

Never committed any mistakes, OPS
says ready to quit politics if proved,
rules out forming new party



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POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)					
Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of Manappuram Home Finance Ltd ("MAHOFIN") under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest " [Act] 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the borrowers and co-borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice and interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said "Act" [read with rule 9 of the said rules]. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Manappuram Home Finance Ltd as mentioned below for each of the respective properties:					
Sr. No.	Name of Borrower and Co-Borrower Loan account number / Branch	Description of Secured Asset in respect of which Interest has been created	Date of Demand Notice sent & Outstanding Amount	Date of possession	
1	REJI M. NARAYAN M / MHL00170027139/ NAGERCOIL	Extent of 6,095 cents equivalent to 246.67 sq meter, RE.SYNO. 226/5, 225/10, DOOR NO.2/53A/1, Old Sy.No. 10128, 10165, THINGAL NAGAR VILLAGE, THALAKULAM VILLAGE, PANCHAYATH, KALKULAM TALUK, KANKAKUMARI DIST, TAMIL NADU, Pin:629802, East-Property belonging to Pajing & others, WEST-Pattinay, SOUTH-Property belonging to Rengammal, Selvair, NORTH-Property belonging to Rosamnal, Narayan	19-11-2025 & Rs.742372/-	21-02-2026	
2	SARASWATHI P. KALIDAS P / MHL00160044789/ TRIUNELVEL	Door No: 89/B, extent of 1230 sq.ft., Natham S No: 203/37, South Street, Uppaniyangum Village Urkadu Village, Ambasamudram Taluk, Tirunelveli District, TAMIL NADU, Pin:627426. EAST- House belong to Kuthi Thevar, WEST- Road, SOUTH-House belong to Arjunan, NORTH-Vacant site belong to Mariappan Thevar	19-11-2025 & Rs.332358/-	21-02-2026	
3	RAJ, S. Sudha G. SELVASEKARAN A. Victoria S.Salom A / NLP00014000863/ KANPICHURAI	Old S.No. 345Patt, New S.No. 402/8, measuring total 275 Sqm, Karapettai Village, Kanchipuram Taluk, KANCHIPURAM, TAMIL NADU, Pin:631552. EAST-House of Jagatha, WEST-House of Sugirtha, SOUTH-House of Ramasamy & David, NORTH-Pillaiyar Koli Street	19-11-2025 & Rs.1442269/-	21-02-2026	
4	CHITRA M. SLAMBARASAN M. MUTHUKRANAN C / MHL00030014059/ TRICHY TN	Patta No. 712, Natham Old S.No. 318/02, New S.No. 463/28, extent of 0.01 60 Acres out of which 160 square meter, Vishnampattal Village, Buddalur Taluk, Thanjavur, TAMIL NADU Pin:631305. EAST-Property belongs to Umbudalur Chettiar, WEST-Property belongs to Gopal Chettiar, SOUTH-Street, NORTH-Property belongs to Rajaraj & Harjana colony	21-11-2025 & Rs.434341/-	21-02-2026	
5	SELVI R. VENKAGESH R / MLP0016042477/ TRIUNELVEL	D No. 370/56, extent of 55.43 sqaures, Natham S.No. 369, Natham New S.No. 387/12, Ward - 2, Ayan Thiruvalluvelshwaram Village, Ambasamudram Taluk, TRIUNELVEL, TAMIL NADU,Pin:627418. EAST- Common lane, WEST-House belong to Raman, SOUTH-House belong to Sami Thevar & others, NORTH-East west street	21-11-2025 & Rs.419284/-	21-02-2026	
6	KANIYAN S. GOMATHI K. MURALI S / NLP00014024703/ KANPICHURAM	S.No.002, 180/2 Part, Patta No.349, S.No/New 225/18, Kannanahall Village,Superambur Taluk, KANCHIPURAM, TAMIL NADU, Pin:631553 Admesakingun 1295.25 Sq. Ft, EAST-Seavara House (S.No. 225A), WEST-Janakiraman House (S.No. 225/17 & 225/2), SOUTH-Road, NORTH-S.No. 225/3	21-11-2025 & Rs.953850/-	21-02-2026	
Date: 25-02-2025 Place: TAMIL NADU					
Sd/- Authorised Officer, Manappuram Home Finance Ltd					



Manappuram Home Finance Ltd.
 FORMERLY MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE PVT. LTD.
 CIN: U65923K12010PC0039179. Regd. Off: 8/59 A, Padmaprabha Building, Near
 Sree Rama Swami Temple, Cherpu - Thriraprayar Road, Thriraprayar, Thrissur, Kerala 680567

Is it OK to eat mango if you're at risk for diabetes? Experts weigh in

During the 24-week trial, researchers tracked participants' blood glucose (sugar) levels, insulin sensitivity, and measured changes in body fat. Higher blood glucose, reduced insulin sensitivity, and increases in body fat are

EDITORIAL

If You Don't Care About Taj Mahal's Architect, Why Cry

Did you know that there was a bust of the architect Edwin Lutyens outside Rashtrapati Bhavan? I certainly did not.

