



Rahul's speech 'full of lies', will seek to expunge them: Kiren Rijiju



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Vaibhav Suryavanshi Receives Grandest Praise Yet, Compared To This West Indies Legend: "Exactly The Same"



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INBRIFS

Maoin commander with Rs 50,000 bounty arrested in Latehar

Latehar: Jharkhand police arrested a Maoist commander, Adesh Ganjhu, along with two associates, Ujwal Kumar and Subhash Kumar, during a special operation in Latehar district, officials said on Wednesday. Ganjhu, who carried a 250,000 bounty, is an active member of the banned Tritya Sammelan Prastuti Committee (TSPC). Authorities recovered illegal firearms, ammunition, and documents linked to extremist activities from their possession.

10 IAS officers transferred after GHMC reorganisation

Hyderabad: The Department of General Administration on Wednesday, February 11, issued orders transferring 10 IAS officers following the reorganisation of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) into three separate municipal corporations. With the formation of Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation (MMC) and the Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC), G Srijana, IAS officer of the 2013 batch, serving as the Additional Commissioner of the GHMC, has been transferred and posted as Commissioner of Cyberabad Municipal Corporation.

6 dead in road crash in Rajasthan's Dausa

JAIPUR: Six men were killed when a car in which they were travelling collided with a truck in Dausa district, police said on Wednesday. The incident occurred late Tuesday night when the victims were returning from a programme in Abhaneri village, according to the police, the driver lost control of the car, jumped the divider, and collided head-on with the truck. The victims were identified as Ankit, Samay Singh, Lokesh, Naveen, Dilkhush, and Manish. All six were friends and belonged to Kalkho village of Dausa, the police said.

TELANGANA MUNICIPAL POLLS:

Congress Set for Landslide Victory in Municipal Polls, Exit Poll Shows



Hyderabad (TSIT) The ruling Congress party is set to make major gains in the municipal elections held across Telangana, with exit poll surveys by People's Pulse projecting a strong "Congress wave" across municipalities and municipal corporations. According to the survey, Congress is likely to capture nearly 70 per cent of the 116 municipalities and seven municipal corporations. The exit poll predicts a strong performance for the Congress in major municipal corporations such as Mancherla, Ramagundam, Nalgonda, Mahabubnagar and Kothagudem. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is projected to emerge as the largest party in Karimnagar and Nizamabad municipal corporations, while the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) is expected to play a key kingmaker role in Nizamabad, Karimnagar and Mahabubnagar corporations. The main opposition Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), according to the survey, is unlikely to win a single municipal corpora-

CM Revanth, Bhatti Cast Votes as Telangana Municipal Polls



Hyderabad (TSIT): Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Deputy CM Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka cast their votes on Wednesday in the municipal elections held across 116 municipalities and seven corporations. Polling is underway in 8,191 stations for 2,961 wards, with over 52 lakh voters deciding the fate of 12,944 candidates. Webcasting and tight security arrangements are in place. The State Election Commission urged citizens to exercise their franchise. Voting continues peacefully till 5 p.m.

Corporation-wise projections indicate Congress dominance in Ramagundam (30-34 wards), Mancherla (39-43), Kothagudem (28-34) and Mahabubnagar (26-30). In Nalgonda, Congress is projected to win 21-26 wards. In contrast, BJP is likely to secure 26-31 wards in Nizamabad and 24-29 wards in Karimnagar, with AIMIM and other parties expected to influence outcomes in several corporations.

CM Revanth meets Kharge, discusses key political developments



New Delhi (TSIT): Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy called on Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, who is also the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, in the national capital on Wednesday. The meeting, described as cordial, saw discussions on key political developments and matters of public importance, an official statement said. The chief minister was accompanied by Congress Rajya Sabha member Mallu Ravi and Lok Sabha MPs Anil Kumar Yadav and K Raghuvver Reddy. The meeting assumed significance amid the ongoing political developments in Telangana and at the national level, though the specific issues discussed were not immediately shared.

KTR slams Congress 'anarchy' in municipal polls, praises BRS cadres' fight

Hyderabad (TSIT) Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President K T Rama Rao (KTR) on Wednesday strongly criticised the ruling Congress party, alleging large-scale anarchy and atrocities during the municipal elections in Telangana. In a statement, KTR congratulated BRS activists who, he said, fought "heroically" and organised protest marches despite obstacles, intimidation and alleged inducements by the ruling party. He praised the fighting spirit of BRS cadres, popularly known as the "pink soldiers," from Adilabad to Alampur, saying their resilience had given the party renewed strength and confidence. KTR accused Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy of resorting to violence and misuse of power out of fear of defeat in the municipal elections. He alleged that the Chief Minister was attempting to cover up what he termed the "failures" of the Congress government over the past two years and was determined to avoid a repeat of the setbacks the party faced in the panchayat elections. Warning that Telangana society would not remain a silent spectator, KTR alleged that attempts were being made to influence the public mandate using illegally looted public funds running into thousands of crores.

"MOTHER INDIA HAS BEEN SOLD": Rahul's fiery trade deal attack sparks uproar in Lok Sabha



New Delhi (TSIT) Accusing the government of having "sold Mother India" under pressure from the United States, Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday launched a blistering attack in the Lok Sabha over the India-US trade deal, triggering sharp protests from the Treasury benches and a forceful rebuttal from Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju. Participating in the discussion on the Union Budget in the Lower House, Gandhi alleged that the Centre had signed the trade agreement "under pressure" from Washington and compromised India's strategic interests, particularly in the digital and agricultural sectors. "Our data has been sold. Our farmers have been sold," Gandhi declared, his remarks drawing loud objections from BJP members. "If India refused to comply, tariffs would be raised again. Is this how a sovereign nation negotiates?" The outburst marked the culmination of a week of rising tensions in the Lok Sabha, where the trade pact has dominated proceedings. Since last week, opposition parties have repeatedly demanded greater transparency on the contours of the agreement, alleging that Parliament was being kept in the dark on critical provisions relating to digital trade, data flows and agricultural safeguards. The government, in turn, has accused the Opposition of spreading misinformation and undermining India's global standing. Framing the global context as one of shifting power equations, Gandhi said the world was moving away from the era of uncontested US dominance. "We are living in a time of war—Ukraine, Gaza, the Middle East. The dollar is being challenged. US dominance is being challenged. We are moving from a world of superpowers to a new world we cannot really predict," he said. In that backdrop, he argued, India's bargaining power lay in its vast digital population and data economy. "The most valuable asset in the competition between the US and China is Indian data. If the US wants to remain a superpower and protect its dollar, Indian data is the most important," he said. Gandhi outlined what he said would have been his approach had the INDIA bloc been negotiating the deal. "We would tell President Trump: the most

Rahul Gandhi accused the Centre of compromising India's sovereignty by signing the India-US trade deal under pressure, alleging that the agreement "sold" Indian data and farmers' interests, sparking sharp protests and a strong rebutt..

important thing in this equation is Indian data. You want to save your dollar? We are your friends. But if you want access to this data, you will speak to us as equals. You will not speak to us as if we are your servants." He added that energy security and farmers' interests would have been non-negotiable. "We understand you have an agricultural voter base. We understand you need to protect your farmers. But we will also protect our farmers," he said. In one of his sharpest remarks, Gandhi said, "We will not be treated like Pakistan. If President Trump decides to have the Pakistan Army Chief have breakfast with him,

After 5G, India to lead the world in 6G: Jyotiraditya Scindia

New Delhi, Feb 11 (TSIT): Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Wednesday said that India followed the world in 4G, marched with the world in 5G and will lead the world in 6G. Responding to questions in the Lok Sabha today, the minister highlighted India's rapidly transforming digital landscape and future roadmap.



Telecom service providers have invested nearly Rs 4 lakh crore for this expansion, with over 5 lakh BTS (Base Transceiver Stations) installed nationwide.

India has rolled out 5G at the fastest pace in the world. Within just 22 months, 5G services have been launched in 99.9 per cent of the country's districts, setting a global benchmark. Currently, 400 million citizens are benefiting from 5G services, and this number is expected to rise to 1 billion by 2030, he stated. Highlighting efforts to extend digital connectivity to the last mile, Scindia said the expansion of Wi-Fi networks is ushering in a

new revolution in rural India. He noted that Maharashtra ranks among the top states in the country in terms of Wi-Fi hotspots deployments. The minister further underlined that broadband connectivity in

India has surged from 60 million connections a decade ago to 1 billion today. By 2030, the government aims to further strengthen and deepen this digital infrastructure. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is no longer a follower of technology but has emerged as a global digital leader," said Communications Minister, adding that the revolution is no longer confined to metropolitan cities but is reaching villages across the country, reshaping citizens' lives, education, healthcare, and livelihoods.

Congress gave the nation Flag, Anthem and Constitution: DK Shivakumar

New Delhi (TSIT): Deputy Chief Minister and Karnataka Congress President D.K. Shivakumar said on Wednesday that "our party" laid the foundation for 'Vande Mataram', adding "it is our party that gave this country the national flag, the national anthem, the Constitution and Independence. It is our party that has served this nation". "Now the BJP and others are following us. That itself gives us happiness," he said while responding to questions from the media at Karnataka Bhavan in Delhi. When asked about the demand that 'Vande Mataram' be accorded the same respect as the national anthem and be made mandatory, he said: "We sing 'Vande Mataram' at every stage while beginning our



programmes. We give respect to 'Vande Mataram' and we follow it." Referring to past decisions, he said: "When late S.M. Krishna was the Chief Minister, we made Kuvempu's 'Jaya Bharata Jananiya Tanujate' compulsory as the state anthem. It contains the line 'Sarvajanagada Shantiya Thota' (garden of peace for all communities). Ours is a garden of peace

for all communities. It mentions what is to be said and which religions are to be referred to. Hindus, Christians and Muslims are all mentioned in the song itself. We are the ones who have grown up on such soil." When asked whether this would result in two national anthems, he replied: "We will speak about that later." When asked about his brother, former Congress MP D.K. Suresh's statement that though there may be some delay, Siddaramaiah would keep his word, Shivakumar said: "I have said that time will give the answer. I have also said that only we know what we have spoken about." When asked when that time would come, he replied cryptically: "I will tell you at the appropriate time."

Rahul's speech 'full of lies', will seek to expunge them: Kiren Rijiju

Soon after Gandhi's speech during a debate on the Union Budget, Rijiju said the ruling alliance members will serve a notice before the chair seeking authentication of whatever the leader of opposition has spoken

NEW DELHI (TSIT): Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Wednesday alleged that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's speech in the Lok Sabha was "full of lies" and the ruling alliance will seek to expunge from the House records the "lies" he has spoken.

Soon after Gandhi's speech during a debate on the Union Budget, Rijiju said the ruling alliance members will serve a notice before the chair seeking authentication of whatever the leader of opposition has spoken.

"We will demand expunging of whatever lies Rahul Gandhi has spoken," he told reporters here.

Even though Gandhi has promised to authenticate what he has spoken, the minister said, "I know he cannot authenticate them because he lied. He lied in the House." Rijiju further alleged that the Congress leader often lies deliberately and then leaves



the House, instead of sitting there to listen to the reply of the minister concerned.

It was unfortunate, he said, that the country does not have a person with a serious nature befitting the position of the leader of opposition in Lok Sabha.

"Our party has taken a stand that we will counter Rahul Gandhi's lies outside, but inside the House, a notice will be

issued," he said. Rijiju said Gandhi has made a major allegation against Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri without giving any notice, which is a serious breach of privilege.

"We will file the necessary notice with the speaker. The leader of the opposition did not make any useful substantive contribution to the budget discussion but only made some wild

allegations," he said. The minister said he told Gandhi to be present in the House when Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman would reply to the budget discussion.

"After his speech, he immediately went out of the House. The rule is that once a member delivers his speech, he cannot leave the House immediately," he said. Gandhi alleged in the Lok Sabha that the government has "sold Bharat Mata" through the India-US interim trade deal and that it was a "wholesale surrender" with India's energy security handed over to America and farmers' interests compromised.

Rijiju said no one can sell or buy India, no one can think of that. "In 2011-12, India was considered as one of the fragile five country. Now we are the fourth largest economy and poised to become the third largest," he said.



SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY JAYESH RANJAN HAS TAKEN CHARGE AS SPECIAL OFFICER FOR GREATER HYDERABAD, MALKAJGIRI AND CYBERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.

72-Year-Old Avoids Open-Heart Surgery in Rare Recovery at Medcover



Secunderabad, February 11, 2026 - A 72-year-old woman with acute heart failure has recovered without undergoing open-heart surgery, thanks to a minimally invasive, catheter-based procedure at Medcover Hospitals, Secunderabad.

The patient had been suffering from progressive breathlessness and severe fatigue for months before her condition worsened, requiring hospitalisation.

Doctors diagnosed a severe mitral valve leak, a form of heart valve disease that affects nearly one in ten Indians above the age of 65. Many dismiss such symptoms as signs of normal ageing, leading to delayed treatment.

