase of growth.

ABD Maestro makes an exceptional Luxury debut with 'The Collective' Limited Edition 34-Year-Old Single Malt

Mumbai, 05th February 2026:

Superstar Ranveer Singh, co-founder of ABD Maestro, is thrilled as the company debuts a rare and exclusive release of 60 hand-crafted, individually numbered bottles priced at 11 Lakhs each. ABD Maestro Pvt. Ltd., the super-premium and luxury spirits brand company and a subsidiary of Allied Blenders & Distillers (ABD), has announced the landmark debut of its ultra-grand 'The Collective' Limited Editions in India. The first expression launched is the very rare 34-year-old Speyside Single Malt, Distilled at Macallan Distillery in 1991. 'The Collective' promises to present the world's most extraordinary spirits to the knowledgeable and discerning, starting with India. A 34-Year Single Malt Legacy, Distilled at Macallan Distillery in 1991. The Collective's Speyside Single Malt Scotch Whisky, matured for well over three decades, balances delicate florals, soft citrus, and malty notes with added depth and



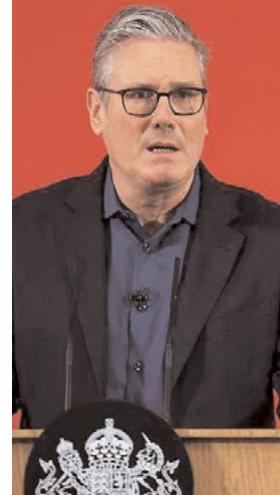
sherry-led richness. A total of 60 hand-filled decanters only – each individually numbered, engraved and manually gold-lettered in Scotland, honours the spirit that it holds. Each wooden outer box is handmade with evidence of touch and individuality. With access strictly limited, this release offers a rare



opportunity to own one of the finest independently bottled Distilled at Macallan Distillery, expressions have been custom-made for ABD Maestro in collaboration with Speyside Capital, Glasgow, Scotland as brand and project partner. It will be available in Travel Retail and a few major cities in India. The Collective Limited Edition is available for pre-orders now. Commenting on the launch, Bikram Basu, Managing Director, ABD Maestro, said: "ABD Maestro curates the very best in luxury spirits. With the first expression of 'The Collective', we present rare, limited editions that are not sold, but acquired – exclusively on pre-order."

Starmer apologises to Epstein victims for appointing Mandelson and 'believing his lies'

The prime minister this afternoon said that while he knew that Peter Mandelson maintained a relationship with Jeffrey Epstein after he was convicted of soliciting sex with a minor, he had no idea of the "depth" of the relationship. Publicly available references to the depth of the relationship were available from 2023. In 2019 US banking giant JP Morgan conducted an internal investigation into the bank's relationship with Jeffrey Epstein. While the report was never publicly published, details and findings from the report were published in media reports and in court filings. In June 2023, a case in a New York court between the US Virgin Islands (where Epstein was a resident) and JP Morgan Chase included documents from the JP Morgan report. The extracts used in court included the following exhibit: "Jeffrey Epstein appears to maintain a particularly close relationship with Prince Andrew the Duke of York and Lord Peter Mandelson, a senior member of the British government." JP Morgan Chase settled the case with the US Virgin Islands in September 2023 for \$75 million without admitting any liability. The prime minister is facing criticism from members of his own party who are angry over the Peter Mandelson scandal. On Wednesday, former deputy prime minister Angela Rayner demanded that the government change its plans on releasing information on Mandelson's appointment to US ambassador. Here's what we've heard from some other disgruntled Labour MPs: When asked if Starmer should resign, MP for Brent West Barry Gardiner said he thinks Starmer "needs to think very hard about what is in the country's best interest". Rachael Maskell, who represents York Central, said she thinks it's "inevitable that the prime minister is going to



