



WALTAIR TIMES

VOL-30 | ISSUE - 7 | JANUARY - 2026 THE HOUSE JOURNAL OF WALTAIR CLUB



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From the President's Desk

Dear Members,

It gives me immense pleasure to extend my warm greetings to all members and their families on the occasion of the January 2026 edition of Waltair Times. The New Year is a time for reflection, renewal, and fresh beginnings, and our Club continues to move forward with the same spirit of unity and excellence that has always defined it.

The Waltair Club House has long been a symbol of camaraderie, culture, and community engagement. Over the past year, we have witnessed enthusiastic participation from members in various social, cultural, and recreational activities. Such active involvement strengthens our bonds and keeps the Club vibrant and relevant.

As we step into a new year, I encourage all members to continue supporting the Club's initiatives and to actively participate in upcoming programs. Together, let us strive to preserve the traditions of the Club while embracing positive change and new ideas.

I congratulate the editorial team for bringing out this edition and wish all our members a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year 2026.

Warm regards,

G.Seshagiri Rao (S-260)

Hon. President
98494 91111



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Your Feedback helps us understand what we are doing well and where we can enhance your experience

info@waltairclub.com

Vice-President's Message

I am delighted to share a few words in the January 2026 issue of Waltair Times. The beginning of a new year offers an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the values of fellowship, mutual respect, and social harmony that form the foundation of the Waltair Club House.

The Club has always been more than just a gathering place-it is a platform where friendships are nurtured, talents are encouraged, and meaningful interactions take place. The enthusiasm shown by our members in various events reflects the strong sense of belonging that makes our Club truly special.

I thank all the members for attending in larger numbers with families on the occasion of Bogi.

I take this opportunity to appreciate the efforts of the Managing Committee and the editorial team for their dedication and hard work. I look forward to another year filled with engaging activities, constructive initiatives, and memorable moments for all our members.

Wishing everyone a joyful and successful New Year.

Best regards,

Dr. G.M.B.V.Krishna Reddy (K-077)

Hon. Vice-President

9246623943



CHAIRMAN : DR.G.M.B.V.KRISHNA REDDY

EDIROTR : DR. M.RAMJEE (R-267)

SUB COMMITTEE:

1. V.Ravikanth (R-446)

2. K.Kamaraju (K-022)

3. Smt. S.Lavanya (S-720)

4. Smt. M.Naga Sushma (U-060)

Editors Message

It is a pleasure to present the January 2026 issue of Waltair Times to our esteemed members. This journal is a reflection of the vibrant activities, achievements, and spirit of the Waltair Club House, made possible by the encouragement and participation of its members.

In this issue, we have attempted to capture important events, member contributions, and moments that define our Club's character. We sincerely thank all contributors for their valuable inputs and support, without which this publication would not have been possible.

The editorial team welcomes suggestions, articles, and creative contributions from members, as this journal truly belongs to all of you. We hope Waltair Times continues to serve as a meaningful link between the Club and its members.

Wishing all readers a happy, peaceful, and fulfilling New Year 2026.

Happy Reading,

Dr.M.Ramjee (R-267)

98480 40655



Hon. Secretary's Message

Dear Valued Members,

I'm thrilled to share with you the highlights of our club's activities and achievements during January 2026. It's been an exciting start to the year, and I'm delighted to share the good news.

Senior Citizens on 6th January: Saw 120 senior citizens participating and enjoying the evening.

Bhoghi Celebrations: members enjoyed the Bhoghi Mantala, Traditional Sweets and a lavish buffet breakfast, traditional dances etc.

Republic Day: We proudly celebrated India's 75th Republic Day with great patriotism and fervor. It was heartening to see our members come together to honor our nation's achievements and heritage.

Staff Day: A special shout-out to our incredible staff! We celebrated their hard work and dedication with a fun-filled day out, complete with games, treats, and appreciation.

Important Updates:

- We've received the NoC from IGRS condoning the delay in filing returns - a huge relief!
- We've successfully filed the returns with ROC and APNCT, ensuring compliance and peace of mind.
- Our team is working diligently to resolve the long-pending club land issues. We appreciate your patience and look forward to a positive outcome soon!