I knew that Lutyens had designed the building as a palace for the British Viceroy and that it had been inaugurated by the Raj in 1931 with celebrations that had not been attended by most freedom-fighting Indian leaders. In fact, they had been described by Jawaharlal Nehru as being marked by "vulgar, ostentation and wasteful extravagance".

But that they had decided to keep a bust of the architect on display was news to me, as I imagine it was to most Indians. Lutyens is better known in England than he is here, and most Indians can't even pronounce his name (it's nearer "Luchens" than "Lootyens"). If he is ever mentioned in India, then it is in the context of the city of New Delhi, where he designed the buildings in which Prime Minister Modi and his ministers have resided for over a decade. Curiously, the term "Lootyens elite" is used not to describe the elite who actually live in those buildings but as a general abuse for English-language speaking Indians. Did you know that there was a bust of the architect Edwin Lutyens outside Rashtrapati Bhavan? I certainly did not.

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So I don't think it matters much to us in India whether a bust whose existence we were unaware of is removed or not. But there has, nevertheless, been some measure of debate over the decision to replace it with a bust of C Rajagopalachari, the first Governor-General of independent India.

Will Every Building Have A Bust? The argument against its removal runs like this: it's all very well to remove reminders of Raj oppressors such as Viceroys, Generals and Governors, but why extend this principle to architects? Lutyens did no harm to Indians. He only designed buildings.

It's not an entirely unreasonable argument, but it embodies the principle that any-

Why Trump's Deals With South Korea And Japan Should Be A Warning For India

On February 2, 2026, President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the finalisation of a framework for an interim agreement between the US and India, ending months of economic uncertainty. However, on February 20, the US Supreme Court struck down most of Trump's tariffs, ruling that he exceeded his tariff authority in using a law reserved for national emergency. India and the US deferred their trade talks following the order, with India saying that it is studying its implications. As for the US Supreme Court ruling, uncertainty still hangs over the question of tariffs, because soon after the order, Trump announced that he would soon sign an order to increase global tariffs to 15%, the maximum allowed under a never-used trade law. As of now, global tariffs of 10% have been in force since 12.01 am on Tuesday. As the world waits for clarity, it may be important to focus on the challenges that could arise if a deal is indeed finalised between India and the US. Based on the current broad outline, foremost among the challenges New Delhi could face is the possibility of changing goalposts and pressure tactics. Trump's dealings with South Korea and Japan have become cautionary tales highlighting the difficulty of negotiating with Trump's America. Trump's America Is Unreliable The US's trade deals and its engagements with South Korea and Japan offer a window into the kinds of challenges India could run into. Three trends are noteworthy: expansive use of tariffs, strategic miscommunication and divergences, and shifting goalposts. As part of the trade deal, South Korea and Japan pledged USD 350 billion and USD 500 billion in investments in the US, respectively, in exchange for a reduction in tariffs on their exports. Nonetheless, despite the deal, their economic relations with the US remain on edge due to the looming uncertainty over tariffs, their expansiveness and the arbitrariness of their application. While much of this can be attributed to President Trump's impulsive personality, an amorphous definition of the US' national security and leaning towards business interests over the administration, these are equally consequential. How Trump Arm-Twisted S. Korea Increasingly under Trump, tariffs have now become a toolkit of coercion to achieve political



objectives beyond trade. This has emerged as the first challenge for the US's allies. Economic ties are no longer isolated from other aspects of bilateral relations. Jamieson Greer, the US Trade Representative, cited South Korea's non-adherence to its digital services commitment as another reason for the tariff increase, indirectly hinting at the investigation against Coupang, a US technology company operating in South Korea. In the case of the India-US trade agreement, one of the biggest impediments is India's import of Russian oil. Section 4 of the Executive Order signed by Trump on February 6 this year establishes a monitoring mechanism as a pressure point. The second challenge is related to strategic communication and divergences. In the

case of South Korea, there has been significant misunderstanding, despite numerous meetings at the highest level, including with foreign and industry ministers, and even the Prime Minister. For instance, Trump's characterisation of South Korea's delay in passing the trade agreement through the national assembly as "not living up to its deal" underscores a lack of understanding of both South Korea's political system and the details of the US-South Korea MoU, which does not mention any clear implementation timelines for the deal. Japan Still Confused While South Korea has faced increased tariffs, Japan has been spared. However, despite close engagement with Japan, confusion persists regarding the agreement's details, particularly