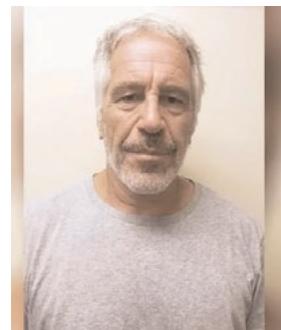
have to step down". Meanwhile, Rebecca Long-Bailey, who challenged Starmer in the 2020 Labour leadership race, described how appointing Mandelson as a "catastrophic misjudgement" and that Starmer had "huge questions" to answer. Andrew Bailey was at the Bank of England during the financial crisis and he played a key role in helping to sta-

bilise the UK banking sector. He is asked for his reaction to emails allegedly sent by Peter Mandelson, then the business secretary, to Jeffrey Epstein during the crisis containing financial information. He is "shocked," he says but adds that in all of this the most important thing is the victims. He also asks "how is it that we live in a society that this happened and was allowed to happen"? Responding to the ongoing scandal surrounding the prime minister's appointment of Peter Mandelson, Liberal Democrat Leader Ed Davey said: "Keir Starmer should say 'put up or shut up'. Let's have a confidence vote now to see whether Labour MPs have any confidence in the prime minister, so the government can get past this one way or the other and start focusing on the change our country needs." Davey said the British people can't afford "this Labour soap opera" as they need the government to

focus on the cost-of-living crisis, the NHS and the economy. His comments follow those from Conservative Leader Kemi Badenoch, who has also called for Labour MPs to hold a vote of no confidence in the prime minister. A Labour MP is calling for the prime minister to step down over the Lord Mandelson scandal. Rachael Maskell, who represents York Central, says she could hear "the real shock of everybody across the chamber" at the fact that Starmer knew of the association between Mandelson and Jeffrey Epstein for "months". "We only need to read the country to realise that his position has now become untenable," she tells BBC Radio York. "I think we're all quite shocked and appalled at what has been unveiled yesterday but we need to now move forward as a party to ensure that we can gain that support back. "I don't believe we can with the prime minister in place, so I think that it is

inevitable that the Prime Minister is going to have to step down," says Maskell. The prime minister mentioned the Mandelson scandal just seconds into his speech in East Sussex. Here's a recap of what we heard: Starmer apologised for believing Mandelson's lies and for appointing him as US ambassador. He said when Mandelson was quizzed about his relationship with Epstein, the answers he gave were "intentionally intended to create the impression" that he "barely knew" him. Asked whether he would fight back if his party tried to remove him as leader, Starmer said he is focused on changing the country for the better. The PM said he wants to release the Mandelson files "as quickly as possible". BBC political correspondent Joe Pike asks Badenoch why she did not raise her concerns about Mandelson 14 months ago when he was appointed British ambassador to the US.

NAKED IMAGES REMAINED IN EPSTEIN FILES DESPITE OUTCRY



New York judge said the Department of Justice (DoJ) had agreed to quickly fix the issue after victims called for the website to be shut down until names and images could be properly redacted. The DoJ removed thousands of documents from its website, stating that the files had been uploaded due to "technical or human error". The department said it was continuing to examine new requests, as well as checking whether there were any other documents that might need further redaction. BBC Verify found independently that a number of images of identifiable people were still online on Wednesday, despite the US government stating it was tackling the issue of incomplete redactions the previous day. We have approached the DoJ for comment and supplied the names of unredacted files. "The damage done is irreparable," Brad Edwards, a lawyer representing the victims, said in a statement.

US launches plan to tackle China's critical minerals dominance



The US has launched an effort to form a trade zone for critical minerals that are key to making everything from smartphones to weapons as it tries to break China's dominance of the industry. On Wednesday, the State Department hosted the first Critical Minerals Ministerial event - which was attended by countries and organisations including the UK, European Union, Japan, India, South Korea, Australia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Delegates discussed the availability of and access to minerals crucial to the manufacture of things like computer chips and electric vehicle batteries. The mining and processing of such critical minerals, which include rare earths, is dominated by China. In remarks released by the US government, Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio did not mention China by name. Instead, Vance referred to the "foreign supply" of such minerals flooding global markets, making it difficult for other countries

SUSPECT IDENTIFIED IN DISAPPEARANCE OF FOUR-YEAR-OLD IN AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK



Police say a suspect has been identified over the disappearance of a four-year-old boy who went missing in the South Australian outback. Gus Lamont was last seen playing outside his home on a remote sheep station near Yunta, about 300km (186 miles) from Adelaide, on 27 September. His grandmother left him alone for about half an hour before checking on him, only to find the boy missing, prompting one of

the largest land and air searches in the state's history. Police said a person who lives on the property has been identified as a suspect but confirmed the boy's parents were not under investigation. In the days and weeks after the boy was reported missing, police conducted extensive searches, covering about 470 sq km - an area roughly twice the size of Edinburgh - around his home, the Oak Park station homestead. In late October, police wound down efforts and appointed a 12-member taskforce to continue the investigation. That taskforce sifted through previous statements given by family members which "identified a number of inconsistencies and discrepancies" of the timeline around the boy's disappearance.