Thank You!

We couldn't have asked for a better start to 2026. Your continued support and involvement are the driving forces behind our success. Let's keep the momentum going!

With warm regards

C Balasatish (B-94)

Hon. Secretary
9849166099



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 City : Visakhapatnam-530003.
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SENIOR CITIZEN MEET

Senior citizen meet held on Tuesday 6th Feb at jubilee Deck Waltairclub.

It has been organized with great enthusiasm and honour and celebrated New year and Sankranthi. It was a good platform for us to interact and for recreation .

The event began with warm welcome by the chairman Sri. M.V. Prabhakar Garu , highlighting the programme.

Cultural programme was organized and well appreciated .

Members have actively participated in surprise events and gifts were given away. Some members turned the atmosphere into laughter with the jokes.

All time favourite Tambola was conducted

Bonfire was an added attraction

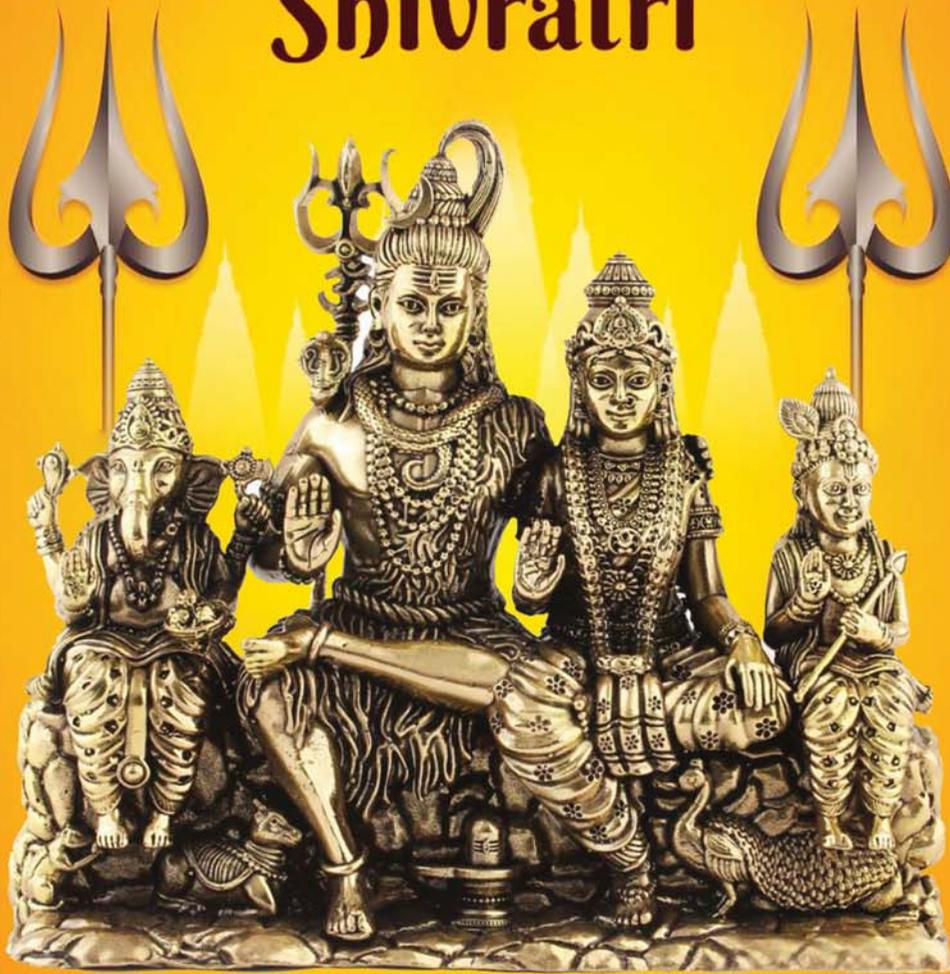
Tasty snacks and dinner were served

Thanks to the President and the committee members of Waltair club for comfortable arrangements. Thanks to all the sponsors of gifts for the surprise events

Once again Thanking all those who have attended the event and made it an enjoyable one



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Bhogi

Bhogi is the first and most important day of the Sankranti festival and is celebrated with great enthusiasm across Andhra Pradesh. It marks the beginning of the harvest festivities and is dedicated to welcoming new beginnings while discarding the old. Bhogi usually falls on January 13th or 14th, just before the Sun enters the zodiac sign Makara (Capricorn).