about processes, procedures and decision-making. Howard Lutnick, the US Commerce Secretary, has said that the US [read Donald Trump] can "pick and choose" which projects to select, irrespective of the merits of the project, directly contradicting Ryosei Akazawa, Lutnick's counterpart, who stressed the importance of profitability and the screening process. While mechanisms exist for Japan to turn down projects or delay them, the consequences could be severe: penalties and auto or reciprocal tariffs. The third pertains to shifting goalposts. The Trump administration has often deviated from or changed the terms of agreements it had previously made with its allies. For instance, the deal with South Korea promised "no less favourable" terms than those offered by its adversaries (Taiwan) for semiconductor chips, particularly memory. However, the administration has changed the trade terms, after sealing a deal with Taiwan, exempting it from additional semiconductor tariffs quotas. The new deal links MFN (most favoured nation) status to company-specific investment in US manufacturing, effectively creating new conditions for countries like South Korea, thereby violating the earlier agreement. Following this deal, the administration announced 25% tariffs on chips, putting the South Korean memory chip companies in a difficult position. This new status quo signals the US's growing expectation of increased investment from South Korea even in the chip sector. Such a proposition ignores existing investments already made by South Korean companies such as SK Hynix and Samsung Electronics, which amount to roughly USD 40 billion. Additionally, there is a risk of a second tranche of tariff announcements on semiconductor imports and derivative products. In each of the trade agreements with Korea and Japan, two observations cannot be ignored. Trump has the final authority over decisions, including renegeing on the deal, and the agreements are not legally binding. Violating them has serious repercussions for the other party, but not for the US, given its predominant economic position. New Delhi Must Know What It's Dealing With Drawing from these three critical challenges, New Delhi must understand that it is dealing with a mercurial president and a volatile administration.

Wealth files, questions of trust



(The disclosure of officials' assets has sparked a new debate on transparency and accountability.)

The public disclosure of the property details of Haryana's IPS officers has once again sparked widespread debate about administrative transparency, accountability, and ethics. When the public is exposed to the fact that many senior law enforcement officers possess assets worth crores of rupees—land, plots, houses, farmhouses, or other investments—it naturally arouses both curiosity and questions. These questions aren't just about statistics, but about the trust the public places in administration and governance. In a democratic system, public office is not only a symbol of authority, but also of responsibility and ethical conduct. Police and administrative officers, in particular, represent the power of the state. They enforce the law, control crime, and protect the rights of ordinary citizens. Therefore, when their financial status becomes a topic of discussion, the public wants to understand how this wealth was acquired, whether it is completely legal, and whether there is an effective system of oversight. Making property details public is certainly a positive step. It increases transparency in governance and empowers citizens to access information about those in power. A fundamental principle of democracy is that power should not be hidden from the public. In India, it has been a tradition for many years that senior government officials disclose details of their movable and immovable assets to the government. But when this information is made public, its importance increases, as society itself can monitor it. However, simply revealing the figures

doesn't solve the problem. The real question is whether these details are thoroughly vetted. Is it ensured that the declared assets match reality? Are the sources of income completely clear? If this process becomes a mere formality, the objective of transparency remains unfulfilled. Transparency is meaningful only when it is accompanied by accountability. It should also be kept in mind that it would not be fair to view all government officials with the same prism. There are many officers in the country who have set an example of honesty, simplicity, and service. They have not compromised on their duties even in difficult circumstances. There are also many officers who work in remote areas for years, striving to bring about positive change in society. Therefore, it is essential to approach any discussion with a balanced perspective. It would not be fair to blame the entire system based on a few cases. But on the other hand, it's also true that public suspicion of the administrative system has grown over the past few decades. Numerous cases of corruption have eroded public trust. When ordinary citizens navigate offices for everyday tasks, hear complaints of bribery, or grapple with the complexities of the system, they develop a sense that the system needs reform. In such an environment, when news of massive wealth acquisitions emerges, suspicion deepens. This is why asset disclosures should not be viewed merely as news, but also as an opportunity to improve the system. The government and relevant institutions should ensure regular and independent audits of asset declarations. If any discrepancies are found, impartial action should be taken. This will boost the morale of honest officials and send a clear message to those involved in corruption. Another important aspect is strengthening ethical values ??within the administrative system. Laws and rules are essential, but rules alone cannot sustain the entire system. Equally important are a sense of service, a sense of responsibility, and the dignity of public life within officials. When a person reaches a high position, society places greater expectations on them than on ordinary citizens. These expectations extend not only to efficiency but also to character and conduct. The role of the media is also crucial in this context. Newspapers and other media have a