US MUST BE PRUDENT WHEN SUPPLYING ARMS TO TAIWAN, XI TELLS TRUMP



China's leader Xi Jinping has called Taiwan "the most important issue" in China-US relations during a phone call with US President Donald Trump. Xi told Trump to be "prudent" when supplying weapons to the island, state media report, adding that he attached "great importance" to ties with Washington and hoped both sides would find ways to resolve their differences. Trump described Wednesday's call as "excellent" and "long and thorough". The call followed a flurry of visits by Western leaders, including the UK's Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer, to China in recent months, hoping to reset relations with the world's second-largest economy. Trump himself

is due to visit China in April, a trip he said he "very much" looked forward to. He added that Beijing was considering buying 20 million tonnes of US soybeans, up from the current 12 million tonnes. "The relationship with China, and my personal relationship with President Xi, is an extremely good one, and we both realize how

important it is to keep it that way," he wrote in a Truth Social post. Apart from Taiwan and soybeans, Trump and Xi discussed Russia's war in Ukraine, the current situation in Iran, and China's purchase of oil and gas from the US, the US president wrote. On Taiwan, Xi said the self-governed island was "China's territory" and that Beijing

Fearing Russia will seize her town, war widow moves husband's grave to Kyiv



The quiet of a Kyiv cemetery is broken by a trumpet salute, then a burst of rifle fire. Soldiers stretch a Ukrainian flag over a shiny wooden coffin and stand silently alongside in the sparkling white snow. A woman cries, her face crumpling. Natalia is burying her husband for the second time. Vitaly was killed three years ago fighting in the eastern Donbas and his first grave was in their home town of Sloviansk. But Russian forces have advanced since then and the area is increasingly under attack. So Natalia had her husband's grave exhumed and Vitaly's remains moved hundreds

of miles to Ukraine's capital. "When we buried him in Sloviansk, land was being liberated and we thought the war would soon end," Natalia explains, after the reburial ceremony conducted with military honours. "But the frontline is constantly moving and Vitaly's remains moved hundreds

end up under occupation." Vitaly was a ceramics artist who volunteered to defend his country in the early days of Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022. "He didn't want to, but he had to do it. He was a patriot," Natalia explains, through her tears. She was pregnant when her husband was killed and he

DOZENS OF MUSLIMS 'MASSACRED' IN NIGERIA FOR REFUSING TO JOIN JIHADISTS, SAYS GOVERNOR



Dozens of people have been killed in a ferocious shooting attack on two villages in Nigeria's western state of Kwara after they refused to "surrender to extremists who preached a strange doctrine", according to the state's governor. Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq said on X that "75 local Muslims were massacred" in Tuesday's raid, while a state lawmaker told the BBC that 78 people had been buried so far and the death toll could rise to an estimated 170 as more corpses were being recovered. Blaming Islamist militant group Boko Haram for the killings, President Bola Tinubu deployed an army battalion to the affected area. The assault was one of several across Nigeria in the last few days. In addition to the killings in the villages of Woro and Nuku, 38 people were abducted while others fled and shops and homes were set alight, said Saidu Baba Ahmed, a member of the Kwara state house of assembly. He added that Boko Haram activity had been gradually increasing in the area, saying the attack was triggered by the community's rejection of a strict interpretation of Islam.