The central ritual of Bhogi is the Bhogi Mantalu (bonfire). Early in the morning, people gather old and unwanted household items—such as broken furniture, old clothes, wooden articles, and agricultural waste—and burn them in a symbolic fire. This ritual represents the idea of letting go of the past, negative thoughts, and outdated habits, making way for positivity and prosperity in the new year.



Homes are thoroughly cleaned and decorated with beautiful rangoli (muggulu) made from rice flour, often enhanced with cow dung balls decorated with flowers, known as gobbemmalu. These decorations symbolize fertility, prosperity, and respect for nature. Women and children actively participate in drawing colourful patterns in front of houses, creating a festive atmosphere in villages and towns.



Bhogi is closely connected with agriculture, as farmers thank nature for the previous harvest and pray for continued prosperity. Traditional foods made from freshly harvested crops, such as pongal, garelu, and sweet dishes, are prepared and shared among family members.



Overall, Bhogi in Andhra Pradesh is not just a festival but a cultural reminder of renewal, gratitude, and harmony with nature, setting a joyful tone for the days that follow.



Sankranti

Sankranti is one of the grandest and most widely celebrated festivals in Andhra Pradesh. It is a harvest festival that reflects the deep connection between people, agriculture, and nature. Sankranti usually falls on January 14th or 15th and marks the transition of the Sun into the Makara Rashi (Capricorn), symbolizing longer days and the end of winter.



In Andhra Pradesh, Sankranti is a four-day celebration-Bogi, Sankranti, Kanuma, and Mukkanuma-each day having its own significance. The main Sankranti day is considered highly auspicious, and people wake up early, take oil baths, wear new clothes, and visit temples to offer prayers to the Sun God (Surya), thanking him for sustaining life on earth.



Homes are decorated with elaborate muggulu, sugarcane stalks, mango leaves, and flowers. The sight of colourful rangoli designs lining the streets is a special feature of Sankranti in Andhra Pradesh. Families prepare traditional dishes such as sweet pongal, ariselu, chakinalu, and sakkinalu, using freshly harvested rice, jaggery, and sesame seeds.



Sankranti is also a time for family reunions. People return to their native villages, strengthening bonds with relatives and neighbours. Cultural activities like kite flying, folk dances, haridasu performances, and bullock cart races add joy and vibrancy to the celebrations.



More than a festival, Sankranti represents gratitude, prosperity, unity, and respect for nature, making it a cornerstone of Andhra Pradesh's cultural identity.



Kanuma

Kanuma is celebrated on the third day of the Sankranthi festival and holds special importance in the rural and agrarian culture of Andhra Pradesh. While Bogi and Sankranthi focus on renewal and worship of the Sun, Kanuma is dedicated to cattle, farmers, and agricultural prosperity.

On Kanuma, farmers honour cows, bulls, and oxen, which play a crucial role in agriculture. The animals are bathed, decorated with colourful paints, bells, garlands, and cloth, and are worshipped as symbols of strength and livelihood. This tradition reflects the deep respect farmers have for animals that support farming and rural life.



Special dishes are prepared on Kanuma, often including non-vegetarian food, which distinguishes it from the previous days of the festival. Families and friends come together to enjoy festive meals, exchange greetings, and participate in outdoor activities.



In many villages, Kanuma is marked by community celebrations, including folk games, bullock cart races, cockfights (where permitted), and rural sports. Children enjoy flying kites and playing traditional games, while elders socialize and share stories.

Kanuma emphasizes the values of gratitude, coexistence with nature, and rural unity. It highlights the importance of agriculture not only as an occupation but as a way of life deeply rooted in Andhra Pradesh's traditions.



The Last Lantern at Waltair Club

On certain evenings, when the sea breeze drifts in from the Bay of Bengal and the old rain trees lean inward as though whispering secrets, the verandah of the Waltair Club seems to remember.

It remembers footsteps.

It remembers laughter.