responsibility to uncover facts, but also to present them responsibly. Instead of sensationalizing news, it's crucial to understand its broader social and administrative context. If the media promotes balanced and factual discussions, it will foster a healthy debate in society. The role of civil society is equally important. Democracy isn't solely run by the government or officials; it also requires the active participation of the public. If citizens are aware, ask questions, and demand transparency, the system will naturally become more accountable. Laws like the Right to Information Act are a result of this thinking, and have played a crucial role in making governance more open. It's also worth considering that officials working in government services today face numerous challenges. Working amidst ever-increasing expectations, political pressure, administrative complexities, and social change—all of these are difficult to navigate. Therefore, it's more useful to approach the system from a perspective of reform rather than just criticism. Strengthening the administration requires addressing all aspects—transparency, training, technological improvements, and ethical leadership—simultaneously. The digital age has further enhanced the possibilities for transparency. Corruption can be reduced if property details, administrative decisions, and financial processes are more systematically available online. This system has proven quite effective in many countries. India is also taking steps in this direction, but much remains to be done. Ultimately, it's essential to understand that democracy is founded not only on law but also on trust. Public trust is what gives legitimacy to government and administration. If this trust is weakened, the foundation of the system itself weakens. Therefore, any step that strengthens transparency and accountability actually strengthens democracy. The issue of the assets of Haryana's IPS officers must be seen in this broader context. It's not just a story about a few names or figures. It reflects the relationship that exists between the public and the administration. If this opportunity is used to make the system more transparent, accountable, and ethical, this news can become not just a topic of discussion but also the beginning of positive change.

West Bengal Polls: Why Both Trinamool And BJP Want To Woo The Rajbanshis

The rise of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in West Bengal since the 2019 Lok Sabha polls has been exceptional. From raising its Lok Sabha tally from just two seats to 18 in 2019, to wiping out the Congress and the Left parties in the 2021 assembly polls to emerge as the main opposition in the state, winning 77 of 294 seats, the BJP's march has been powered primarily by the Rajbanshi and Matua communities of the state, spread across the northern and eastern border regions, respectively. The BJP's stunning performance in 2019 was a jolt for Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress. Well into her second term then, Mamata wasted no time focusing on north Bengal - both in the context of her government's initiatives and the Trinamool Congress's organisational push. The efforts in north Bengal yielded some results for her party in the 2021 assembly polls. The BJP still gathered most of its strength from north Bengal to make it to 77 seats but had to yield some to the Trinamool. In the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, the BJP went down from 18 to 12 seats in Bengal but continued to derive support from north Bengal, where the Rajbanshis are a dominant SC community, and from Matua-dominated areas across districts on the eastern Bangladesh border. The BJP's Rajbanshi and Matua campaign was largely driven by the citizenship plank. The Centre's NRC-CAA move generated fear



among the Matuas, who came from East Pakistan - or today's Bangladesh - post-Partition. The Rajbanshis have been demanding a separate "Kamtapur" and want their language to be recognised in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution, among other things. They hope that the BJP government at the Centre would be able to deliver these things. But while such issues take time to be resolved, Mamata Banerjee has been trying to sway the Rajbanshis away from the BJP. The community dominated over 22 of the 54 seats in north Bengal. Before the rise of the BJP, the region used to

be a stronghold of the Congress as well as of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI-M) and Left allies. The Trinamool was a weak player there. In the Matua-dominated Nadia, North and South 24 Parganas, as well as in some other pockets along the eastern border, Mamata has already made her moves. She first divided the Matua vote by sending Mamata Thakur, a family member of the community's spiritual leader Harichand Thakur, to the Rajya Sabha on a Trinamool ticket. This was aimed at countering the BJP's Shantanu Thakur, another member of the

same family. Mamata has also tried to capitalise on the apprehensions around the SIR process - the community is uncomfortable with the exercise and fears getting uprooted after having spent generations in Bengal. Mamata has sought to assure them that she will "not allow anyone to be disenfranchised". The fear of losing "voting rights" has also added to the anxiety, which Mamata seemingly addressed when she went to the Supreme Court to "fight for the rights of the citizens". Since then, there has been no let-up in the Trinamool's messaging. The BJP, in any case, has called it Mamata's "desperation". Between 2019 and 2024, the Trinamool Congress's general secretary, Abhishek Banerjee, also worked on building a strong organisational machinery in the region. Not only did it pick Prakash Chik Barik, who hails from the tribal community in Alipurduar, as its Rajya Sabha member in 2023, but he also contested the 2024 general election from his home seat (though he lost to the BJP). The Bangabushan award conferred on February 21 upon the BJP's Rajya Sabha MP, Ananta Maharaj, alias Nagendra Roy, from Cooch Behar, should be seen in the same light. The idea was to bring the Rajbanshi language into the limelight on World Mother Language Day. All these steps have gradually improved the Trinamool's foothold in the BJP-dominated region. Whether they'll yield results is a question for the polling day.

WHY HAS IT GONE SO WRONG FOR ASTON MARTIN?