Given the patient's age and clinical profile, conventional open-heart surgery was deemed high-risk. A multidisciplinary Heart Team—comprising interventional cardiologists, cardiac surgeons, imaging

specialists, anaesthetists, and heart failure experts—collaboratively opted for a transcatheter intervention.

The procedure was led by Dr. Pramod Kumar Kuchulakanti, Director - Structural Heart Disease and Advanced Coronary Interventions, along with Dr. Sagar Chandrashekar Bhuyar, Dr. N. Siva Prasad Naidu, Dr. Amrendra Kumar Singh, Dr. Parvatraj Varun Gautam, and Dr. Subramanyam. Using

advanced cardiac imaging, the team successfully reduced the mitral valve leakage, resulting in significant improvement in heart function and symptoms.

"Heart valve disease in elderly patients is often underdiagnosed because symptoms are mistaken for normal ageing," said Dr. Kuchulakanti. "Timely evaluation and a structured Heart Team discussion helped us choose a safer, minimally invasive solution. With advanced imaging and transcatheter therapies, we can treat complex valve conditions even in patients above 70 years, improving quality of life while reducing hospital stay and recovery time." The patient is now stable and recovering well, with marked improvement in breathing and daily activity levels.

Doctors said such team-based, minimally invasive interventions are increasingly transforming outcomes for elderly and high-risk cardiac patients. The hospital management was acknowledged for supporting advanced cardiac care services closer to home.

SC asks ex-TDB secretary to appear before SIT for interrogation in Sabarimala gold-loss case

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed a former Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) secretary to appear before the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the Sabarimala gold-loss case as it extended her anticipatory bail period. A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and S C Sharma extended the protection from arrest granted to former TDB secretary S Jayasree and asked her to appear before the investigating officer of the case.

"Having regard to the contents of paragraph 16 of the counter-affidavit of the respondent-State of Kerala, we direct the petitioner to appear before the investigating officer on February 18, 2026, at 12 noon once again for further interrogation. Interim protection, granted earlier, shall continue till the next date of hearing," the court said.

It directed the matter to be listed on February 20.

On December 18, 2025, the top court, while granting protection from arrest to Jayasree considering her health condition, directed her to appear before the investigating officer on January 8-9. Jayasree, who is the



fourth accused in the case related to the loss of gold from Dwarapalaka (guardian deity) plates, was the TDB secretary in 2019. The allegation against Jayasree is that following her order, the gold-clad copper plates of the Dwarapalaka idols were handed over to prime accused Unnikrishnan Potty for re-plating in 2019. However, Jayasree has claimed that she had issued the order based on a decision taken by the board. The former TDB secretary had maintained that she had not taken any independent decision on handing over the Dwarapalaka plates or the Sreekoil (sanctum sanctorum) doorframe plates and that she had acted in accordance with the board's directions. The SIT, constituted in accordance with the Kerala High Court's directions, is probing two cases related to the gold-loss incident and has arrested 10 people so far.

GITAM Appoints Dr. Rathin Roy as Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences

Hyderabad (TSIT) GITAM Deemed to be University has appointed renowned economist and public policy scholar Dr. Rathin Roy as Professor of Economics and Dean of the GITAM School of Humanities and Social Sciences (GSHS).

A Distinguished Fellow at the Kautliya School of Public Policy, Dr. Roy brings decades of leadership experience across academia, public finance, and international development. He holds a Ph.D. and M.Phil. in Economics from the University of Cambridge and currently serves as Visiting Senior Fellow at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI Global), London. Dr. Roy's distinguished career includes serving as Director and Chief Executive Officer of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) and Director at the International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG), UNDP in Brazil. He has held multiple



senior advisory positions with the United Nations Development Programme and played key roles in India's economic policymaking—as Economic Advisor to the Thirteenth Finance Commission and as a Member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India. His appointment marks a significant milestone for GSHS. The university leadership said Dr. Roy's intellectual leadership, policy expertise, and global perspective will strengthen academic excellence, research innovation, and institutional growth.

ICAR South Zone Sports Tournament Kicks Off in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: - The ICAR South Zone Sports Tournament was inaugurated on Monday at the RSC Grounds in Secunderabad, bringing together 885 athletes from 28 ICAR institutions across the region.

The four-day tournament, organized by the National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), was declared open by Dr. B. Venkateswarlu, former Vice Chancellor of

the Turmeric Board, attended as guest of honor. She described the tournament as a rare platform where personnel from all positions and hierarchies come together on equal footing. "ICAR personnel are doing great service to the nation in the agriculture sector. Make great memories," she advised the players.

Dr. Arun Tiwari, scientist and author from DRDO, termed participation in sports a "blessing." In an age of arti-



Vasanthrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth. Addressing the gathering as chief guest, he emphasized that teamwork and sports spirit are essential not only on the field but also in agricultural research.

"Sports help maintain a healthy lifestyle. This spirit must continue even after the games are over," Dr. Venkateswarlu said.

Ms. N. Bhavani Sri, IAS, Secretary of the National

ficial intelligence, he said, knowledge remains absolute intelligence—and the technologies developed by ICAR reach the entire country.

Dr. Gopal Lal, Acting Director of NAARM, urged players to uphold good sportsmanship. "A healthy mind in a healthy body leads to greater work output," he noted.

Earlier, Dr. K. Srinivas, Organizing Secretary, NAARM, welcomed the participants.

2 Lakh Newborns Have Heart Defects Each Year: Experts

Nearly two lakh newborns in India are diagnosed with congenital heart defects every year, yet delayed detection remains a major challenge, especially in smaller cities.

Marking Congenital Heart Awareness Week (February 7-14), doctors at CARE Hospitals are urging parents to recognise early warning signs such as rapid breathing, bluish lips, poor weight gain, and excessive sweating during feeds.

Congenital heart disease affects 8 out of every 1,000 babies born in India. With 2.4 to 2.5 crore births annually, an estimated 1.8 to 2.2 lakh infants are impacted each year. These structural abnormalities in the heart—ranging from septal defects or 'holes' to malformed valves or vessels—can obstruct blood flow or cause mixing of oxygen-rich and



oxygen-poor blood.

"In India, delayed diagnosis remains a significant challenge, particularly in smaller towns," said Dr. Prashant Prakashrao Patil, Senior Consultant, Interventional Pediatric Cardiologist at CARE Hospitals, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad. "Recognising early signs can be lifesaving." Diagnosis involves pulse oximetry, ECG, chest X-ray, and echocardiography. Fetal echocardiography between 18

and 22 weeks of pregnancy can detect defects before birth. While small septal defects may close naturally, larger ones often require medical or surgical intervention. Advances in minimally invasive procedures and surgical techniques have dramatically improved outcomes.

Congenital heart disease is no longer a life-limiting condition in most cases," said Dr. Tapan Kumar Dash, Clinical Director and Head of Department - Paediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery at CARE Hospitals. "With timely diagnosis and care, children can grow into healthy adults." Experts stress that routine newborn screening and early specialist consultation are key to preventing complications and saving young lives.

Early Detection Can Save 2 Lakh Infants with Heart Defects: CARE

Over two lakh newborns in India are affected by congenital heart defects every year, yet delayed diagnosis—particularly in smaller towns—continues to put young lives at risk, warn doctors at CARE Hospitals.

Marking Congenital Heart Awareness Week (February 7-14), the hospital is urging parents to recognise early warning signs: rapid breathing, bluish lips or nails, poor weight gain, and excessive sweating during feeds.

Congenital heart disease affects 8 in every 1,000 babies born in India. With nearly 2.5 crore births annually, an estimated 1.8 to 2.2 lakh infants are diagnosed with structural heart abnormalities each year. "In India, delayed diagnosis remains a significant challenge, particularly in smaller towns," said Dr. Prashant



Prakashrao Patil, Senior Consultant, Interventional Pediatric Cardiologist at CARE Hospitals, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad. "Recognising early signs can be lifesaving."

Common defects include atrial and ventricular septal defects—often called 'holes in the heart'—which can strain the heart and lungs if left untreated. While minor defects may close on their own, larger ones require medical or surgical intervention. Diagnosis is done

through pulse oximetry, ECG, chest X-ray, and echocardiography. Fetal echocardiography between 18 and 22 weeks of pregnancy can also detect abnormalities before birth. Advances in pediatric cardiac care over the past two decades have transformed outcomes. Minimally invasive procedures and refined surgical techniques now allow most children with congenital heart disease to lead normal, active lives.

"Congenital heart disease is no longer a life-limiting condition in most cases," said Dr. Tapan Kumar Dash, Clinical Director and Head of Department - Paediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery at CARE Hospitals. "With timely diagnosis, advanced interventions, and multidisciplinary care, children can grow into healthy adults."

Congress Laid Foundation for Vande Mataram, National Anthem: DK Shivakumar

New Delhi: Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka D.K. Shivakumar on Wednesday asserted that the Congress party laid the foundation for the independence movement, the national flag, the national anthem, the Constitution, and Vande Mataram.



Speaking to reporters at Karnataka Bhawan in New Delhi, Shivakumar said, "Ours is a party which got independence and served the country. The BJP is following our footsteps now, and we are happy about it."

When asked about the new regulations making Vande Mataram mandatory before the national anthem, the DCM said, "We sing Vande Mataram before starting any of our programmes. We respect that and follow it."

He also recalled the

Congress government's role in adopting the state song. "During S.M. Krishna's time, we made Kuvempu's Jaya Bharatha Jananiya Tanujate the state song. The song talks about a garden of peace for all faiths. It represents everyone—including Hindus, Christians, and Muslims. We come from such a land," he said.

On being questioned about the possibility of having two national

anthems, Shivakumar declined to comment immediately, stating he would discuss it later.

"Time Will Answer": DK Suresh

Meanwhile, responding to questions about leadership remarks and political discussions within the party, Shivakumar repeatedly said, "Time will answer."

Asked about his brother and Congress MP D.K. Suresh's comment that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah would keep his word even if there is a delay, Shivakumar said, "I have said that time will answer. I have also said that only we know what we have discussed."

When pressed further on when "time will answer," he quipped, "I will tell you at an appropriate time."

Deve Gowda Proposes Bengaluru-Mangaluru Industrial Corridor in Rajya Sabha

New Delhi: Former Prime Minister and Rajya Sabha MP H.D. Deve Gowda on Wednesday proposed extending the industrial corridor from Bengaluru to Mangaluru to connect three major ports and accelerate industrial growth in the region.



Participating in the debate on the Union Budget 2026-27, Deve Gowda welcomed the budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, describing it as conducive to the nation's holistic development. He, however, put forward two key suggestions. "I welcome the government's decision to approve industrial corridor projects linking key ports between Chennai and Bengaluru, and Hyderabad and Bengaluru. Similarly, if this industrial corridor is extended from Bengaluru to

jamun—on the lines of the Makhana Board—to promote these three crops widely cultivated in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and other southern states.

Noting their significant medicinal properties and relatively low rainfall requirements, Deve Gowda expressed confidence that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan would take appropriate steps in this direction.

Budget Appreciation and Suggestions

Deve Gowda stated that the NDA alliance has wholeheartedly welcomed the budget, which he said emphasises boosting manufacturing, MSMEs, industrial infrastructure, and exports while aiming to reduce uncertainty and attract long-term investment.

Kumaraswamy Launches Bharat Mobility Component & Tech Show 2027, Unveils 'Factory of Future' Report

New Delhi: Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy on Wednesday launched the Bharat Mobility Component & Technology Show 2027 at the 60th ACMA Excellence Awards & 11th Technology Summit 2026 in New Delhi, signalling India's push to become a global hub for advanced automotive manufacturing.



capacity.

The summit also saw the release of the BCG report, "Bolts, Bits & Bytes: Factory of the Future," alongside the ACMA Excellence Awards Special Issue - IMPACT. Both publications underscore the industry's technological shift toward intelligent systems, electronics, lightweight materials, and digitally integrated production networks.

Addressing the gathering, Kumaraswamy highlighted the robust growth of India's automotive ecosystem under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Vehicle production has increased from 28.4 million units in FY 2023-24 to nearly 31 million units in FY 2024-25, while exports have grown from 4.5 million to over 5.3 million vehicles during the same period. This reflects the scale, resilience and global relevance of our automotive sector," he said. The Union Minister credited the Ministry of Heavy Industries' policy interventions, including the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Automobiles and Auto Components with an outlay of nearly Rs.26,000 crore, and the PLI Scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell Batteries with an outlay of Rs.18,100 crore aimed at establishing 50 GWh of domestic manufacturing

On global trade, Kumaraswamy noted that India's calibrated engagement with strategic partners—including recent India-U.S. trade developments and ongoing negotiations with the European Union—is focused on addressing non-tariff barriers, regulatory cooperation, and standards alignment in advanced automotive technologies. "As India advances towards the vision of Viksit Bharat, the auto component industry will play a central role in shaping next-generation supply chains. Innovation in electronics, power electronics, lightweight materials and intelligent systems will be key to maintaining global competitiveness. Our objective is clear: to enable Indian manufacturers not merely to participate in global value chains, but to lead them," he affirmed.