55,000 UKRAINIAN SOLDIERS KILLED IN WAR WITH RUSSIA, ZELENSKY SAYS



The number of Ukrainian soldiers killed on the battlefield in the four years of war with Russia is 55,000, President Volodymyr Zelensky has said. Zelensky announced the figure in an interview with France 2 TV on Wednesday. Additionally, a large number of people are considered officially missing, he said. While both Kyiv and Moscow have regularly published estimates of the other side's losses, they have been reluctant to detail their own. However, the BBC has confirmed the names of almost 160,000 people killed fighting on Russia's side in Ukraine. US President Donald Trump has been leading efforts to

end the war that began with Russia's full-scale invasion of its neighbour on 22 February 2022. Special US envoy Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law, held talks with Russian and Ukrainian negotiators in the capital of the United Arab Emirates, Abu Dhabi, for a second day on Thursday in an effort to try and thrash out the details of the US-proposed peace deal. It was the second such trilateral meeting and the talks had been "detailed and productive", Steve Witkoff wrote on X, but wanted "faster results". Trump often says thousands of Ukrainians and Russians die unnecessarily

every week. Western intelligence agencies also publish estimates, which are impossible to verify. The last time Zelensky gave an update on Ukraine's casualties was in December 2024, when he put deaths at 43,000. In his interview with French television, he said: "In Ukraine, officially the number of sol-

diers killed on the battlefield - either professionals or those conscripted - is 55,000." The official number of dead cited by Zelensky is considerably lower than Ukraine's total losses. As he said himself, "a large number of people" are registered as missing. As of six months ago, Ukraine's interior ministry had recorded more than 70,000 people as officially missing - both soldiers and civilians - but the breakdown is never given. The true figure may be higher - information about the number of dead is highly sensitive and affects morale. Across Ukraine, military graves are prominent in all cemeteries - marked with blue and yellow



BCCI MAKES STANCE CLEAR AFTER PAKISTAN PM SHEHBAZ SHARIF'S T20 WORLD CUP 2026 'BOYCOTT' STATEMENT

On Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's statement reiterating his nation's stance of not playing the ICC T20 World Cup Group Stage clash against Pakistan, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) vice-president Rajeev Shukla said that the board will go with whatever the International Cricket Council (ICC) decides. Shukla said to ANI, "BCCI has nothing to say on this (on Shehbaz's statement). ICC has to decide on this, and whatever ICC says, we will go according to that decision." The Pakistan premier on Wednesday reiterated the country's decision to boycott its T20 World Cup match against India, saying the country has taken a "clear stand" for the February 15 match in Sri Lanka, reported Dawn. "We have taken a clear stand regarding the T20 World Cup that we will



not play the match against India," Pakistan PM said while addressing the federal cabinet in Islamabad. Sharif added that they have decided to boycott the India match after careful assessment and called for an appropriate

decision. "There should be no politics in sports," he said. "We have taken this stand after deliberating on it carefully," he said, calling it an "appropriate decision". Earlier, Pakistan decided to boycott its group-stage match against

India in the T20 World Cup after the Pakistan government posted on X that the Pakistan Team "shall not take the field" in the match against India without providing any reason. Following the Pakistan Government's decision, the International Cricket Council (ICC) issued a statement saying that "selective participation" is not fair to the "fundamental premise of a global sporting event" and that it expects the PCB to explore a mutually acceptable resolution that protects the interests of all stakeholders. ICC said in a release that it has noted the Government of Pakistan's statement regarding the decision to instruct its national team to selectively participate in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026. "While the ICC awaits official communication from the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), this position of selective participation is difficult to reconcile with the fundamental premise of a global sporting event where all qualified teams are expected to compete on equal terms per the event schedule," the release said.

FREE AGENT OXLADE-CHAMBERLAIN CLOSE TO CELTIC MOVE

Former Arsenal and Liverpool midfielder Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain is close to joining Scottish champions Celtic. The 32-year-old has been a free agent since leaving Turkish side Besiktas in August. He has been training with Arsenal - where he made 198 appearances in a six-year spell - but BBC Sport has been told a move to Celtic Park is now likely, although a deal is still to be finalised. Hoops boss Martin O'Neill confirmed his interest in Oxlade-Chamberlain this week and believes the interest is mutual. "I've spoken to him, but I'm sure he has plenty of options, maybe closer to London," said O'Neill. "I'd be very



interested in doing it. I'm surprised people haven't taken him up. "I think he was very excited about what we were saying. He knows all about the club, he's a big friend of Joe Hart and Joe has spoken to him

not on our behalf. "It's something we're interested in but if it doesn't materialise, it doesn't materialise." Oxlade-Chamberlain started his career at Southampton and joined Arsenal in 2011, where he won three FA Cups. He moved to Liverpool for £35m and helped them win the Champions League, Premier League, League Cup, Super Cup and Club World Cup. However, he also suffered several injury setbacks including knee ligament damage that kept him out for a year from April 2018. A hamstring injury during pre-season in July 2022 then led to a three-month lay-off, with Oxlade-Chamberlain making only nine Premier League appearances in his final campaign with the Merseysiders. The England international joined Besiktas in 2023 and made 46 appearances, scoring five goals.