When Aston Martin's new Formula 1 car first appeared in testing at the end of January, it drew admiring glances up and down the pit lane. In its all-black temporary colour, the car not only looked menacing, but also noticeably different from all its rivals. It included the sort of innovations that have become famous from design legend Adrian Newey, installed as managing technical partner at Aston Martin since March last year. But reality bit hard as soon as the car started to run. It was already late, and it managed just four laps on its first day in Barcelona before conking out at the entrance to the pit lane. Aston Martin's fortunes have barely improved since. The car was the slowest in the field by the end of pre-season testing last week, and had done the fewest miles. Team owner Lawrence Stroll looked like the bottom had fallen out of his world as he stalked the paddock in



Bahrain, his face betraying a combination of anger and despair. The few times the car was out on track amid myriad reliability problems, it looked a handful for the drivers. Publicly, Aston Martin and Honda were saying little. Privately, no-one was trying to hide the reality. They were in trouble, they knew it, and whatever was

wrong - and it was a lot - would take time to fix.<It all looked so promising No Formula 1 team looked towards the 2026 season with greater expectations than Aston Martin. On paper, Stroll had put together a dream combination, one that seemed guaranteed to produce success. The signing of Newey in September 2024

seemed to be the final piece of the jigsaw the Canadian billionaire was creating to turn his team into championship contenders. In the previous years, Stroll had already inked a deal to become the factory engine partner of Honda, who won four consecutive drivers' titles with Red Bull and Max Verstappen from 2021-24, and two con-

structors' championships. He had funded a sparkling new factory, including a state-of-the-art wind tunnel and driver-in-the-loop simulator. He had put together an enviable sponsorship portfolio of boundless resources, including the full financial might of the state of Saudi Arabia, through its national oil company. And in the cockpit was another legend, Fernando Alonso. Ageing, certainly, now he is in his mid-40s, but still without question a major force behind the wheel. The past few years have not been easy for Aston Martin. A major step forward at the start of 2023, when Alonso first joined the team, led to six podiums in the first eight races and what could have been a win in Monaco, lost only to a wrong tyre choice during a late shower of rain. But in the second half of that season the team slipped back, as they failed to keep up with the development rate of their rivals.

Shikhar Dhawan Fumes As Fake "No Girl Would Marry Me" Post Goes Viral

As former Indian cricketer Shikhar Dhawan takes a giant step forward in his personal life, some troll accounts have taken to social media and started spreading fake news. Dhawan, who is separated from his first wife, has often spoken about how much he misses hanging out with his son Zoravar, but never did he speak ill of his ex-wife. However, some manufactured posts quoting the former India opener have been going viral on social media. The retired cricketer, taking to the internet, slammed the fake quotes attributed to him and asked people to stop creating such content for clicks. Dhawan tied the knot with Sophie Shine, his long-time partner, in a ceremony attended by close friends and family on Saturday. In this moment of joy, however, he was forced to bust fake narratives on social media. "I have come across some posts on social media attributing a disappointing statement about my personal life. I have never carried baggage from the past, be it



on the pitch or outside. I firmly believe in the power of positivity while respecting my past," wrote Dhawan on his social media accounts. "This is a new chapter in my life, and I feel truly grateful for the love and blessings I have received from my fans, friends, family, well-wishers, and the media. I strong-

ly urge people not to trade on my name with clickbait, insensitive and false statements on social media. Let's spread love and positivity. Thank you," he added. The private ceremony in the Delhi-NCR region followed a period of personal rebuilding after his high-profile and emotionally taxing divorce from his first wife.

NEW STADIUM CURSE - ARE EVERTON SHOWING HOW CLUBS STRUGGLE AFTER MOVE?

When Everton said a tearful farewell to their atmospheric Goodison Park home after 133 years in the summer, hopes were high that Hill Dickinson Stadium could become the fortress fans dreamed of. An unbeaten five-match start at their new ground, inspired by new signing Jack Grealish, raised expectations further. But defeat against Manchester United on Monday cemented Everton's status as the latest Premier League team to find the transition to a new stadium tough going. The Toffees have failed to win any of their past seven matches at their gleaming 52,769-capacity arena, following in the footsteps of other top-flight sides who have struggled



after moving grounds. BBC Sport takes a closer look at the curse of the new stadium in the Premier League era. Eight clubs - only counting teams who were in the top flight for both their last season at their old ground and first at their new, and excluding temporary homes - have moved stadiums since 1992-

93, but only one finished the next season with an improved record. Derby County went from an average of 1.6 points per game in their last year at the Baseball Ground to an impressive 2.1 as they adapted brilliantly to a debut campaign at Pride Park in 1997-98. Middlesbrough had an iden-

tical record between Ayresome Park and the Riverside, but the other teams all suffered a drop-off. Tottenham were always unlikely to match their stunning White Hart Lane finale of 17 wins and two draws when they moved to Tottenham Hotspur Stadium after a spell at Wembley. But seven years on they are still to establish their arena as a place teams fear to come, with some pundits claiming it is too welcoming for opposition players. Only Wolves have lost more home games in Europe's big five leagues this season than Spurs, with eight. West Ham had an immediate drop-off in their first season at London Stadium, dropping half a point per game on average. ?