And, if you sit very still in the wicker chairs near the eastern balustrade, it may even remember a lantern that once refused to go out.

It was the summer of 1946—one of those restless summers when history itself seemed to pace the corridors of India. The British Raj was nearing its end, and the world outside the gates of the Waltair Club was changing in ways few could fully comprehend.

But inside the Club, time appeared slower, almost deliberate.

Evenings began with the clink of porcelain teacups and the rustle of *The Hindu* and *The Statesman*. Tennis matches ended with polite applause. Bridge tables filled with quiet concentration. And at precisely 7:15 p.m., a tall brass lantern was lit at the main entrance—a tradition started decades earlier to guide members arriving after dusk.

The lantern was the responsibility of one man: Mr. Raman. He was not a member. He was the Club's caretaker—officially in charge of maintenance, unofficially the quiet guardian of its spirit. With a starched white dhoti and a neatly combed silver fringe of hair, Raman had worked at the Club since 1919. He had seen officers come and go, watched children grow into members, and memorized the rhythm of the building's breath.

To Raman, the lantern was not merely a fixture.

It was a promise.

One evening in August, as thunderclouds gathered over the hills of Waltair, a rumor circulated among the members: the lantern tradition would be discontinued.

"The electricity supply is now reliable," declared Mr. Hastings, a senior member with a fondness for modernization. "The lantern is unnecessary. Sentimental, perhaps—but redundant."

A few nodded in agreement.

Others looked toward the entrance, where the brass lantern had already begun to glow in the fading light.

Raman heard the conversation but said nothing.

That night, the storm arrived with unusual force. Rain lashed against the Club's windows. The sea roared louder than it had in years. And, at precisely 8:03 p.m., the electricity failed.

The chandeliers went dark.

The ceiling fans slowed into silence.

For a moment, the Waltair Club was plunged into a thick, disorienting blackness.

Then, through the rain-streaked doorway, a steady golden light appeared.

The lantern.

Members moved instinctively toward the entrance. There stood Raman, one hand resting on the lantern post, his face illuminated with calm assurance.

"Please gather here," he said gently. "We shall arrange candles inside."

It was in that warm circle of lantern light—members, staff, guests huddled together—that something shifted. Conversations grew unguarded. Stories were shared. Laughter rose, unfiltered by status or background.

A young Indian lawyer spoke about the coming independence.

An elderly British officer admitted his uncertainty about returning home.

A child asked why the rain sounded like drums on the roof.

For the first time in many years, the Club felt less like an institution and more like a community.

The electricity returned an hour later. The chandeliers flickered back to life. But no one immediately moved away from the lantern.

And no one mentioned discontinuing it again.

Years passed.

India gained independence. The Union Jack was lowered. New members joined. Old traditions evolved. The tennis courts were resurfaced. The reading room expanded. The menu welcomed flavours once unfamiliar.

Through it all, the lantern remained.

Not because it was necessary.

But because it had once reminded everyone what the Club truly stood for.

In 1962, when a cyclone warning was issued and the city braced for impact, the Club once again lost power. Younger members—unaccustomed to outages—worried aloud.

But those who remembered 1946 simply smiled.

"The lantern will guide us," one said.

And it did.

Raman retired quietly in 1965. On his final evening, the Committee presented him with a small silver plaque. He accepted it with folded hands and a humility that had defined his years of service.

As he prepared to leave, a young steward asked him, "Sir, why did you care so much about the lantern?"

Raman paused.

"Because," he replied, "light is not for seeing walls. It is for seeing each other."

He walked down the gravel path that night beneath the same rain trees that still stand today.

The lantern burned steadily behind him.

Today, the Waltair Club thrives in a different era. The sea still breathes beyond the cliffs. Generations gather in its halls-children of members who once ran barefoot across its lawns, and grandchildren who know the Club as part of their inheritance.

The brass lantern at the entrance has been polished countless times. It is no longer required for illumination; modern lighting ensures the grounds remain bright.

Yet, each evening at 7:15 p.m., it is lit.

Not out of habit.

But out of memory.

Some say it honours tradition. Others say it honours resilience. A few longtime members insist that during heavy rains, when the wind rattles the shutters and the power momentarily falters, the lantern's flame grows brighter than usual-as if remembering its duty.