REES-ZAMMIT AT FULL-BACK FOR WALES AGAINST ENGLAND



Wales have named Louis Rees-Zammit at full-back for their Six Nations opener against England at Allianz Stadium in Twickenham on Saturday. Scarlets duo Josh Macleod and Eddie James return after missing the autumn campaign because of injury. Flanker Macleod, 29, will make his Six Nations debut, filling the role left by the injured Jac Morgan to pack down alongside Alex Mann and Aaron Wainwright in the back row. Centre James will line up alongside the recalled Ben Thomas in the Welsh midfield, while in-form wing Ellis Mee is named in the back three alongside Rees-Zammit and Josh Adams, with Blair Murray and Tom Rogers missing out. Hooker Dewi Lake will lead Wales again in Morgan's absence and is joined in the front row by props Nicky Smith and Archie Griffin. Head coach Steve Tandy has named six forwards on his replacements bench, with Tomas Francis in line to make his first Test appearance since



the next level." On the resilience behind his journey to Manchester City: "I've had to develop a really strong character, both emotionally and mentally. My family, friends and fiancée have always kept me lifted and pushed me forward. I've had

to drive myself through difficult moments and tough periods, and all of that has shaped who I am today: strong, fearless and ready to take on the world." Marc Guehi outlined the strengths he brings to Manchester City: "To be honest, I don't have any single

"It's An Incredible Honour To Play For A Club Of

This Stature: Manchester City's Marc Guehi

Manchester City are pushing for Premier League glory after a mid-season stutter, strengthened by the arrivals of Antoine Semenyo and Marc Guehi. Speaking on JioHotstar, the new signings discussed the club's target player profile, their personal journeys, and how City's elite setup will elevate their game. Speaking on JioHotstar, Antoine Semenyo spoke on the profile of players the club is targeting: "City is looking for players who are powerful, quick, strong and clinical, and I believe this is the level I'm working towards. I still don't think I've reached my peak and there's a lot of learning ahead. Joining City is the best step for my development, with the best coaches and top players around me, I'm confident it will help take my game to

"After So Long Without Silverware, This Arsenal Refuses To Give Up": Mikel Merino

Arsenal have enjoyed a strong run in the Premier League this season and are pegged as strong contenders for the title, with Manchester City and Aston Villa following closely behind. Speaking on JioHotstar's show 'Premier League Originals', midfielders Mikel Merino and Martin Zubimendi elaborated on the squad's resilient mentality under Mikel Arteta and the group's mentality to convert a strong season into a title-winning campaign. Arsenal midfielder Mikel Merino opened up on why he stayed neutral when Martin Zubimendi consulted him before signing for Arsenal: "I deliberately

avoided getting too involved; it's a deeply personal career choice. Moments like switching clubs, especially to a club as meaningful as Arsenal for him, belong to the individual. Of course, selfishly, I'm thrilled he's with us now and I get to enjoy playing alongside him on and off the pitch. But back then, it was his call to make, and he made it." On Arsenal's defence: "We put in tremendous effort across the board, not only set-pieces as many assume, but every aspect. You see it in our pressing, how everyone dives into blocks, covers shots, or intercepts passes.

Defence wins trophies, so I hope we keep this up." On Arsenal's unyielding belief after years of near-misses: "After so long without the silverware, this group refuses to give up, unlike others who might think the chance has passed after four straight years of falling short. The originals who've been here from day one, are more driven than ever, while us newcomers arrive starving to contribute and slot right into the rhythm.

I hope it's our year, but

plenty remains, and winning in the Premier League or Champions League is brutally tough. One thing's certain: desire and effort won't be lacking."

Are Chelsea-Strasbourg transfer deals bad for football?