SACKED ALL BLACKS COACH ROBERTSON TO LEAD BARBARIANS

Sacked New Zealand coach Scott Robertson will return to rugby by taking charge of the Barbarians this summer. Robertson, whose two-year spell with the All Blacks ended in January, will lead the invitational side against world champions South Africa in Port Elizabeth on 20 June, before a match against Wales at Twickenham's Allianz Stadium on 27 June. "The Barbarians brings the rugby world together, so it's special to be a part of it and to honour the jersey," Robertson said. Robertson, who won seven successive Super Rugby titles with the Crusaders between 2017 and 2023, will not be short of options when he chooses to resume his career full-time.



New Zealand Rugby included a non-compete clause in his severance package which bars Robertson from

would be free to join a rival international team earlier if they have fulfilled their 2026 fixtures against the All Blacks. Robertson revealed in 2022, external that his ultimate coaching ambition is to win the Rugby World Cup with both New Zealand and another nation. At club level, Premiership side Harlequins, who are searching for a figurehead after head coach Danny Wilson departed for Wales at the start of this season, have been linked with the 51-year-old., external Robertson, who has led the Barbarians on four previous occasions, is joined by Argentina head coach Felipe Contepomi in the team's set-up for this summer's matches.

PSG'S HAKIMI TO FACE TRIAL AFTER RAPE ALLEGATION



Paris St-Germain defender Achraf Hakimi says he is set to face trial after an allegation of rape was made against him. A woman has accused the Morocco captain of raping her at his home in the French capital in 2023, when she was aged 24. He denies the allegations. The public prosecutor's office in Nanterre, a western suburb of Paris, began a preliminary investigation in March 2023. "Today, a rape accusation is enough to justify a trial," Hakimi posted on X, external. "This is as unjust to the innocent as it is to the genuine victims. I calmly await this trial, which will allow the truth to come out publicly." No date has been set for the trial. BBC Sport has contacted the Nanterre prosecu-

tor's office for comment. Paris St-Germain host Monaco in the second leg of their Champions League knockout round play-off tie on Wednesday. Hakimi was named in PSG's initial squad, published last Tuesday. The 27-year-old was born in Spain but represents Morocco and has made 194 appearances for Paris St-Germain, winning the Champions League and Ligue 1 titles last season. His performances saw him honoured at the Best Fifa Football Awards ceremony held in Paris on Monday evening, where he was named in the Fifpro men's world team of the year. Morocco will face Scotland, Haiti and Brazil at the World Cup in the USA, Mexico and Canada this summer.



Pacquiao and Mayweather agree professional rematch

SESKO AND LAMMENS ALLOW MAN UTD TO DREAM OF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Michael Carrick had a neat way of describing Benjamin Sesko's assimilation into life at Manchester United. "He is growing as a player," said United's head coach. "Sometimes it's big steps, sometimes it's little steps. He has taken some huge ones recently. "The confidence and belief he is playing with is great to see." The mighty strides Sesko has taken in United's latest two games have placed the club in a superb position to cement a return to the Champions League after a two-year absence. Without the Slovenian's contributions off the bench, United would have lost at West Ham on 10 February and drawn with Everton on Monday on their first visit to Hill Dickinson Stadium. Sesko's goals have put Carrick's men out on their own in fourth spot, three points behind Aston Villa and three ahead of

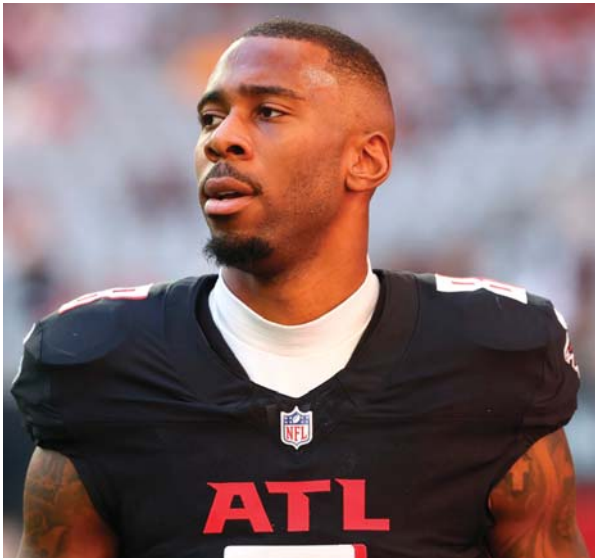


Chelsea and Liverpool. If his stoppage-time volley to earn a point at West Ham was a thing of aesthetic beauty, his latest effort in the 71st minute of the 1-0 win at Everton was a feat of physical excellence. It was a combination of endurance, running 70 yards at top speed after laying off a pass to Mathews Cunha, and calmness, to steady himself and