Congratulating ACMA on six decades of its Excellence Awards, the Union Minister commended the industry's enduring contribution to India's industrial journey and its readiness for the future of mobility. The summit marked not only a celebration of past achievements but a strategic articulation of India's manufacturing ambition—merging scale with sophistication and policy vision with industrial innovation.

BIBA Unveils SS26 Collection with Ashika Ranganath at Phoenix Mall, Bangalore



Bangalore, February 11, 2026 – BIBA, India's leading homegrown fashion brand, launched its Summer 2026 (SS26) collection at its Phoenix Mall of Asia store in Bangalore, marking its first collaboration with acclaimed actress Ashika Ranganath. The unveiling was attended by Siddharath Bindra, Managing Director, BIBA Fashion Ltd., who graced

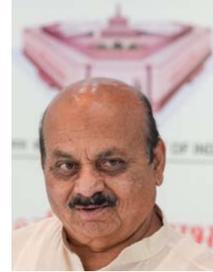
the Bangalore event. The association signals BIBA's deepening connect with audiences in Karnataka and reinforces the brand's regional appeal.

Designed for the modern Indian woman, BIBA's SS26 collection features breezy silhouettes, fresh colour palettes, and contemporary takes on Indian wear—with a strong emphasis on breathable cottons across daywear, workwear, and occasion wear. From easy everyday styles to elevated wedding ensembles, the collection embodies the brand's "Easy Breezy" philosophy. The new range also introduces a refined lineup of suit sets starting at INR 2,599, reaffirming BIBA's commitment to offering premium-quality Indian wear at accessible price points, alongside a curated wedding range for festive occasions. The Bangalore store saw strong footfall as shoppers and fashion enthusiasts explored the collection and met Ashika Ranganath.

Bomma URGES Railways Minister to Fast-Track Gadag-Yalavigi Line, Clear DPR

New Delhi: Former Chief Minister and MP Basavaraj Bommai on Wednesday met Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in New Delhi and urged him to approve the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the Gadag-Yalavigi railway project at the earliest, paving the way for work to begin in 2026.

Bomma emphasised that the Centre has already granted in-principle approval for the project and called for swift clearance of the DPR to enable execution. He also pressed the state government to expedite land acquisition for the project. "Approval



of the DPR would facilitate taking up the project expeditiously in 2026," Bommai said in a memorandum submitted to the Union Minister.

The MP further raised concerns over the delayed Shivamogga-Ranebennur railway line, urging that the land acquisition process be completed without further delay. The project, he noted, has remained pending for several years.

Bomma also submitted a fresh demand for a new Gadag-Kushtagi railway line. He proposed that the route pass through Naregal and Gajendragad and requested that a survey be conducted immediately, followed by steps to implement the project. The meetings come amid growing demands from North Karnataka for improved rail connectivity and faster execution of pending infrastructure projects.

Dalai Lama Launches Ekya School's Book on Inquiry-Based Learning

Bangalore, February 11, 2026 – His Holiness the Dalai Lama on Tuesday launched '15 Learnings in 15 Years of Ekya: How We Built Schools,' a book chronicling Ekya Schools' journey in reimagining education through inquiry, compassion, and conceptual understanding. The event was attended by Dr. K.C. Ramamurthy, IPS (Retd.), Former MP, Rajya Sabha, Chairman, CMR Group of Institutions and Chairman of the Ekya Board of Governors, along with Dr. Tristha Ramamurthy, Founder, Ekya Schools & Provost, CMR University.



The book reflects on Ekya's gradual shift from rote learning and recall-based teaching to deeper conceptual engagement, critical thinking, and authentic assessment—principles closely aligned with the National

Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Drawing on real classroom stories and institutional reflections, it presents transformation in education not as a one-time reform but as an ongoing process of learning, resistance, and reflection.

Central to Ekya's phi-

losophy is the ACE Framework—Aware, Compassionate, Engaged—which embeds values such as empathy, awareness, and responsible action into everyday curriculum and school culture. Rather than treating values as peripheral add-ons, the framework is

woven into teaching practices, assessments, and student interactions.

Founded in 2010, Ekya Schools began with a foundational question: what if schools focused less on marks and memorisation, and more on nurturing thoughtful, self-aware, and compassionate individuals? Fifteen years later, the book captures how that vision has shaped a model of education where inquiry, well-being, and meaning-making are central. Speaking on the occasion, His Holiness the Dalai Lama commended the initiative, emphasising the role of education in fostering human values and inner development alongside academic excellence. Ekya Schools is among the early institutions in India to adopt a system-wide, values-integrated approach to inquiry-based learning.

Ramalinga Reddy Seeks Karnataka Ratna for Freedom Fighter Bhimanna Khandre

Bangalore, February 11, 2026 – Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Wednesday announced that he will urge Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to confer the Karnataka Ratna, the state's highest civilian award, on centenarian freedom fighter

ter. Recalling Khandre's tenure as transport minister, Reddy said, "He performed puja and ensured the Shivajinagar bus stand was straightened. His contribution to Karnataka is immense."

Reddy noted that the British had confiscated



and former MLA Dr. Bhimanna Khandre.

Speaking at the preliminary meeting of the Loknayan Centenarian Dr. Bhimanna Khandre speech program at Hotel Maurya Hall, Reddy highlighted Khandre's decades of service to the state as both legislator and minis-

Khandre's property due to his active participation in the freedom struggle. He also credited Khandre with playing a pivotal role in the unification of Karnataka, particularly in Bidar, where Kannada remains strong today because of his efforts.

IHMT of Srinivas University organizes a one-day workshop



Mangaluru, Feb 10 (TSIT): Srinivas University Institute of Hotel Management and Tourism (IHMT) organized an interactive and informative flower arrangement workshop on Tuesday for KICT and MCTC students. Participating as a resource person, Prof Dhanraj Shetty explained basic techniques, design principles, and creative expression besides various styles and arrangements using seasonal and exotic

flowers. The other resource persons Prof Subrat Saraf and Prof Ramya guided and instructed the final year students enhancing their skills and creativity, providing hands-on experience in floral design. Dean Prof B Prashant Prabhu also spoke on the occasion. The workshop enabled the KICT and MCTC students to gain valuable insights into the art of flower arrangement, adding to their hospitality skills.

Hi Life Exhibition Returns to Bangalore with Designer Showcase

Bangalore (TSIT) Bangalore's fashion calendar gets a stylish highlight as the Hi Life Exhibition returns with an exclusive showcase of designer fashion, fine jewellery, luxe accessories, and trend-forward lifestyle collections.



The three-day event will be held at The Lalit Ashok, Bangalore, on February 13, 14, and 15. It promises a refined shopping experience featuring thoughtfully curated labels, statement styles, and timeless elegance for fashion enthusiasts.

From contemporary pret to heritage craftsmanship, the exhibition brings together some of the most sought-after names in designer wear and accessories. Organisers describe it as the perfect destination for those who appreciate

quality, sophistication, and distinctive design. The Hi Life Exhibition is

open to visitors across all three days. Entry details are available at the venue.

Bomma Condemns Closure of 638 Kannada Schools, Accuses Congress of 'Urban Naxal' Tactics in Parliament

New Delhi, February 11, 2026 – Former Chief Minister and MP Basavaraj Bommai on Wednesday strongly condemned the Karnataka Congress government's decision to shut down 638 Kannada-medium schools, alleging that the state government has become "bankrupt" and is unable to pay salaries. "The Karnataka Congress government has already closed 638 Kannada-medium schools. The state's financial condition has deteriorated and the government has become bankrupt. It is unable even to pay salaries. That is why Kannada schools are being shut down. This is anti-Kannada and anti-Kannada schools. I strongly condemn this and demand that the Kannada schools be reopened,"

Bomma told a news agency in New Delhi. "Congress Creating Chaos in Parliament" Responding to a question on the Congress party's no-confidence motion against the Lok Sabha Speaker, Bommai accused the opposition of creating disruptions out of frustration. "Congress is frustrated because it has been repeatedly losing elections. Its leaders are frustrated. As a result, they are behaving like urban Naxals in Parliament. Standing on benches and attacking the Speaker has crossed all limits. Congress women MPs are even coming up to the Prime Minister's seat and trying to block his entry. Such incidents have never occurred in the history of Parliament," he said.

Bomma Slams Congress Over Closure of 638 Kannada Schools, Accuses Govt of 'Anti-Kannada' Stance

New Delhi, February 11, 2026 – Former Chief Minister of Karnataka and MP Basavaraj Bommai on Wednesday strongly condemned the Congress government's decision to shut down 638 Kannada-medium schools in the state, terming it "anti-Kannada and anti-Kannada schools." Speaking to a news agency in New Delhi, Bommai alleged that the state government has become "bankrupt" and is unable to pay salaries, leading to the closure of schools. "The Karnataka Congress government has already closed 638 Kannada-medium schools. The state's finan-

cial condition has deteriorated and the government has become bankrupt. It is unable even to pay salaries. That is why Kannada schools are being shut down. I strongly condemn this and demand that the Kannada schools be reopened," he said. Responding to a question on the Congress' no-confidence motion against the Lok Sabha Speaker, Bommai accused the opposition party of creating chaos in Parliament out of frustration. "Congress is frustrated because it has been repeatedly losing elections. Its leaders are frustrated. As a result, they are behaving like urban Naxals in Parliament.

Standing on benches and attacking the Speaker has crossed all limits. Congress women MPs are even coming up to the Prime Minister's seat and trying to block his entry. Such incidents have never occurred in the history of Parliament," he said. When asked if he expected Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi to allow smooth functioning of the House, Bommai expressed scepticism. "It is not known what he will do. However, he does not speak about people's problems. Creating disturbances has become his agenda. Most likely, the same will continue," he added.

EDITORIAL

When Universities Become Sites of Silent Repression

Recent developments at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, including protests directed at philosopher Divya Dwivedi, have brought into sharp focus a question Indian universities have been quietly postponing: what happens to disagreement when institutions stop treating it as an intellectual matter and begin managing it as a problem of order? The issue at stake is not the correctness of any one scholar's arguments, nor the intent of those who oppose them.

It is the growing tendency for universities to respond to contested ideas not through debate, critique, or counter-argument, but through procedural escalation, reputational anxiety, and administrative intervention. When philosophical disagreement over caste, feminism, or political thought is shifted from classrooms and seminars into committees and complaints, something fundamental changes in how democratic institutions relate to dissent. This is not an argument about individual guilt, intent, or the correctness of any particular scholarly position. Nor is it a defence of one person's views. It is an attempt to understand a broader institutional shift, one in which disagreement increasingly migrates from the domain of intellectual engagement into the terrain of discipline, procedure, and risk management. What that shift reveals is less about ideology than about the condition of democratic institutions today.

India continues to describe itself as a democracy committed to free expression. Constitutional guarantees remain intact, courts periodically reaffirm them, and censorship is officially disavowed. Yet writers, journalists, academics, and students continue to experience forms of silencing. Not through mass bans or explicit prohibitions, but through slower, more diffuse mechanisms that make speech costly, uncertain, and professionally risky. Episodes like the one at IIT Delhi are not aberrations. They are symptoms of this wider transformation. Censorship in contemporary India rarely announces itself. It does not arrive as a ban on books or a formal prohibition on speech. Instead, it operates through procedure. Through complaints, inquiries, notices, and committees. Through reputational anxiety and institutional caution. Through the quiet reclassification of disagreement as disruption, and critique as liability. At IIT Delhi, this logic has been visible in the way philosophical disagreement has been shifted out of the space of intellectual contestation and into administrative terrain. Work on caste, feminism, and political philosophy has been framed not simply as scholarship open to critique, but as material requiring institutional response. The question subtly changes from whether arguments are persuasive to whether they should circulate without consequence. This shift matters because it alters how disagreement is resolved. Not through argument, but through management. This is how democratic censorship often works today. It does not silence by decree. It silences by changing the costs of speaking.

The same pattern can be seen across India's public life. Journalists face legal harassment, access denial, strategic litigation, and economic pressure. Poets and writers encounter criminal cases, forced withdrawals, and sustained intimidation. Academics increasingly operate under reputational and political constraint rather than intellectual autonomy. Speech remains legally permissible, but institutionally hazardous. Universities occupy a particularly revealing position within this landscape. They are meant to be spaces where disagreement is not only tolerated but constitutive. Yet increasingly, they resemble risk management institutions. Administrations must navigate donor expectations, government scrutiny, media attention, and social media outrage. In this environment, caution becomes a rational strategy. Silence begins to look like responsibility.

What has unfolded at IIT Delhi echoes developments at other institutions. At Ashoka University, political controversy around faculty research and public commentary has led to administrative distancing, resignations, and faculty protests over academic freedom. Even when courts intervene to protect scholars, the broader signal remains clear. Think carefully. Speak cautiously. Know the limits.