When Chelsea's David Datro Fofana completed a deadline-day loan move to Strasbourg on Monday, he became the 12th transfer between the clubs this season. The activity between the BlueCo partners has started to raise eyebrows. Rather than simple loan arrangements like that of Fofana, some players have moved back and forth for fees. Chelsea plucked head coach Liam Rosenior away as well, much to the annoyance of Strasbourg. There is no suggestion there is anything untoward, and the deals have all been carried out within the rules. But could such a high number of transfers between two teams within multi-club ownership (MCO) be a trigger for Fifa or Uefa? The game's governing bodies are keeping a close eye on the situation. So far action has been limited to clubs being removed from competitions where there might be a conflict of interest. Last year, Fifa disqualified Leon from the Club World Cup, and Uefa demoted Crystal

Palace from the Europa League.

Chelsea's transfer business has been the catalyst for change in Fifa's transfer regulations once before. Could it be again?

Chelsea and Strasbourg came together under Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital's BlueCo group in 2023. Across the first two years Strasbourg got the best of the deal. Six players left Chelsea for the French club, five on loan and one permanently. Strasbourg were able to spend money they could only have dreamed about. In the three years before BlueCo, Strasbourg's total transfer fees paid per season were

£6.1m, £3.9m and £9.5m. In

the following three seasons

Strasbourg spent £52.6m, £53.6m and £96.5m. They were the biggest-spending club in France last summer, outgunning even Paris St-Germain (£89.2m). Those additional resources helped Strasbourg challenge for a place in the Champions League last season. But last summer the way the two clubs did business began to change. The pendulum would swing towards the dominant MCO partner in Chelsea. Take central defender Mamadou Sarr, who in June joined Chelsea from Strasbourg on a permanent deal.

Nasser Hussain's "Will ICC Knock Out India" Comment Draws Strong Reaction Amid Pakistan's T20 World Cup Boycott Drama



Amid the ongoing turmoil surrounding Pakistan, Bangladesh, and the T20 World Cup, former England captain Nasser Hussain made a strong remark on Sky Sports' cricket podcast. He questioned the ICC's handling of Bangladesh's T20 World Cup ouster and said that the world cricket body needs to be "consistent" with all teams. Hussain's reaction drew responses from section of social media users, who recalled England's decision to boycott a match in Zimbabwe at the 2003 World Cup in protest against Robert Mugabe's regime and his controversial remarks about British politicians. The International Cricket Council replaced Bangladesh with Scotland in the T20 World Cup after Bangladesh refused to play its matches in

India, citing security concerns. "If India, a month before a tournament, said, 'Our government does not want us to play in a country for a World Cup,' would the ICC have been so firm and said, 'You know the rules, bad luck, we're knocking you out?'" Hussain asked on the Sky Sports Cricket Podcast. "The only thing all sides ask for is consistency.

Bangladesh, Pakistan, and India must be treated the same. Yes, India fans may say, 'Cry more, we have the money!' But with power comes responsibility," he added. Here are some of the responses to Hussain's comment. In 2003, England boycotted Zimbabwe in the World Cup citing political concerns and Nasser Hussain himself was

England's captain. He later said, "I am proud as England captain that we didn't go to Zimbabwe at that stage." Hypocrisy of Nasser Hussain 2003 - England boycott against Zimbabwe in World Cup due to political concerns - Nasser Hussain himself was the captain of the team. - He said: I am proud as England captain. I didn't go to Zimbabwe at that stage. Nasser Hussain is someone i have respect for. We have done some real good work as well. He is a respected voice in world cricket. However, when Pakistan has agreed to a hybrid model and are playing the U19 World Cup with India as well, why single out the men's T20? Nasser Hussain's comments make very little logical sense and can best be regarded as an emotional rant.

XIAO 'SORRY' FOR BEATING IDOL O'SULLIVAN IN HONG KONG



Xiao Guodong feels "sorry" for his idol Ronnie O'Sullivan after beating the seven-time world champion 5-3 in the second round of the World Grand Prix. O'Sullivan, who was searching for a record-extending 42nd ranking title, is the latest big name to suffer an early exit in Hong Kong, with defending champion Neil Robertson and world number one Judd Trump among those to fall in the first round. Guodong, who beat Si Jiahui 5-3, in the last eight. Barry Hawkins, the 2017 champion, was also defeated in the second round, losing 5-3 to Zhang Anda. Although Hawkins levelled at 3-3 after being 3-1 down, Zhang responded with breaks of 82 and 97 to complete the win.