coolly slot home Bryan Mbeumo's square pass. "It was a great finish, a ruthless finish," said Carrick. "I like the way he put it away with real confidence." Watching the game for Sky Sports, former Liverpool and England defender Jamie Carragher looked at the goal admirably. "Sesko has gone over 80 yards and then finishes," Carragher said. "You expect

him to be breathing heavily and panting after that. But no, he still has the energy to really celebrate." Sesko has taken his goals tally to eight for the season. Remarkably, he only scored twice under Ruben Amorim, who signed him from RB Leipzig for £73.7m in August 2025. Now he has six in his latest seven games, starting with three in two matches while Darren Fletcher was in interim charge after Amorim's dismissal at the start of January. That return has led many observers to feel Sesko is unlucky not to have made the starting XI for any of the six games Carrick has had at the helm. United's boss understands the debate. But he doesn't feel it is especially important. "I get why everyone is talking about it and making a big deal of it, but it is not always as extreme," he said. "I have got a really good relationship with Ben.

IRELAND DEFEAT REMINISCENT OF END OF MY ERA - JONES



Former head coach Eddie Jones says the scenes at the end of England's defeat against Ireland on Saturday reminded him of the acrimonious end of his own time in charge at Twickenham. England came into the Six Nations with hopes of winning a first title since 2020, but their campaign has been sunk by emphatic back-to-back defeats after they were overturned by Scotland in round two. Some home fans left Allianz Stadium early in the Ireland match, while fly-half George Ford was ironically cheered for finding touch after two earlier botched efforts. "I felt a bit sick at the end of the game," Jones told his Rugby Unity podcast, external "I've had that feeling - the grey sky looks like it is coming down on you, there is this eerie feeling in the stadium, it's only half full, and the ones that are there are looking for a bit of blood."

Jones' own tenure ended with a 27-13 loss to South Africa in November 2022, which concluded to a chorus of jeers. The Rugby Football Union sacked the Australian 10 days later after a review into his record of five wins in 12 matches across that calendar year. Jones believes that Steve Borthwick, who worked as his assistant during stints with England and Japan, made an error before the tournament starting in publicly stating his team's aim to travel to Paris on the final weekend with the title in their sights. The game had loomed as a meeting of the two pre-tournament favourites, but, while France have collected a maximum 15 points from their three opening fixtures, England could sink to the bottom of the standings if they lose to an impressive Italy in Rome in their next and penultimate match on 7 March.

“I HOPE ‘BAND MELAM,’ WHICH IS SET TO RELEASE ON MARCH 13, BECOMES A BIG HIT,” SAID SIVAJI AT THE TEASER LAUNCH EVENT

Band Melam stars Court fame Harsh Roshan and Sridevi as the lead pair. Presented by Mango Mass Media and produced under the Kona Film Corporation banner by Kona Venkat, the film is directed by Satish Javvaji. Produced by Kavya and Shravya, the movie is scheduled for release on March 13. The teaser was unveiled on Tuesday, and music director Thaman and actor Shivaji attended the event as chief guests. Sivaji said, “Band Melam is made with a beautiful love story. I was also approached for a role in this film, but I declined as I felt it might look routine. Sridevi is a very talented actress, and Roshan is a gifted actor who will reach great heights in the future. With Band Melam, all of them are going to move to the next level. We premiered Court on March 13 and it became a hit. Now Band Melam is also releasing on March 13. I hope this too becomes a big success.” Thaman said, “I am at this stage in my career because of Kona sir. My journey continued strongly after Dookudu. It’s not that Kona sir has gold in his hands, his hand itself is golden. I’m happy to be here today for Band Melam. Watching Harsh Roshan and Sridevi reminds me of the days of Nuvve Kavali. I really like Vijai Bulganin’s songs. I hope the film becomes a huge hit on March 13.” Kona Venkat said, “With Ninnu Kori, we understood how



much appreciation a heart-felt love story can receive. Because of that experience, I produced Band Melam. Ninnu Kori remains a memorable film in Nani’s filmography. Director Shiva Nirvana narrated that story with emotion. When Satish narrated this story to me, I felt the same emotion. The conflict in this story is very fresh, and the climax will captivate everyone. We chose Roshan and Sridevi because they have both the right age and strong acting potential. Sai Kumar was shocked after hearing the story. Vijai Bulganin has given us wonderful music. The film releases on March 13, and I hope the audience makes it a success and gives us the strength to introduce more new talent.” Director Nandini Reddy said,