Public universities face an additional constraint. As state institutions, they are tasked with producing critical knowledge while remaining subject to intense political oversight. Faculty learn, often implicitly, that dissent can be reframed as indiscipline, critique construed as misconduct, and disagreement converted into administrative procedure. Universities do not ban ideas outright.

India's New Ambitions On Trade Must Be Paired With Domestic Reform



Trade deals with the United States and European Union in the last two weeks have underscored India's newfound confidence toward global trade. While the agreement with the United States was negotiated under duress, it is consistent with India's recent trade policy, which has shifted away from protectionism to focus on domestic support programs and trade deals. But more hard work lies ahead. For the United States and India to realise the potential of this burgeoning commercial relationship, domestic reforms must be prioritised at all levels of government in India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government took office in 2014. Due to India's goods trade imbalances and the need to create low-skilled employment, the government kicked off the "Make in India" campaign with a goal of increasing manufacturing as a percentage of GDP from 15% to 25% by 2024. The toolkit to support the campaign consisted of a mix of protectionism, domestic reforms, and a global push to attract multinational manufacturers. The target year came and went, and the manufacturing-to-GDP ratio actually

declined slightly. The Union government had pushed ahead with key reforms such as creating the national Goods and Services Tax, relaxing foreign direct investment restrictions, pursuing labour deregulation, and implementing sectoral reforms in areas like hydrocarbon exploration. However, nascent attempts to push states to improve their local business environments - like the erstwhile "Business Reforms Action Plan," which ranked states' business environments - have faltered. But about midway through the government's second term, there was a noticeable shift in its approach to trade. Successive Union budgets tended to have more tariff reductions than increases. The government began to promote domestic support programs for manufacturers called "Production Linked Incentives" programs. And India began to aggressively pursue trade agreements, finalising six agreements in a little over three years. The free trade agreement with the European Union had been in the works for nearly 20 years, though a

formal "restart" was announced in 2022 after a long pause in talks. Talks on a bilateral trade agreement with the United States were formally announced as part of the February 2025 United States-India Joint Leaders Statement after the White House summit. India understandably will keep import restrictions on some products, notably the staple grains that are critical to hundreds of millions of small farmers. But in other sectors, India has shown a willingness to cut tariffs deeply. The government recognises that, despite aspirations (and some success) in attracting technology investments, the country's immediate potential strength is in labour-intensive sectors. While concrete details on the tariff-and-timeline elements of the U.S.-India interim agreement are not yet available, India has staggered tariff cuts over different periods of time. This presents real urgency to Indian policymakers. Yielding the full benefits of these agreements will require recommitting to the difficult domestic policy reforms that investors require, such as transparent land acquisition, increased labour flexibility, improvements in

electric power pricing and reliability, and faster resolution of disputes. Most of this agenda lies not in Delhi, but instead with India's 28 state governments. State governments, for their part, have tended to focus investment policy on crafting sector-specific incentive programs such as an "electronics policy," "data centre policy," "green hydrogen policy," or "electric mobility policy." In recent years, most of these sectoral policies have focused on capital-intensive industries, the strength areas of India's partners in these new trade agreements. Relatively few states have been willing to do the hard work of improving the general business operations for land, labour, and capital. Improved commercial ties between the United States and India will allow the two countries to continue to "grow together" well into the future. The interim agreement is a critical step toward reducing tensions and improving trade policy stability. The harder work now begins, at least in India. This burden of policy improvement must be shouldered from Bombay to Bhubaneswar, from Chennai to Kolkata, and from Patna to Panaji.

INSIDE PAK-BANGLADESH-ICC STANDOFF: HOW 2 NATIONS PLAYED THE ENTIRE SYSTEM

If you were on tenterhooks about whether the India vs Pakistan match in the ongoing T20 World Cup would happen or not, let the final outcome of a 10-day (forced) impasse serve as a lesson - nothing barring a genuine act of God (including wars) can derail "the mother of all cricket battles". There is just too much at stake. Period. This match was never in any serious danger of being called off. There is just too much riding on it - for all the stakeholders of the international cricket ecosystem. As former ICC CFO Faisal Hasnain said, an India-Pakistan match is "not just another game of cricket; it is one of the commercial backbones of an ICC event".



IT WAS JUST A MATTER OF WHO WAS WILLING TO COMPROMISE, AND HOW MUCH.

Why Pak Did What It Did

What then were the real motivations behind Pakistan's stance to boycott the match against India, despite it being played at a neutral venue (Colombo)? And also, who are the real winners and losers at the end of a period of drama that unfortunately distracted all of us from the on-field action at the World Cup, which is dishing out quite a few exciting contests, thanks largely to the minnows playing some exceptional cricket. The thing is, no one either won or lost fully. To understand this, one must first keep two things in mind.

The first - just how lucrative an India vs Pakistan cricket match at an ICC event is. A single ICC game between the two neighbours generates anywhere between Rs 2,200 and Rs 4,500 crore in total, including broadcast, sponsorship, ticketing, etc., in-stadia ads, corporate boxes, merchandise, among other things. In other words, if the match doesn't happen, the key stakeholders could end up losing a

mind-boggling amount of money. If an ICC match is cancelled before it begins, the face value of the ticket purchased is refunded, as per ICC policy. According to reports, Indian host broadcaster JioStar could have lost up to Rs 250 crore in advertisement revenue. Just 10-second prime time ad slots for this clash can be as expensive as USD 50,000. The second factor is this: after the ouster of Sheikh Hasina from Bangladesh and the once strong ties between India and Bangladesh becoming strained, Pakistan had extra motivation to back Bangladesh politically, and cricket became a pawn in this game.

How Bangladesh Benefited

I had written earlier about how the "money-spinning" superpower of an India-Pakistan ICC tournament match is what Pakistan is trying to hold hostage and use as leverage to back Bangladesh, at a time when it is politically perfectly suitable for them to forge an alliance. One wouldn't be surprised if it was on Pakistan's insistence that Bangladesh demanded that

all their matches be shifted from India to Sri Lanka. At the January 21 ICC virtual Board meeting, the cricket boards of the two countries were the only two bodies that voted in favour of Bangladesh playing their games in Sri Lanka. Which is why when the ICC adopted a hardline stance against the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), first refusing to give in to their demand (for which there was no legitimate reason, as more than one security assessment showed) and second expelling them from the World Cup and replacing them with Scotland, Bangladesh were suddenly the big losers in all of this. They were not going to get their participation fees, nor any prize money, had risked a \$2 million ICC fine as per the member participation agreement (MPA) and were in danger of losing their share of the ICC's annual revenue share, not to mention having jeopardised all future bilateral cricket with India and even possible legal action by the ICC for breach of contract (as per the Members Participation Agreement, or MPA).

Bangladesh Polls: How Yunus' Fate Will Also Decide The Country's Fate

Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose: The more things change, the more they stay the same, is an apt description of the mood in Bangladesh on the eve of the elections due on February 12. The masks have fallen, one by one. The events of July-August 2024 that led to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's ouster - a movement once touted as a "spontaneous students' uprising" - are now recognised as the most recent among regime change operations that Bangladesh has witnessed, such as in 1975 (following the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman) and in 1981 (after the assassination of Zia-ur-Rahman). How Sheikh Hasina escaped with her life is another episode altogether. The 13th national parliamentary elections are being hailed as 'different', quite distinct from those organised by Sheikh Hasina's government, most recently in 2024. The Yunus-led interim regime has banned the activities of the Awami League, barring them from participation in the forthcoming elections. By definition, this decision to ban the single largest political party in Bangladesh, with a steady vote share of 35-40%, has rendered the forthcoming elections non-inclusive and non-participatory. Such elections can hardly be described as credible since they flout the basic tenets of democracy. Bangladesh's second-largest political party, the BNP (Bangladesh Nationalist Party, presently led by Tarique Rahman, son of Begum Khaleda Zia), was never banned by the Awami League. The BNP made a deliberate choice not to participate in the 2024 elections. The Wind Blows Many Ways The national opinion survey conducted by Bangladesh's leading vernacular daily, Prothom Alo, in October 2025, published on December 9 that year, revealed that close to 70% of those surveyed want the Awami League to participate in these elections, conditionally or unconditionally. Twenty-eight per cent said they did not want the Awami League to participate in the elections. However, in terms of likely vote share, the survey revealed that close to



66% would vote for the BNP, and nearly 26% would vote for Jamaat-e-Islami, with only 7.2% voting for the Awami League. It is not a coincidence that the vote share of the Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) and the percentage of those who do not want the Awami League's participation is approximately the same. The Jamaat-e-Islami has been the de facto ruler of Bangladesh for the last 18 months, with Mohammed Yunus as their willing spokesperson. Their prime interest is to transform this into a de jure control through the February 12 elections. Is this possible? Using tactics like mobocracy and street riots, accompanied by the most brutal and horrendous violence, the JeI has forced the resignations of the entire senior judiciary, as well as key bureaucrats, university vice chancellors and any academician whose political views or affiliations were considered unacceptable. The attacks on religious minorities (Hindus, Buddhists, Christians, Sufis and Ahmaddiyas) follow the same pattern, and have continued unabated, bringing these communities to their knees, even as such attacks are described - even justified - as 'political' and 'non-communal' in nature. The media has similarly been brought under control through board-room takeovers, large-scale dismissals of 'inconvenient' journalists, and even imprisonment (including on murder charges) for scores of media personnel. As the traditional democracies of the West watch on in

mute acquiescence, the JeI has acquired strong control over the levers of power, sabotaging every institution of democracy. The victory of the JeI's youth wing, the Islami Chhatra Shibir, in all the students' union elections held so far (Dhaka University, Jahangirnagar University, Jagannath University) signals strong control over students' bodies, pushing away both BNP and the recently formed NCP (National Citizen's Party, comprising the students' who were active in last year's events and dubbed the 'King's party' for its affiliation with Yunus). Notably, a recent article in The Washington Post reporting the transcript of an American diplomat's conversation seems to signal the US's support for the JeI. The 'Undecided' Ones On January 13 this year, Prothom Alo published the results of the December 2025 poll survey conducted by four organisations, covering all 64 districts of Bangladesh. This survey indicates a sharp increase in the support for JeI, now running neck-to-neck with the BNP. The results brought out that "over 34 per cent of voters intended to vote for the BNP, while over 33 per cent intend to vote for the Jamaat". The NCP, which has now joined the JeI's 11-party alliance, is shown as receiving a little over 7% of the vote share, while the Islami Andolan Bangladesh, which supports the declaration of Sharia law in Bangladesh, is reported as receiving over 3% of the vote share.

Russia allows Indian labourers in bulk due to labour shortage, Ukraine war

Moscow: While it is not new that Indians work as labourers in foreign countries, Reuters reported that Russia has eased the visa process for Indians in bulk to keep up with its acute labour shortage, partly due to the ongoing war in Ukraine. The report painted a picture of the situation, with a group of unrecognisable Indian men at the passport control line in Moscow airport carrying sports bags as their only luggage, who flew over 4,000 km to get a job.



"I have a contract for one year. In the rubbish disposal business. The money is good," one of the men, Ajit, told the news outlet. According to authorities, there is an immediate shortage of at least 2.3 million workers, a phenomenon further intensified due to the Russia-Ukraine war.

Major surge in Indian workers cleared to work in Moscow

Traditionally, Russia relied on its neighbouring countries like Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan in Central Asia for foreign labour. However, with the war-ravaged scene, labourers from Central Asia are no longer enough, forcing

Russia to look for new sources.

A year before Russia sent its military into Ukraine, in 2021, around 5,000 work permits were granted for Indian nationals. In 2025, 72,000 permits were estimated to be approved for Indians, which is almost a third of the total number of migrant workers on visas allowed annually.

Alexei Filipenkov, director of one such company that draws in Indian workers, said labourers from the ex-Soviet Central Asia stopped coming in adequate numbers.

Central Asians generally do not need a visa to enter Russia, but starting June

2025, Russia introduced a pre-entry requirement, imposing visa-like restrictions.

"Currently, expatriate employees from India are the most popular," he said, adding that official data shows that Central Asians still contribute to the majority of the 2.3 million foreign workers allowed without a visa in 2025.

Unskilled labour from India points to strong ties between the two countries

A weaker rouble, anti-immigrant discourse within Russian politicians and stricter migration laws have likely diminished their fig-

ures, instead encouraging Moscow to increase visa quotas for other foreign workers.

Russia's choice of India as an alternative for unskilled labour reflects more deeply rooted ties between Moscow and New Delhi. India is known to buy cheaper Russian oil that Moscow cannot readily sell because of Western sanctions, but with the new India-US bilateral trade agreement, the deal remains questionable. In December 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a deal, essentially making it easier for Indians to be employed in

Russia. During the signing, Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister, Denis Manturov, said the country can accept an "unlimited number" of Indian labourers. He said as many as 8,00,000 workers were required in manufacturing and 1.5 million in the construction and service sector.