Whether that is imagination or truth is of little consequence.

What matters is that within the walls of the Waltair Club, stories linger.

Stories of unity during uncertainty.

Stories of conversations that bridged eras.

Stories of a caretaker who understood that a building is not defined by architecture alone, but by the warmth it creates within its walls.

And so, if you find yourself at the Club on a monsoon evening, pause at the entrance. Notice the lantern's glow. Listen carefully.

You may not hear footsteps from 1946.

But you may feel the quiet assurance that, whatever storms may come, there will always be a light waiting at the door.

Because some traditions are not about the past.

They are about reminding us who we are.

WALT AIR CLUB GOLF TOURNAMENT



SP I R I T E D S P O R T S F E S T 2 0 2 6 - A U C T I O N S



Indian Republic Day: The Birth of a Sovereign Nation

Respected Seniors, members, and friends,

Today, we gather to celebrate the 77th Republic Day of India. On this momentous occasion, we honor the Constitution of India, which has guided our nation towards progress and prosperity. As we unfurl the national flag, we remember the sacrifices of our freedom fighters and the vision of our Constitution makers.

Their tireless efforts have given us a democratic republic, where every citizen has a voice and a role in shaping our nation's future.

Over the past six months, the Managing Committee has worked diligently to enhance our clubbing experience. We've renovated rooms in chambers phase-wise, improved general upkeep, and consistently upgraded food and beverages. Our festival events & New Year's Eve party were grand success with multiple activities spread for our discerning members.



The Sunday Bazaar and other events by the Ladies committee were also a phenomenal success.

We're looking forward to the Sports Carnival and other upcoming calendar of events.

We are pleased to announce that the long pending issue of club legal entity for the past two decades has been resolved with the government by obtaining NOC and we have submitted the returns with RoC to regularize filing of returns. We're also working to resolve the club land issue and are hopeful of a positive outcome.

Jai Hind! Jai Bharat!"

Every year on 26th January, India celebrates Republic Day with immense patriotic fervour. While Independence Day (15th August) celebrates India's freedom from British rule, Republic Day commemorates the date when the Constitution of India came into effect in 1950, turning the nation into a newly formed Republic.

Why 26th January?

The date was chosen specifically to honour the Purna Swaraj (Complete Independence) declaration. On January 26, 1930, the Indian National Congress had proclaimed independence from colonial rule, a full 17 years before it actually happened. By adopting the Constitution on this day in 1950, India bridged its revolutionary past

with its democratic future.

Rare and Significant Incidents on 26th January

Beyond the standard parade and flag hoisting, several rare and pivotal moments in history occurred on this specific date:

1. The First Parade was not at Rajpath (1950)

While we associate the parade with the grand Rajpath (now Kartavya Path), the very first Republic Day parade in 1950 was held at the Irwin Stadium (now National Stadium). Over 15,000 people watched as Dr. Rajendra Prasad took the oath as India's first President. It wasn't until 1955 that Rajpath became the permanent venue for the celebrations.

2. The Indonesian President as the First Guest (1950)

In a rare moment of post-colonial solidarity, the first-ever Chief Guest for India's Republic Day was President Sukarno of Indonesia. This established a long-standing tradition of using the day to strengthen diplomatic ties through "Guest of Honor" invitations.

3. The Declaration of Hindi as the Official Language (1965)

On 26th January 1965, exactly 15 years after the Constitution was adopted, Hindi was declared the official language of India. This was a rare and tense moment in history that sparked widespread protests in Southern India, eventually leading to the "Official Languages Act" which ensured English would continue to be used for official purposes alongside Hindi.

4. The Passing of a Legend: The "Jan Garjana" (1963)

In the 1963 parade, following the Indo-China war, the legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar





performed the song "Aye Mere Watan Ke Logo" in the presence of PM Jawaharlal Nehru. It is a rare recorded instance where the Prime Minister was publicly moved to tears, and the song became an unofficial national anthem for the sacrifices of the Indian soldiers.