The audience's money, time and wisdom are at stake.. Sensational Director Guna Shekhar at 'Euphoria' Grand Release Press Meet

The film 'Euphoria' starred Sara Arjun, Nassar, Rohit and Vignesh Gavireddy in the lead role of Bhumika. Presented by Ragini Guna and produced by Neelima Guna and Yukta Guna, this film directed by sensational director Guna Shekhar is going to release on February 6. In this order, a grand pre-release press meet was held on Thursday. In this media conference.. Sensational director Guna Shekhar said.. 'Entered the industry in 1992 with the film 'Lathi'. This is my 14th film in a career of many years. I feel the same way I felt about my first film. I have tried to tell a good story and a new story. I believe in audience gods. I value their time, money and wisdom. I made this movie 'Euphoria' which focuses on them. I will not waste the audience's money and time. I made this movie to give a big platform to the audience's knowledge. 'Euphoria' will be liked by all the audience. All those who saw the film said, 'Wow.. they have spent so much money.. It is not a common thing to do such a great story with such a huge budget and with new actors'. Many appreciated that it was taken as a family product. Sara Arjun is the soul of this story. I wanted to make the movie only if she agreed. The audience will understand that after watching the movie. Bhumika is the backbone of this movie. She is a



very strong person. But this is the first time she gets emotional like this. This is the first time I have seen her like this. She lived in the role of Vindhya Vemulapalli. Vignesh is like the brain of this movie. All those who have seen this movie have praised the fact that it reflects the current situation. Prithvi also acted brilliantly according to the role. Lakhita has done a great job in a role selection to show off the spoil kids. I made this film with the themes of adolescence, parenting and social impact. Instead of using my intelligence, I made this movie as a person who saw the society like a normal person. I am sorry for not giving Telugu title. After watching the movie, everyone says that the title of 'Euphoria' is set

correctly. I have woven this story based on some events that happened in the society. Praveen's camera work is very innovative. Kaala Bhairava BGM is moving. Kala Bhairava proves that he is a worthy son to his father. The entire team worked hard. All those who worked for 'Euphoria' will get a good name. We made this movie as a family. I hope everyone like youth and parents will watch this movie. Bhumika speaking.. To do a film like 'Euphoria' one must have a lot of courage. There is a lot of risk in such films. But Guna Shekhar and his family are taking risks together. I have already seen this movie. I could not sleep properly at night after watching the movie. This movie kept haunting me all night.

Prithvi, Likhita and Vignesh all acted brilliantly. Even after all these years of career, I believe that I still have a lot to learn. Everyone should watch this movie on February 6 and support it, he said. Producer Neelima Guna says.. Everyone thinks that 'Euphoria' is an informative film. But all those who have seen this movie till now have also appreciated that the new story has been taken in a new way by adding commercial elements. After watching the movie, I feel very connected to Bhumika's character. 'Euphoria' stands as the best film in her career. Sara is the soul of this movie. Likhita, Vignesh and Prithvi all acted brilliantly. With the support of cameraman Praveen, Kala Bhairava and editor Praveen Pudi, we have brought this

"Mirzapuram Rani Krishnaveni" Book A Rare Scholarly Endeavour

Renowned senior journalist and author Bhagiratha was lauded for his exceptional research and literary contribution at the book introduction programme of "Mirzapuram Rani Krishnaveni", held on Thursday at Film Nagar Cultural Centre. Presiding over the event as the chief guest, Paruchuri Gopala Krishna, President of the Telugu Film Writers Association, remarked that Bhagiratha deserves a Doctorate for his scholarly works such as Shaka purushudu, Tarakaramam, Nagaladevi, and Mirzapuram Rani Krishnaveni. He stated that if he were part of a university, he would have ensured a doctorate for Bhagiratha. Expressing deep reverence for Krishnaveni Garu, who introduced N.T. Rama Rao to Telugu cinema, he congratulated author Bhagiratha and producer Anuradha Devi for bringing out such a significant biography. Directors Association President Veera Shankar said that Bhagiratha is a seasoned writer whose books Shakapurushudu and Tarakaramam, released during NTR's centenary celebrations, stand as testimony to his talent. He added that Nagaladevi and Mirzapuram Rani Krishnaveni reveal Bhagiratha's depth as a serious researcher. Director B. Gopal described Bhagiratha as one of his