Indians put to work at farms and factories

A Russian textiles company called Brera Intex reportedly hired at least 10 workers from South Asia to make bed sheets and curtains.

A 26-year-old Indian migrant worker, Gaurav said he has been working in Russia for three months now. "I was told to come (over) to this side, that the work and money are good," he told Reuters.

"Russian life is very good," he said, adding that he talks to his wife and two children back home in India on call every day.

The company's owner, Olga Lugovskaya, said the workers adapted to the work fairly quickly and were in good spirits. "Some of the guys who came in didn't even know how to switch on a sewing machine," she said. "(But) after two or three months.

Godrej Agrovet launches new insecticide TAKAI

February 2026: Godrej Agrovet Limited (Godrej Agrovet), one of India's leading diversified agri-businesses, has launched a new insecticide TAKAI, developed for rice crops. Powered by Cyclaprym™ technology developed by ISK Japan, TAKAI is effective against key rice pests, Stem Borer and, also controls Leaf Folder. When applied at a dose of 160 ml at 15-30 Days After Transplant (DAT) and again at 40-60 DAT, it provides an extensive protection window for the rice crop. The company is in process of getting label approval in Maize, Chilli, Cabbage, Soybean, Chickpea and Sugarcane crops too for TAKAI. Stem Borer cause 30% - 40% yield loss during severe outbreaks, whereas leaf folder infestation can result in 20% - 30% yield loss under severe conditions, often attacking the crop at early and mid-growth stages when detection and timely intervention are challenging. Hence, although India is the world's largest producer of rice, with production of 150.18 million tonnes, its per hectare yield remains significantly low at ~2.9 tonnes/hectare compared to global best of 5 tonnes/hectare. Sunil Kataria, MD & CEO, Godrej Agrovet, said, "Effective pest management determines the



success of the Indian rice farmer. Through TAKAI, we intend to enable rice farmers to protect their crops from pest attacks by offering them a solution that offers quick control and is effective for a longer duration thereby improving crop health." "At Godrej Agrovet, our endeavour is to deliver crop protection solutions that address environmental and market challenges faced by our farmers. Today's launch of TAKAI is in sync with our strategy of strengthening our portfolio across key crops by leveraging our research-expertise and strong on-ground reach that empower farmers and uplift farming families," he added. Rice, being a multi-season

crop - Kharif, Rabi and Summer, is grown in warm, humid and water-logged conditions making it ideal for pest attacks throughout the year. In the early critical stage, i.e. vegetative stage during 15-30 DAT, Stem Borer damages the plant and makes it difficult for farmers to detect early.

Later at reproductive stage during 40-60 DAT, both Stem Borer and Leaf Folder attack the plant. Leaf Folder feeds on the leaf tissue by folding the leaves thereby reducing the plant's photosynthetic area and hence crop growth. It is at these stages that TAKAI should be applied at a dose of 160 ml when the crop is 15-30 days old and again at 40-60 DAT.

GROWING DEMAND for Used Cars in Hyderabad Fuels Higher Sales for Cars24

Hyderabad, Telangana | 11 February 2026: Cars24, India's leading auto-tech platform, is strengthening its presence in Telangana as one of its fastest-scaling consumer markets, driven by rising adoption of organised, digital-first car buying and ownership services. The state has emerged as a key growth engine for Cars24's retail, financing, and vehicle ownership offerings as customers increasingly seek trust, transparency, and convenience in pre-owned car purchases. During H1 FY26, nearly 10% of vehicles transacted on Cars24 originated from Telangana, with Hyderabad accounting for the bulk of overall state volumes. The market continues to see strong demand for trusted retail purchases, faster price discovery, and financing-led convenience—trends that are reshaping the used-car ecosystem in the region. At a group level, Cars24 reported Adjusted Net Revenue of ₹651 crore in H1 FY26, up 18% year-on-year, while Adjusted EBITDA losses reduced by 36% YoY to ₹162



crore, reflecting a sustained focus on improving unit economics alongside customer experience. In the first six months of the year, nearly 85,000 cars were transacted across India, the UAE, and Australia, generating ₹3,731 crore in vehicle transaction GMV. Retail GMV crossed ₹2,000 crore, growing 21% YoY, and now contributes more than 50% of total vehicle transaction GMV, supported by expanded margins of 19.3%. Hyderabad's pre-owned car market remains largely petrol-led, with petrol vehicles accounting for 87.6% of total transactions, while diesel models contribute

11.6%, reflecting customer preference for lower ownership and maintenance costs. Among individual models, the Nexon emerged as the most preferred pre-owned car in Hyderabad, accounting for 4.1% of total sales, followed closely by the Baleno (3.97%) and the Swift (2.43%). Collectively, the top three models contribute over 10% of all pre-owned car transactions in the city. The data highlights a clear inclination towards compact SUVs and hatchbacks, underlining Hyderabad consumers' growing demand for versatile, fuel-efficient, and city-friendly vehicles. In

Telangana, retail-led transactions continue to form a significant share of overall activity, mirroring the national shift towards higher-trust, consumer-first channels, particularly in metro markets such as Hyderabad. Cars24's financing platform, LOANS24, disbursed loans worth ₹1,637 crore in H1 FY26, registering a growth of 38% YoY, as more buyers opted for structured, tech-enabled financing. Telangana saw strong traction during the period, with Hyderabad witnessing rising adoption among salaried professionals and small business owners. Beyond transactions, Cars24's Vehicle Ownership Services GMV grew 19x YoY to ₹94 crore, reinforcing the company's evolution from a one-time transaction platform to a long-term car ownership partner. Services such as insurance, inspection reports, challan management, and guaranteed buy-back continued to see rising adoption, driving repeat engagement and customer stickiness across key markets, including Telangana.

RR KABEL ANNOUNCES THE WINNERS OF KABEL STAR SEASON 4

Visakhapatnam, February 11, 2026: RR Kabel, India's leading consumer electrical and wire and cable manufacturer, proudly announces the winners of its Kabel Star Scholarship Program 2025 in Visakhapatnam. The Scholarship Program, an industry-leading initiative, is tailored for children of electricians who have successfully completed their 10th-grade exams this year. Aligning with RR Kabel's vision of an educated and empowered India, the program has allocated over ₹1 crore each year to encourage and support the higher secondary education of these promising students. Nationwide, close to 4000 students have been selected to receive individual scholarships of ₹10,000 each till now. These outstanding scholars have not only secured financial support for their higher secondary education but have also taken a significant step towards realizing their aspirations. In addition to the winners of this year, top students from Kabel Star Scholarship Program Season 2 were also recognised and felicitated at the event along with a laptop to enhance and



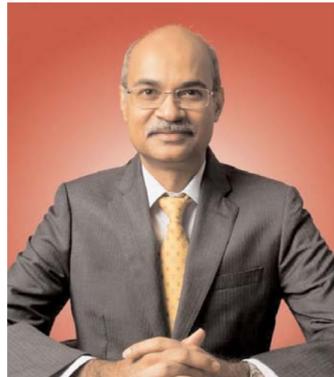
support their further education. The fourth season of Kabel Star Scholarship Program has witnessed an impressive rise in applicants. Out of nearly 1,000 winners nationwide, Visakhapatnam stood out with 59 honourees, who were felicitated at a special ceremony at Matris Hotel, Visakhapatnam. Launched in 2022, the Kabel Stars Scholarship was conceived to empower the children of electricians, affectionately known as 'Kabel Dost,' by supporting their higher education aspirations. Since its inception, the initiative has had a truly transformative impact—extending financial aid to deserving students across the

country. Over the years, the program has grown both in scale and significance, benefiting thousands of students annually. This fourth edition further reinforces RR Kabel's long-standing commitment to uplifting the electrician community and investing in the future of their children. By opening new educational pathways and ensuring that financial limitations do not hinder ambition, the scholarship has inspired countless success stories of past recipients who have excelled academically and embarked on promising careers. Reflecting on the scholarship program, which is a result of her vision and leadership, Mrs. Kirti Kabra, Director,

RR Global, said, "At RR Kabel, our Kabel Dost have always been more than partners in business - they are the foundation of our journey. With the Kabel Star Scholarship, we are not just offering financial aid, but opening doors to possibilities that can change lives for generations. Every child who dreams big deserves a chance to achieve it, and this program is our way of ensuring that no dream is limited by circumstance. Watching these young achievers take confident steps towards their future is the true reward of this initiative." The scholarship winners and their parents were overwhelmed with joy and pride as they received their awards. For the parents, it was an emotional moment that reflected years of perseverance and dedication, while the ambitions of their children to build successful careers in their chosen fields were celebrated at the ceremony. Through this initiative, RR Kabel is offering these young achievers a strong foundation to pursue their education and unlock their full potential.

OLD BRIDGE MUTUAL FUND LAUNCHES OLD BRIDGE FLEXI CAP FUND, EXPANDING ITS EQUITY OFFERING

Wednesday, 11 February 2026: Old Bridge Mutual Fund today announced the launch of the Old Bridge Flexi Cap Fund, an open-ended dynamic equity scheme that invests across large-cap, mid-cap and small-cap stocks, offering investors the flexibility to navigate market cycles through a single diversified portfolio. The New Fund Offer (NFO) of the Old Bridge Flexi Cap Fund will open on February 13, 2026, and closes on February 23, 2026. The scheme is offered at an initial price of ₹10 per unit, with a minimum investment of ₹5,000 for lump-sum applications and ₹1,000 for SIPs. The fund follows a bottom-up, business-by-business investment approach, with capital allocation driven by quality of business and longevity of growth, rather than mechanical allocation across market capitalisations. The strategy allows flexibility to dynamically shift exposure across market segments based on evolving risk-reward conditions and market cycles. The Old Bridge Flexi Cap Fund will be managed by Kenneth Andrade, Founder and Chief Investment Officer of Old Bridge Asset Management Private Limited, who brings over 34 years [RP1] of experience in Indian capital markets and a strong track record in portfolio management and investment research. Commenting on the launch, Kenneth Andrade, CIO, Old Bridge Asset



Management said, "Market cycles are constantly evolving, and past winners do not necessarily remain future winners. A flexi-cap approach allows us to combine the stability of large caps, the alpha potential of mid caps, and the opportunity of small caps, while remaining disciplined on valuation, balance-sheet strength, and capital protection. The objective is to own durable businesses and allow compounding to play out over time." The fund will benchmark itself against the BSE 500 TRI and will be available under Direct and Regular plans, with Growth and IDCW options.

Sundaram Finance Hosts a One-of-its-Kind Customer Meet, 'Sundaram Circle'

Hyderabad, Feb 11, 2026: In an era where most interactions have shifted to digital platforms, Sundaram Finance reaffirmed its commitment to human connectivity by hosting Sundaram Circle, a one-of-its-kind customer meet. The event, themed "Where Legacy Meets Loyalty - and Welcomes the Next Generation", brought together long-standing commercial vehicle customers and their next generation for an evening of connection, reflection, and forward-looking conversations. Around 113 customers partook the event. Why this meet matters: The company's leadership emphasized that while the world shifts toward virtual convenience, Sundaram Finance continues to value the power of in-person connections. "Relationships aren't built over screens - they're nurtured through handshakes, smiles, and shared time," a senior leader shared. This belief echoes our founder Shri T.S.



Santhanam's guiding mantra: "Contact. Contact. Contact." - the cornerstone of lasting customer relationships. Long before customer-centricity was a trend, our founder's father Sri Sundaram Iyengar pioneered several such initiatives in bus transport as early as 1924. About the emblem: The Sundaram Circle emblem, unveiled at the event, features nine golden arcs shaped like people,

hearts, and lamp flames - each symbolising one of the Group's enduring values: Service, Fairplay, Prudence, Relationship, Integrity, Discipline, Openness, Humility, and Honesty. The central Anchor represents stability and trust, while the circle form embodies Sundaram Finance's 360° commitment - delivering comprehensive solutions through the Group's companies: Sundaram Finance,

Sundaram Home, Sundaram Mutual, Royal Sundaram, Sundaram Business Services, and Sundaram Alternates. Beyond finance: This 360° approach extends beyond transactions. Sundaram Finance is in the business of everyday connectedness - where partnerships power livelihoods, support businesses, and help dreams take shape. The Group's work is complemented by CSR initiatives in

health, education, culture and sustainability, including its Green Task Force, which focuses on long-term environmental impact. Evening highlights: The customer meet featured addresses by senior leadership, conversations with next generation entrepreneurs and business owners, and discussions on how Sundaram Finance and the Group's solutions continue to meet evolving needs. The leaders also felicitated long-standing customers with special recognition mementos, honouring their enduring association with the company. Long-standing customers shared their journeys, while first-time attendees experienced the company's relationship-driven approach - a hallmark that sets Sundaram Finance apart in today's fast-paced, transactional marketplace. The evening closed with a reaffirmation of Sundaram Finance's commitment to be a steady partner - not just for the next transaction.