5. The 2001 Gujarat Earthquake

On a sombre note, a very rare and tragic natural disaster occurred on 26th January 2001. As the nation was preparing for the morning flag-hoisting ceremonies, a massive 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck Bhuj, Gujarat. It remains one of the most devastating seismic events in modern Indian history, occurring precisely during the hour of national celebration.

Commemorating the Spirit of Democracy: Republic Day 2026 at the Club

January 26th is far more than a mere date on the calendar or a standard public holiday; it is a momentous occasion that carries the profound weight of India's intellectual and emotional heritage. It stands as a powerful reminder of our nation's journey- from the historic swearing-in of our first President to the resilient spirit shown in the face of the tragic Bhuj

earthquake. Above all, this day serves as a testament to India's diverse linguistic tapestry and our steadfast devotion to the core constitutional values of Justice, Liberty, and Equality.

In keeping with our long-standing tradition, the Club marked the occasion of our nation's Republic Day on January 26, 2026, with great dignity and patriotic fervor.

The ceremony commenced with the hoisting of the National Flag by our Club President, a moment that filled the air with pride and solemnity.

The event saw an impressive turnout, with members gathered in large numbers to pay their heartfelt respects to the Tricolor. Following the formal proceedings and the rendition of the National Anthem, members transitioned to a more social atmosphere, enjoying a

thoughtfully prepared and flavorful breakfast. It was a wonderful morning of reflection, community spirit, and national pride.

Here is a graceful and slightly elaborate rewrite, suitable for a club journal or souvenir, with warmth and appreciation clearly conveyed:





STAFF DAY

On the same day, 26th January 2026, our Club also celebrated Staff Day, making the occasion truly special and memorable. It was a rare and meaningful opportunity where the management spent quality time with the dedicated working staff of the Club, acknowledging their continuous efforts and invaluable contributions.



The event created a warm and inclusive atmosphere, strengthening the bond between the management and the staff. Laughter, shared conversations, and moments of togetherness filled the day, reflecting mutual respect and appreciation. All the staff members thoroughly enjoyed the occasion, feeling valued and motivated.



The Staff Day celebration added a human and heartfelt dimension to the Republic Day festivities, reinforcing the spirit of unity, gratitude, and teamwork that defines our Club.



RATHA SAPTAMI



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CLUB CALENDAR

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13.02.2026	Fri	Movie	06:30 pm
20.02.2026	Fri	Movie	06:30 pm
21.02.2026	Sat	Tambola	07:30 pm
27.02.2026	Fri	Movie	06:30 pm

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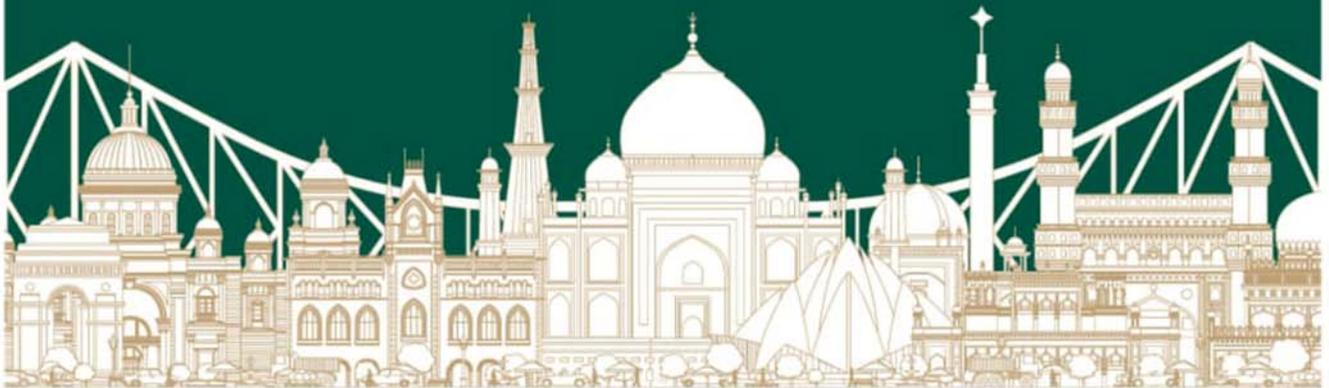
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