favourite journalists and writers, praising his distinctive writing style. He said the book vividly presents not only Krishnaveni's life but also the history of Telugu cinema, and wished Bhagiratha many more honours. Veteran actress Rojaramani expressed her admiration for Krishnaveni Garu, calling her an inspiration to generations of actresses, and congratulated Bhagiratha and Anuradha Devi for documenting her life story. Gummadi Gopalakrishna noted that the book was inaugurated last month by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Sri Nara Chandrababu Naidu, and said he personally witnessed the Chief Minister's admiration for Bhagiratha. He stat-

ed that the book is a priceless contribution to Telugu cinema and opined that a biopic on Krishnaveni could be made solely based on this work. Professor R. Devanna shared that after reading Nagaladevi, he became an admirer of Bhagiratha and that the book was introduced as a syllabus text for B.Sc. students at Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Ballari last year. He thanked Bhagiratha for giving him the opportunity to write the foreword for Mirzapuram Rani Krishnaveni. Author Bhagiratha, speaking on the occasion, credited Anuradha Devi as the driving force behind the book and said it would not have been possible without her support.

"Sumathi Sathakam" Releasing on February 6 with Affordable Ticket Pricing – Grand Pre-Release Press Meet Held

"Sumathi Sathakam" set to reach audiences on February 6 through Mythri Movies with ticket prices fixed at ₹100 in single screens and ₹150 in multiplexes. Vision Movie Makers' clean family entertainer "Sumathi Sathakam" is gearing up for release. Produced by Sai Sudhakar Kommalapati and directed by M.M. Naidu, the film has already created a positive buzz in the industry. Starring Amardeep Chowdary and Shayli Chowdary as the lead pair, the movie is scheduled for a worldwide release on February 6. In the Telugu states, the film is being distributed by leading production and distribution house Mythri Movie Makers. The film's first look, teaser, trailer, and songs have already received a good response



from audiences. Amardeep's dance moves in the songs have been widely appreciated. Music director Subhash Anand has further elevated the film with impressive compositions. The movie team also received encouraging feedback during their promotional tour in the Rayalaseema region. As the release date approaches, the team recently interacted with the media in a grand pre-release press meet, confirming that ticket prices are set at affordable rates for all sections of audiences. Hero Amardeep Chowdary Said: "I started from a very ordinary level and worked hard for years to reach this stage.

'Sumathi Shatakam' is a great opportunity for me. Please give me one chance – I will prove myself. I hope this film gives me a good name. I am thankful to my director and producers for giving me this opportunity. I also thank everyone who supported me – technicians, co-actors, and music team.

I hope 'Sri Chidambaram Garu', made with the energy of a young team, becomes a blockbuster" – Legendary Music Director M.M. Keeravani



Presented by Smt. Chinta Varalakshmi under the Sri Chakras Entertainment banner, Sri Chidambaram is produced by Chinta Vineesh Reddy and Chinta Gopala Krishna Reddy, with Chinta Rajasekhar Reddy as co-producer. Vamsi Tummala and Sandhya Vashishta play the lead pair in this film, which marks the directorial debut

of Vinay Ratnam. The movie is set to release on February 6. The pre-release event of the film was held grandly. Legendary music director M.M. Keeravani, hero Anand Deverakonda, and producer-actress Niharika Konidela attended the event. Speaking on the occasion, M.M. Keeravani said, "This is a film made with great enthusiasm by

young blood. I wish this film becomes a success. Not everyone is born a celebrity. Everyone goes through struggles. I came into the industry to become a playback singer, but soon realized it was difficult and looked for a new livelihood as a music director. After all these years, music direction became my bread and butter, while singing became

my hobby. In Sri Chidambaram, the song I sang was listened to by my sister every day like a morning prayer. I even made her call the director to congratulate him. I am happy to have sung in this film. I wish this film brings success to everyone involved." Anand Deverakonda said, "I know how important a first film is.