Canada mourns with you, tearful PM Carney tells community where nine killed in shootings

The only thing on Prime Minister Mark Carney's itinerary today, according to his office, is a meeting with MPs at 10:00 local time (15:00 GMT). The rest of the prime minister's previously announced schedule has been suspended "in light of Tuesday's tragic events in Tumbler Ridge", according to a statement. We learnt earlier how the PM had suspended his planned trip to Germany for the Munich Security Conference, which begins on Friday. The conference hosts more than 60 heads of state and government, and covers issues from AI to support for Ukraine. Prime Minister Mark Carney has just arrived at Parliament Hill in Ottawa, where he tells reporters it is a "difficult day" for Tumbler Ridge and Canada. "Parents and grandparents, sisters and brothers in Tumbler Ridge will wake up without someone they love," Carney says. "The nation mourns with you. Canada stands by



you." Carney thanks emergency services and world leaders who have reached out to him in solidarity - including King Charles III, who is Canada's head of state. The PM then says he has instructed that flags across all government buildings are to be flown at half mast for the next week. "We will get through this," Carney continues. "But right now it is a

time to come together, like Canadians do in these terrible situations. To support each other, to mourn together and to grow together." As we've been reporting, nine people have been killed in a shooting attack in Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia. For the moment, there are certain details which haven't yet been made public - including the identities of the suspect

and victims. Here's a reminder of the facts that have been shared by police so far: At approximately 13:20 local time (20:20 GMT), the Royal Canadian Mounted Police received a report of an active shooter at a secondary school in the area. Attending the scene, officers found the bodies of six victims - as well as the body of a suspect which had sustained a self-

inflicted injury. A seventh victim died on the way to hospital while two further victims were found at a nearby residence. More than 20 others were injured during the attack - two were transported to hospital with serious or life-threatening injuries. At 17:45 local time a Police Initiated Public Alert was cancelled - as authorities believed there was no further suspects. Following the statement from King Charles III, we can now bring you a message shared by the Prince and Princess of Wales. In a post on social media, they say they "stand with all Canadians" following the shootings that took place in Tumbler Ridge. "Our hearts are with the entire Tumbler Ridge community, and we extend our deepest condolences to the families and friends affected by this devastating loss. "We are so thankful for the courage shown by the students, staff, and emergency responders who acted with selflessness in the face

of such violence." King Charles III has expressed his profound "shock and sadness" at the "senseless act of brutal violence" in British Columbia, western Canada. In a message posted to Instagram, the King - who is Canada's head of state - says: "My wife and I were profoundly shocked and saddened to learn of the most dreadful attack at Tumbler Ridge Secondary School in British Columbia. "We can only express our deepest sympathy to the families who are grieving the unimaginable loss of their loved ones and those still awaiting news from hospital. In such a closely connected town, every child's name will be a neighbour. "We can only begin to imagine the appalling shadow that has now descended across Tumbler Ridge and our hearts go out to all those whose lives have been so shattered by this senseless act of brutal violence.

TUMBLER RIDGE MASS SHOOTING



Canadian police say nine people have been killed in a mass shooting at a school and home in the remote rural community of Tumbler Ridge in the western province of British Columbia. Another 25 people were injured, and the suspect's body was also found at the scene. This is what we know so far about one of the deadliest gun attacks in Canada's history. When did the attack start? The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) said they received a report of an active shooter at Tumbler Ridge Secondary School at 13:20 local time on Tuesday (20:20 GMT). The police responded by deploying officers to the

scene, and issuing an active shooter alert for the rural community and a surrounding area. "Shelter in place, lock your doors and refrain from leaving your home or business at this time" local residents were told. A "hold and secure" lockdown was activated at Tumbler Ridge Secondary School and nearby Tumbler Ridge Elementary School. British Columbia's Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General Nina Krieger said police officers arrived at Tumbler Ridge Secondary school "within two minutes" of receiving the call of an active shooting. She said such a swift response "no doubt" saved lives.

RUSSIAN STRIKES NEAR KHARKIV KILL FOUR, INCLUDING CHILDREN, UKRAINE SAYS



Overnight Russian air strikes have killed at least four people, including three young children in Ukraine's north-eastern Kharkiv region, local officials have said. Regional head Oleh Synegubov said two boys, both aged two, a one-year-old girl and a 34-year-old man died after a drone hit their house in the town of Bohodukhiv. A 35-year-old pregnant woman and another woman, 73, were injured during the strike on the town, Synegubov said. The Russian aerial attack comes as Moscow renews strikes after a week-long pause that Donald Trump had asked Vladimir Putin to observe as a fierce cold swept Ukraine. Bohodukhiv, north-west of Ukraine's second largest city of Kharkiv, has been under almost daily Russian attack in recent days. On Monday, a 41-year-old woman and a 10-year-old boy were killed in the town, Synegubov said. Russian forces also dropped seven bombs on the city of Slovyansk on Tuesday, Donetsk regional head Vadym Filashkin said on Telegram. Three people, including an 11-year-old girl, were killed. Moscow has

increased pressure on the area by targeting transport and energy infrastructure with a record number of ballistic missiles, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has said. A state of emergency has been declared over the energy situation in the Kharkiv region by local authorities. It comes after a so-called "energy truce", which was meant to allow Ukraine's energy sector a reprieve during -20C (-4F) temperatures, expired last week. Tens of thousands of people across Ukraine are experiencing severe power cuts, and many households have no running water or heating. Zelensky has said the US wants the war with Russia to end by June, and that both sides had been invited to the US for talks next week. Meanwhile, a massive attack by Ukrainian drones on Volzhsky, in the Volgograd region in Russia, was reported on Wednesday night. Regional Governor Andrei Bocharov said an apartment was damaged in the strike and a fire broke out at a factory. Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

POLICE RELEASE MAN DETAINED IN CONNECTION TO NANCY GUTHRIE DISAPPEARANCE

Police have released a man hours after they detained him in connection to the disappearance of Nancy Guthrie, the mother of US news anchor Savannah Guthrie, CBS News, the BBC's US partner, has reported. After taking the man into custody at a traffic stop, police searched his home in Rio Rico, south of Tucson, Arizona, sources familiar with the investigation told CBS News. After his release, the man, identified only as Carlos, told reporters outside his home that he did not know who Nancy Guthrie was. "I don't follow the news," he said. Guthrie, 84, was abducted from her home near Tucson more than a week ago, sparking a widespread search and desperate appeals from her family. "I

hope they get the suspect, because I'm not it," Carlos said, according to a video posted on X by CBS reporter Andres Gutierrez. Carlos, reportedly a deliveryman, said he had been driving around and noticed authorities were following him. He added that the officers did not ask him any questions and made him wait for hours in a car park. A woman who identified herself as his mother-in-law earlier said that he had nothing to do with the case. "They're just invading my property," she was quoted as saying by CBS. The Pima County Sheriff's Department had confirmed police were conducting a court-authorized search at a location in Rio Rico, south of Tucson, Arizona.

US LAWMAKERS TELLS ANDREW SHOULD TESTIFY OVER EPSTEIN FILES

Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor is facing growing pressure from US officials and the family of his prominent accuser Virginia Giuffre to testify in the US about his links to paedophile financier Jeffrey Epstein. Speaking to the BBC, Democratic Congressman Ro Khanna said the Royal Family had "not been transparent", while Democratic Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernandez said King Charles III "should direct his brother" to go to the US to answer questions. On Monday, the King said the Royal Family were "ready to support" police in their inquiries. Andrew has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing and reached an out-of-court settlement with Giuffre in 2022 con-



taining no admission of liability. In the King's first intervention in the latest round of revelations in the Epstein scandal, a Buckingham Palace spokesperson said if they were approached by the police, they stood "ready to support them" in their investigation. It added the King had "made clear...his profound concern" over allegations against his

shared confidential information with Epstein from his official work as trade envoy in 2010 and 2011, according to material in the latest release of files seen by the BBC. Andrew has been contacted for comment but is yet to respond. When asked by the BBC if the former prince should go to the US, Khanna said that would be "appropriate". The Congressman, who co-sponsored the law that compelled the justice department to release the Epstein files last year, also said the Royal Family should "come clean" and lay out what they knew and what "action they're going to take". "They have a large wealth, they should probably be compensating these survivors for the horrors that have taken place.

Swiss bar owners face questions from victims' lawyers over fire disaster

Swiss bar owner Jacques Moretti was questioned by victims' families on Wednesday, over the New Year's Day fire disaster in Crans-Montana that left 41 people dead and 115 injured. He arrived for the hearing in Sion with his wife, Jessica, whose lawyer Yaël Hayat described the latest hearings as "moments of truth". Jessica Moretti faces questions on Thursday. Ahead of the hearing, one mother told Swiss TV she needed to know what had gone wrong and why. "What's important is that the whole truth comes out," said Laetitia Brodard-Sitre, whose 16-year-old son Arthur died in the fire.



"There must be no more lies," she told public broadcaster SRF. "I want everyone to take responsibility; politics and parties don't matter to me." Jacques and Jessica Moretti are under criminal investigation for involuntary manslaughter, as well as bodily harm and arson through negligence. Neither

is being held in custody; Mr Moretti was released on bail last month. His wife's lawyer told French radio the couple had made clear from the outset that neither was trying to shirk justice for their part in the tragedy at Le Constellation bar in the popular Swiss ski resort of Crans-Montana. "They obvi-

ously bear responsibility for what happened, as it happened on their property and they were guardians of the premises," Ms Hayat told France Info. "So they bear that responsibility; even so the inquiry must decide who is behind the tragedy." The couple have been criticised by several former employees for safety failings which have emerged since the fire. Sparkling candles in champagne bottles have been blamed for setting light to the ceiling, and footage has emerged showing an employee using snooker cues to push sound-proofing foam back into place on the ceiling weeks before the disaster.

US reopens airspace over Texas border town after 'drone incursion'



The US Department of Defense "took action" to disable drones that it said were part of an incursion over El Paso, Texas, which sits on the border with Mexico, and has lifted its order to shut down the area's airspace for 10 days. "The threat has been neutralized, and there is no danger to commercial travel in the region," Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy posted on X. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on Tuesday night suddenly ordered flights in and out of the El Paso International Airport to be halted until 20 February, causing shock and confusion among local residents and elected leaders. The agency said on Wednesday morning restrictions had been lifted and flights could resume. City Council member Chris Canales, who represents an area on the southwestern side of El Paso, told the BBC that local authorities did not receive any advance notice or reason for the closure. Long-term airspace closures are rare. Since 2018 the FAA has cut airspace closures from an average of more than four hours per launch to just more than two hours, according to its

web site. The restriction covered a 10-mile radius around El Paso, including parts of southern New Mexico, west of the town San Teresa. After the initial closure, El Paso International Airport said in a statement it was told "on short notice" to halt all flights and contacted the FAA for more information. "The notice was published without any advance notice to local governments or to local air traffic controllers," Canales said. "There are some folks who are panicking a bit because of how highly unusual this is, and if you look at El Paso on the map you can see what unique geographical position it is," he added. The cancellations were so abrupt that people reported being told by airlines that their flights were still scheduled, even after the FAA's announcement. "Just called (United Airlines) about my flight this morning and they said it's still scheduled to leave???" one woman commented on Instagram early Wednesday. Some on social media speculated about broader conspiracy theories and wondered if the US was on the brink of war.

Netanyahu to meet Trump as Iran nuclear talks reach critical stage

President Donald Trump will host Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the White House on Wednesday, as tensions continue to rise across the Middle East and negotiations intensify over curbing Iran's nuclear weapons programme. Netanyahu is expected to press Trump to pursue a deal that would not only halt Iran's uranium enrichment, but also cut its ballistic missile programme and support for proxy groups like Hamas and Hezbollah. "I will present to the president our outlook regarding the principles of these negotiations," he said before leaving for the US. Iran has suggested it is ready to limit its nuclear programme in return for sanctions relief, but it has rejected the other demands. Ahead of the White House meeting, Iranian President Masoud

Pezeskian warned that his country would "not yield to their excessive demands". Netanyahu's visit on Wednesday marks his sixth trip to the US since Trump's return to office - more than any other world leader. A close Trump ally, Netanyahu has long argued that Iran represents an existential security threat to Israel and has pushed the US to curb Tehran's influence in the region. "The prime minister believes that any negotiations must include limiting ballistic missiles and ending support for the Iranian axis," Netanyahu's office said in a statement ahead of his trip. After arriving in Washington on Tuesday, Netanyahu met Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff and son-in-law Jared Kushner. The pair "provided an update on the first round



of negotiations they held with Iran last Friday", according to the prime minister's office. Netanyahu's visit comes as the US increases its military presence in the Middle East, with Trump warning Tehran of strikes if it fails to reach a deal on its nuclear programme and to stop killing protesters. On

Tuesday, the president said that he was "thinking" about sending a second aircraft carrier strike group to the Middle East. The USS Abraham Lincoln carrier strike group was sent to the region last month after Trump threatened to strike Iran to stop a government crackdown on mass protests

in which thousands of people were killed. "We have an armada that is heading there and another one might be going," Trump said in an interview with Axios. He said Iran "wants to make a deal very badly", adding that a diplomatic solution remained possible. Trump told Fox Business that a good deal would mean "no nuclear weapons, no missiles". In a speech at a rally in Tehran on Wednesday marking the 47th anniversary of Iran's Islamic revolution, Pezeskian said: "Our Iran will not yield in the face of aggression, but we are continuing dialogue with all our strength with neighbouring countries in order to establish peace and tranquillity in the region." The Iranian president also reiterated that his country was "not seeking to acquire nuclear weapons".

"We have stated this repeatedly and are ready for any verification," he added. Israeli officials have also said their country reserves the right to take military action against Iran if it does not reach a nuclear agreement with the US. Netanyahu is under pressure from far-right allies in his government to use his ties to Trump to push for a wide-ranging US-Iran deal that meets the Israeli government's security concerns, experts say. "Israel is concerned that in the haste to get a deal with Iran, the president might embrace a deal that doesn't address Iran's missile programme or support for proxy groups, or that allows it to have some remnant of its nuclear programme," said Daniel Byman, a professor at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service.

Bundesliga Strengthens Football Development In UAE With New Academy And Strategic Partnership

The Bundesliga and the UAE Pro League announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which includes the launch of an official Bundesliga Academy in Abu Dhabi.

The goal of the partnership is to foster collaboration and the sharing of expertise in the areas of Technical Expertise, Broadcasting, Youth Player Development, Fan Engagement as well as Commercial and Marketing. The Bundesliga Academy is a fundamental part of the MoU, with the joint goal of developing local football talent. The MoU signing was made as part of the official state visit of German Chancellor Friedrich Merz to the United Arab Emirates. UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed al Nahyan and Chancellor Friedrich Merz witnessed the exchange of the MoU between UAE Pro League Chairman and UAE FA Senior Vice President Abdullah Nasser Al Junaibi, and Bundesliga International CEO Peer Naubert. The partnership brings together one



of the world's most innovative football leagues with the UAE Pro League's fast-growing domestic ecosystem, creating a platform to nurture young players, support coach education, and share best-in-class sporting and operational expertise. In this context, Sport X Domes, which will be the home of the Bundesliga UAE Academy in Abu Dhabi, was officially

inaugurated. Leadership of both leagues as well as German ambassador to the UAE, Alexander Schonfelder, and Bundesliga Legend and FIFA World Cup 2014 winner Benedikt Hwedes, were also present on-site. The academy, opened in collaboration with local partner Target Global Sports, will be built on the Bundesliga's globally respect-

ed youth development philosophy, which has produced generations of elite players and set international benchmarks for performance, professionalism, and sustainability. "These announcements represent much more than a symbolic partnership - it is a clear statement of intent," said Peer Naubert, CEO of Bundesliga International. "By formalising our collaboration

with the UAE Pro League - witnessed by the respective heads of state - and launching a Bundesliga Academy in Abu Dhabi, we establish a permanent presence in the region and demonstrate long-term commitment to developing football at every level. The MENA region, and the UAE in particular, is a key strategic market for the Bundesliga, with enormous potential both on and off the pitch. "The Bundesliga has a proven track record of youth development, innovation, and fan engagement. Through this partnership with the UAE Pro League, we want to share our expertise, support the next generation of players and coaches, and contribute meaningfully to the continued growth of football across the region." The announcement also coincides with the opening of Bundesliga International's new regional office in Abu Dhabi, underlining the league's strategic focus on the MENA region and its ambition to play an active, on-the-ground role in the region's football growth.

Why Frank at Tottenham was a gamble that ended in bitter failure

Thomas Frank's appointment as Tottenham head coach was a gamble by both parties. It was a gamble that failed - ending in a storm of toxicity. Frank left behind the stability and structure that underpinned his superb work at Brentford for the chaos of Spurs. In place of the bedrock of Brentford owner Matthew Benham and director of football Phil Giles, Frank stepped into a high-stakes environment where even winning the Europa League - Spurs' first trophy in 17 years - did not spare predecessor Ange Postecoglou the sack. Spurs, in turn, were employing a head coach who had operated away from the sort of harsh spotlight and high expectations that awaited him in his new job. It was an ill-starred alliance, and Frank quickly found himself out of his depth. This has been a joyless, miserable spell characterised by constant hostility aimed in Frank's direction by the vast majority of Spurs supporters, who



decided very quickly he was not the man for them or the job he was required to do. Frank's dismissal will be a bitter disappointment for the popular, personable Dane, who earned his big opportunity at Spurs by taking Brentford into the Premier League and keeping them there for four seasons. So where did it go wrong? Frank took over a side that finished 17th in the Premier League last season, having lost 22 games in the process. They won the Europa League, but the true measure of a side is

league position - and by that metric, Frank inherited a mediocre squad. The notion this could be fully corrected - or even significantly transformed - in a matter of months is from the realms of fantasy. Spurs not only needed a change in team, but a change in culture. This must be factored into Frank's downfall. The club has struggled to find anyone to match the popularity of Mauricio Pochettino, who was sacked six months after Spurs' defeat by Liverpool in the 2019 Champions League final.

Vaibhav Suryavanshi Receives Grandest Praise Yet, Compared To This West Indies Legend: "Exactly The Same"

Vaibhav Suryavanshi already has the world at his feet at the age of just 14, and he may have just received the biggest compliment yet. Just days after smashing an incredible 175 off just 80 balls to lead India to the U19 World Cup 2026 title over England, Suryavanshi has been compared to one of cricket's greatest ever. Former England cricketer Mark Butcher likened Suryavanshi's style to legendary West Indies all-rounder Sir Garfield Sobers, highlighting the similarity in their batting. "The first thing that flashed in my head was Gary Sobers. The violence in the bat swing, the timing and the purity of the contact. The hand speed, the way



that he uses his legs on the ground. The way that the bat literally follows through all the way around until it slaps him in the middle of his bat is pure Sobers," said Butcher, speaking on the Wisden Cricket Weekly Podcast.

Sobers is widely regarded as one of cricket's greatest all-rounders. In a career spanning over 20 years, Sobers smashed 26 centuries and averaged nearly 58 in Test cricket. To justify his comparison, Butcher took the example of Sobers' historic six sixes in an over for Nottinghamshire against Glamorgan, when he became the first batter in professional cricket history to do so. "I would urge people from a different generation who don't have that picture of Sir Gary Sobers in their mind's eye to seek out the video of him hitting the six sixes off Malcolm Nash. And just watch. And I swear to God; it looks exactly the same. He (Suryavanshi) is just astonishing to watch," Butcher explained. 14-year-old Suryavanshi's breathtaking knock saw India win the U19 World Cup final by 100 runs. He took home both the 'Player of the Match' and the 'Player of the Series' awards.

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"Ek Minute Bhai": Mohammed Siraj Loses Cool At Uncontrolled Crowd

A video of India pacer Mohammed Siraj is going viral on social media. In the surfaced clip, the fast bowler was surrounded by an uncontrolled crowd, and he even ended up losing his cool. Fans in huge numbers tried to click pictures with him and take his autograph. The situation went out of control, and even the security could not do much. Eventually, Siraj had to shout at the crowd, asking them to behave properly as he walked towards his car. He also warned them that he would leave the scene if the ruckus continued. Prepared to travel to Spain for the Real Madrid vs Real Sociedad match in La Liga, Siraj had a swift change of plans as the selectors picked him as a



replacement for injured Harshit Rana in India's T20 World Cup 2026 plans last week. Siraj was India's chief destructor with the ball in their campaign opener against the United States of America. After the game, he revealed how skipper Suryakumar Yadav informed him about selection

in the T20 World Cup team as a replacement for Harshit. Siraj, however, refused to believe that Suryakumar was telling the truth. "Two days ago Surya bhai said: 'Miyaaan bags pack kaar aur aaja (Pack your bags and come (to Mumbai)). I told him 'Bhai mazaak mat karo kyon ki yeh to honewala hai'

nahi (Brother please don't joke as this won't happen). But he said 'mai sach keh raha hoon, ready ho ja' (I am telling you the truth, get ready)," an elated Siraj narrated his comeback story in the post-match presentation after India beat USA. Not long after Surya's call, Pragyan Ojha - a member of India's selection committee - called him and revealed the same. Siraj was thrilled, even as his tickets for the flight to Madrid were already booked. "Then (India selector Pragyan) Ojha bhai called me... Whatever the almighty has written, no one can change that," he added. Despite not being a part of India's initial T20 World Cup squad, Siraj was working hard in domestic cricket.

NEW F1 RULES 'RIDICULOUSLY COMPLEX' - HAMILTON



Lewis Hamilton says that the new rules this year make Formula 1 "ridiculously complex" and that "none of the fans are going to understand it". The seven-time champion was referring to the increased degree of energy management required by the new engines, which have a near 50-50 power split between internal combustion engine and electrical components. Briton Hamilton, speaking after driving the Ferrari on the first morning of this week's pre-season test in Bahrain, said: "I sat in a meeting the other day and they're taking us through it. And yeah, it's like you need a degree to fully understand it all." The rules have set up a situation where the engines are energy starved most of the time, and teams and drivers have to maximise the amount of energy recovery they do. This has led to unusual technical strategies and driving techniques. These will include not going flat out exiting a corner before starting a qualifying lap, and backing off on the straights to conserve energy. Regenerative braking, where the motor

recovers energy while slowing for a corner Part-throttle overload, where the battery takes power from the engine in parts of the track where the driver does not need full throttle, such as cornering, where engines may run at high revs when a driver is not on the power Lift and coast - lifting off before corners so the electric motor can run against the engine 'Superclip' - the electronic control unit diverts energy to the battery when the driver is still at full throttle on the straight These are all complicated by the fact that the drivers can operate a 'boost' button for extra power to facilitate an overtake, but then risk being short of power and vulnerable to being re-passed on the following straight. Hamilton said: "If you look at Barcelona, for example, we're doing 600 metres lift and coast on a qualifying lap. That's not what racing is about. Here (in Bahrain), we're not having to do that because there's lots of braking zones." Drivers will also have to use lower gears than they would like to help with energy recovery.



Verstappen fastest in first morning of Bahrain test

Pakistan Media Uses Fake Video To Target BCCI, Rajya Sabha MP Over T20 World Cup Boycott Drama

BCCI Vice-President Rajeev Shukla blasted a Pakistani news channel over a viral AI-morphed video that altered his remarks on the India-Pakistan T20 World Cup match. Taking to X, Shukla, who is also a member of the Rajya Sabha, denied making such statements and urged social media users not to circulate similar videos without verifying them. The viral video, which was aired on Pakistani news channel ARY News, falsely suggested that the BCCI pressured Pakistan to play India in the upcoming clash in Colombo. "I am delighted to see the outcome of the deliberations initiated by the ICC representative on the repeated request by the BCCI to convince Pakistan to play against India. It is a good and amicable solution



which has been found to give priority to cricket. This is what has been done," Rajeev Shukla can be heard as saying in the morphed video which aired on ARY News. However, Rajeev Shukla swiftly clarified that the video was manipulated, urging social media to report such videos in the future. "A video of my remarks on the India Pakistan World Cup match has been manipulated using AI to alter the audio.

These statements are not mine. I urge everyone not to believe or circulate this misleading content and to report it wherever such videos are seen," the BCCI VP posted on X. A video of my remarks on the India Pakistan World Cup match has been manipulated using AI to alter the audio. These statements are not mine. I urge everyone not to believe or circulate this misleading content and to report it wherever such

videos are seen. Shukla's original remarks had a different tone. While speaking to reporters on Tuesday, he lauded the International Cricket Council (ICC) for "finding an amicable solution" that made sure the India-Pakistan T20 World Cup match will go ahead as per schedule after the latter decided to reverse its earlier decision to boycott the game. "I am delighted to see the outcome of the deliberations initiated by the ICC representative, supervised by the ICC chairman, and then the representatives who had gone to Lahore to talk to the Pakistan Cricket Board as well as the Bangladesh Cricket Board. It's a good solution, an amicable solution which has been found to give priority to the importance of cricket to the game," he told reporters on Tuesday.

PLAYERS DOESN'T NEED TO BE FIFTH MAJOR - MCILROY



World number two Rory McIlroy says the Players Championship has "more of an identity" than the US PGA Championship but does not believe the tournament should become men's golf's fifth major. The 36-year-old, from County Down in Northern Ireland, became just the sixth man to win each of the sport's four majors - the Masters, US Open, Open Championship and US PGA Championship - in April when he earned a first Green Jacket at Augusta National to complete the career Grand Slam. The Players, held in March at TPC Sawgrass, has long been nicknamed 'the fifth major', and used to boast of the strongest field in golf, although has been without a number of big names since the start of LIV Golf in 2022. Last week, the tournament began a promotional campaign for this year's edition with the tagline 'March is going to be major'. While women's golf already has five majors, McIlroy does not feel the men's game needs to expand its own designation. "Look, I'd love to have seven majors

instead of five, that sounds great," McIlroy said referencing his two previous Players Championships to go alongside his five majors. "I think the Players is one of the best golf tournaments in the world. I don't think anyone disputes that or argues that. I think from a player perspective it's amazing. I think from an on-site fan experience it's amazing. It's an amazing golf course, location, venue. "But I'm a traditionalist, I'm a historian of the game. We have four major championships. If you want to see what five major championships looks like, look at the women's game. I don't know how well that's went for them." McIlroy also called for the US PGA Championship to be moved back to August. His PGA titles in 2012 and 2014 came when the tournament was held in August, but since 2019, it has been staged in May in between the Masters and US Open. When it was the final major of the year, it was branded 'glory's last shot', and McIlroy believes "it needs to go back to August" to regain that identity.

Seetha Payanam highlights the value of relationships & It will appeal to audiences of all sections: Action King Arjun Sarja at pre-release event



Seetha Payanam, directed by Action King Arjun Sarja and starring Niranjan and Aishwarya Arjun as the lead pair, is produced under the Shree Raam Films International banner. With this film, Aishwarya Arjun makes her debut as a heroine. Action Prince Dhruva Sarja plays a crucial role. The film is set for release on February 14th. As part of the promotions, the team held a grand pre-release event on Tuesday, with

Hasya Brahma Brahmanandam gracing it as a chief guest. During the event, environmentalists and social workers Dr. Prakash Amte, Dr. Mandakini Amte, Tank Bund Shiva, and environmental activist Dushcharia Satyanarayana were felicitated by the Seetha Payanam team and contributed 1 lakh for each as financial support. *Speaking at the event, Director-Producer Arjun Sarja said: "Seetha

Payanam is not just one person's journey. I wanted to introduce my daughter with a meaningful and positive film. This is a story of a very different genre. I wanted this movie to be a gift to my daughter. We made this film with the responsibility of giving the audience a good movie. I crafted it with complete honesty. Niranjan, Upendra garu's elder brother's son, is a very talented actor. He performed brilliantly as Abhi. About my daughter—it's for the audi-

ence to judge. I believe everyone will appreciate Aishwarya's performance. Sathyaraj garu was extremely professional with his dates and time. The father-daughter track and their emotional scenes will stand out. Prakash Raj's character will also be loved. Dhruva and I did cameo roles. Anup Rubens' music and background score are major strengths. My AD Murthy worked very hard on this film; we made this film together.

'Couple Friendly,' is a film that appeals not only to youth but also to family audiences: Distributor Dheeraj Mogilineni

Couple Friendly" stars Santosh Soban as the hero and Manasa Varanasi as the heroine. Presented by the prestigious production house UV Creations, the film is being grandly produced in Telugu and Tamil under the banner of UV Concepts. Ajay Kumar Raju P. is the co-producer, and Ashwin Chandrasekhar is directing the film. Made as a musical romantic love story, "Couple Friendly" is set to release in Telugu and Tamil on February 14, on the occasion of Valentine's Day. Passionate producer and distributor Dheeraj Mogilineni is releasing the film in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. In a recent interview, he shared the highlights of the movie.



- I watched "Couple Friendly" fifteen days ago and really liked it. I called Pramod Anna and Vamsi Anna and told them I wanted to distribute this film. After they agreed, I took up the project. It's a beautiful love story set against the backdrop of Chennai. Looking at the title, many may think it's a film meant only for youth, but that's not true. The movie also has strong family emotions. Audiences will see the journey of two characters, Shiva and Mitra. - The film includes only about 15 minutes related to the concept of a live-in relationship. The rest of the story focuses on how Mitra and Shiva's lives change after they meet, and how they support each other. The hero comes from Nellore to Chennai, trying to settle down as an interior designer. The hero-

ine comes from Chittoor to Chennai in search of a job. What happens after they meet forms the core story. - The heroine keeps telling the hero that she has something to tell him, creating a bit of suspense. That element is intentionally maintained in the film. The censor board raised objections about the title and suggested that we change it. However, we said we couldn't make any changes at this stage. There should be a new system where titles receive prior approval from the censor board at the registration stage itself. It's not just our film; recently, even a film titled

"Chaiwala" faced similar objections. - Santosh Soban's performance as Shiva will impress everyone. He has delivered a very settled and mature performance. Everyone wishes for Santosh to score a good hit with this film. We hope this movie becomes a hit for him and helps him grow into a bigger star. When young heroes like Santosh achieve success, they get more opportunities, and the industry benefits overall. - The film was shot extensively in Chennai. Shooting in Chennai is very difficult, as getting permissions is challenging even Tamil films face issues. However, the team shot the film using a guerrilla-style approach. Recently, we had to adopt a similar method while shooting for "Chennai Love Story." - "Couple Friendly" is a heart-touching love story that families can watch together. With our films, we usually move audiences emotionally. While director Ashwin may not make the audience cry, he has made a deeply touching film. His script is perfectly structured, with every scene linked seamlessly to the next. He has not only written a strong script but also presented it in a way that connects with all audiences. After watching the film, we felt that if we had been involved from the beginning, we might have made it 10 percent more intense. However, it's not appropriate for distributors to suggest changes after the film is complete. The director, hero, and production house believed in this story from the start.

I want Sai Simhadri starrer 'Son of' movie to be a big hit: Kona Venkat, noted writer and producer at the trailer launch event



Son of is a film made by Sai Simhadri as the hero and producer under the Sai Simhadri Sainma banner. This movie is directed by Battula Satish. This movie is going to release on February 27. In this order, the film unit released the trailer and songs on Tuesday. Prominent writer and producer Kona Venkat, Samudra, VN Aditya, Rama Satya Narayana Raju, Raghu Kunche and others were the chief guests in the grand event organized on

this occasion. Later in the event. Prominent writer and producer Kona Venkat says .. 'According to the actors and technical team of the movie, an impression is created on the movie. The cast and crew are well set for this movie. Did Sai become a hero and become a producer for this movie? Did he become a hero after becoming a producer? don't know But this movie has good content. Tens of pictures are coming every Friday. If films with such content become hits,

many more newcomers will enter the Telugu film industry. I want 'Son of' to become a big hit. Hero, producer Sai Simhadri said .. 'I have heard many stories. I liked the story of 'Son of' told by Satish Battula. I took training in acting. Parakaya will enter the roles. We discussed a lot for this story with Bhaskara Bhatla. That's when the music director introduced me to Rishi. Rishi has given amazing music for this movie. Kittu gave us great visuals.

NILAVE WILL BECOME A MOVIE LIKE KGF IN THE ROMANCE GENRE: MAKERS

Nilave is directed by Sai K Vennam, who also stars as the hero alongside Sowmith Poladi. Shreyansi Sen is being introduced as the heroine. Harsha Chemudu and Supriya Aysola appear as another pair. The movie is produced under the POV Arts Productions banner by Raj Allada, Giridhar Rao Poladi, and Sai K Vennam. The film is set to release on February 13 as a Valentine's Day special. Ahead of its release, a pre-release event was held in Hyderabad on Wednesday. Prominent playback singer Sunitha attended the event as the chief guest. The trailer of the film was also unveiled on the occasion. Singer Sunitha, speaking on the occasion, said, "These days, we rarely see films that portray emotions beautifully. Nilave showcases all kinds of emotions. Even as times change, intense music remains timeless. That is also the reason I am here today. Nilave comes with wonderful photography, direction, and apt casting. I have watched the film. It is a meaningful story. I believe the audience will judge it as



a musical love story that deserves to be watched in theatres, and it will turn out to be a feel-good film like some classics. The songs are very good. When we asked Keeravani garu to listen to them once, he listened and extended his support by promoting them, which created a positive buzz for the film. On this occasion, I once again extend my wishes to everyone." It's known that the audience sees movies such as Sakhi and Ye Maya Chesave as classics in the

romance genre. Heroine Shreyansi Sen said, "I am very happy to be acting as a heroine in the Telugu film industry, which is one of the biggest film industries. Music is the main reason I accepted this film. The dialogues are also very emotional and touching. This film represents our Gen Z generation. I believe that after watching this movie, people will develop a positive perspective on love. I thank the team for making such a wonderful film."

Hero Soumith Poladi said, "From the time I told my father that I wanted to enter films, he has been extremely supportive. Sai K. Vennam is the one who shaped me into a hero and a director. Since childhood, I have had the desire to become an actor, and Megastar Chiranjeevi has been my inspiration. I am also a writer. Since I come from Karimnagar, those shades are reflected in my writing. My debut film is releasing on February 13. We held the

premiere yesterday, and everyone appreciated it, saying it was very good. I hope the audience will also bless it tomorrow. Just as KGF stands tall in the action cinema genre, Nilave will stand out in the genre of love stories." Director Sai K. Vennam said, "Recently, a director mentioned that while you can make a good film with Rs 30 lakhs, you need to spend crores on publicity. Our film is content-driven. I have been able to make the audience believe in its worth. After making Court, Nani garu famously asked the audience not to watch his next movie if they didn't like it. But we don't want to make such statements today. We have a good film. Please watch it and bless us. Everyone involved in this film may be newcomers, but with everyone's collective effort, we are releasing this movie." Music Director Kalyan Nayak said, "Music plays a crucial role in a feel-good love story. I have composed beautiful music for this film. I would like to especially thank Sunitha garu for appreciating our music and helping it reach Keeravani garu.

GRAND FIRST PRESS MEET HELD FOR "ALA JARIGINA KATHA" MOVIE

"Ala Jarigina Katha," produced by Renuka Srinivas under the APR Cine Creative Works banner and directed by Prabhu Surya, is gearing up to be presented to the audience soon. The film's cinematography is handled by K.V. Golandhar, music is composed by Mahaveer, and editing is done by Kondaveeti Ravi Kumar. Vijay and Sheetal Bhat play the lead pair, while Chitram Srinu, Ravi Varma, Shiva Reddy, Bigg Boss fame Jyothi, Jabardasth Rajamouli, and others play key roles.



Actor Chitram Srinu said: "Greetings to everyone. I have a strong emotional connection with this film. Director Surya has great understanding of cinema and is coming forward with a strong story. When I was

given some responsibilities regarding this film, I spoke with a few actors and technicians. They are bringing a content-driven film with a low budget. I request the media to support this film. I have played a good role in the movie. This film will bring good recognition to the director and producer.

Producer Renuka garu supported the film a lot.
Actor Ravi Varma said: "Thank you to everyone who attended this event. I got this opportunity through Chitram Srinu. Whenever I want to try something new, I prefer the thriller genre. I really liked the story when I

heard it. After seeing the footage, I was surprised — it looked amazing. I loved the frames and the narration style. Thanks to Srinu and the director-producer for this opportunity. This film will be a good milestone for Vijay. Thanks to all co-actors. I request everyone to support this film."

HEY BHAGAVAN" WILL BE AN OUT-AND-OUT COMEDY ENTERTAINER WITH STRONG EMOTIONS THAT WILL APPEAL TO EVERYONE – DIRECTOR GOPI ACHARA

The successful duo Bunny Vas and Vamsi Nandipati, who recently delivered blockbuster films like Little Hearts, Raju Weds Rambai, and Isha, are now bringing a full-length out-and-out entertainer titled "Hey Bhagavan" to the audience under the banners of Nandipati Entertainments and Bunny Vas Works.

Writer Padmabhushan.

The film stars Suhas, Shivani Nagaram, senior actor Nareesh, and anchor Sravanti in prominent roles. Directed by Gopi Acharya, the movie is produced by B. Narendra Reddy under the Trishul Visionary Studios banner. The film is set for release on February 20. On this occasion, director Gopi Acharya shared details about the film with the media. Here's what he said:

■ DID YOU WRITE THIS STORY SPECIFICALLY FOR SUHAS?
Yes, I wrote this story keeping Suhas in mind. He wasn't involved in the scriptwriting process, but on the sets, he would share his thoughts and opinions.

■ HOW DID SHIVANI NAGARAM COME INTO THIS PROJECT?
Suhas and Shivani became a hit pair with Ambajipeta. The pair had already made a mark among the audience. So, we decided to go with a familiar and successful pair and cast Shivani in this film.

■ WHAT IS YOUR BACKGROUND? HOW DID YOU ENTER THE FILM INDUSTRY?
I worked under Kannada director S. Narayan. Suhas was my junior in school. I have been associated with him since Color Photo. I also worked on



■ WHAT INSPIRED "HEY BHAGAVAN"?
Comedy is Suhas's biggest strength. That's why I wrote this film as an out-and-out comedy entertainer. Along with comedy, the film also has strong emotional elements.
We have portrayed the father-and-son emotion in a very fresh way. Our movie will appeal to everyone.