“I liked the teaser of Band Melam. I feel the director will speak more on the day of the film’s release and success. Harsh Roshan and Sridevi have connected well with the audience. I share a twenty-year bond with Kona anna. His films should continue to succeed, and he should keep introducing new talent to the industry. I love Vijay Bulganin’s music. I wish this movie becomes a big hit.” Shiva Nirvana said, “Kona sir is my godfather. Because of him, many directors and writers have entered the industry. Through Band Melam too, he is introducing new talent. I hope this film becomes a big hit. He should continue encouraging newcomers. Harsh Roshan will reach great heights in the industry. Sridevi is an excel-

lent actress. After watching the teaser, I felt like going to the theater with a group to watch the film. I hope Satish scores a hit with this movie. I like Vijay Bulganin’s music very much. I wish Band Melam great success on March 13.” Venu Udugula said, “I really liked the teaser of Band Melam. It’s clear that this is not a film made for commercial calculations or money alone. It is made with love and sincerity, portraying life with the essence of Telangana soil. I had already heard the story. The intense and philosophical base of the story has been shown effectively in the teaser. Thanks to Kona sir for encouraging such new talent. This is a Telugu film rooted in Telangana life.” Harsh Roshan said, “Band Melam is

a village love story set against a pure Telangana backdrop. My character showcases every emotion at its peak. The movie will connect with everyone. Thanks to Shivaji sir and Thaman sir for attending the event. The film releases on March 13. Please do watch it.” Sridevi said, “Just as you all supported us with so much love for Court, I hope you extend the same love and encouragement to Band Melam. I hope everyone liked our teaser. Our film is releasing on March 13. Please watch and support it.” Director Satish Javvaji said, “Thanks to everyone who attended the teaser launch of Band Melam. The film has come out very well. After Court, I am happy to come again with another good story.

‘Vishnu Vinyasam’ is a good entertainment that can be enjoyed by youth and family in theaters

IT STANDS IN THE TOP 5 IN SRI VISHNU GARU’S CAREER: PRODUCERS SUBRAMANIAM NAIDU G & SUMANTH NAIDU

King of Entertainment Sri Vishnu is going to entertain with his hilarious joyride ‘Vishnu Vinyasam’. Directed by Yadunath Maruthi Rao and produced by Sumanth Naidu G under the banner of Sri Subramanyeswara Cinemas, this film stars Nayana Sarika as the heroine opposite Sri Vishnu. The promotional content has already created a huge buzz. The film will be released worldwide on February 27. On this occasion, producers Subramanyam Naidu G and Sumanth Naidu G shared the details of the film in a press conference.



‘Vishnu Vinyasam’ is an out and out entertainer. How much of the story you heard was transferred to the screen?
-Comedy stories connect with the audience only after they are seen on screen rather than when they are heard. We enjoyed this story as much as we enjoyed it when we saw it. The film turned out very well. Vishnu improvises many dialogues on the spot. The audience also enjoys all of them a lot in this. We felt very happy after watching the final copy. What we had planned was conveyed wonderfully on screen.

What about hero Sri Vishnu’s support?
-Hero Sri garu was very supportive. Due to some unavoidable reasons, the two films

had to come out at the same time. However, in the one-week gap, they planned to bring a comedy entertainer first and then a thriller genre film. His support in this regard cannot be forgotten. Since they are two different genre films, the audience will definitely enjoy them in the theaters.

What will ‘Vishnu Vinyasa’ be like?
-This is a story based on a hero character. Along with

that, there will be another interesting track. There will be good family entertainment. The hero character believes in numerology. That character will be entertaining to the core. Also, the heroine track and the two families will be very interesting.

What about the title?
-There is a lot of comedy in this along with the story. If you watch Vishnu’s single film, it will be about one-liners and comedy.

BIG B AND KAMAL HAASAN BEGIN ‘KALKI 2’ SHOOT



Mumbai: Megastar Amitabh Bachchan has reunited with cinema icon Kamal Haasan after almost four decades, as the shoot for the much-anticipated sequel to “Kalki 2898 AD” has begun. Big B took to his blog where he shared a string of pictures from the sets of “Kalki 2” in the character of Ashwatthama, the son of sage and warrior Dronacharya. He even shared pictures with Kamal

and said that the two last worked together in the 1985 film “Geraftaar” directed by Prayag Raaj. Taking to his blog, the veteran actor shared that he would be missing his customary Sunday meeting with fans as he is currently shooting in Hyderabad. “Told them that this Sunday I shall not be able to come, since I was shooting in Hyderabad..but still they come..to confirm ..but apologies..work first..

rest later.” The octogenarian shared his excitement about collaborating with Kamal Haasan again after a long gap. “And meeting up with the great KAMAL HAASAN ... we shall be working together after ages .. last in Geraftaar.” Geraftaar also stars Poonam Dhillon and Rajinikanth. The film, which is one of the highest-grossing movies of the year 1985, follows the story of brothers Karan and Kishan, who are separated when Karan is framed for a murder, leading him to commit suicide. Talking about working on the sequel to the 2024 epic mythological science fiction film by Nag Ashwin, he said: “Kalki 2 begun the work .. and shall ever cherish the love and affection of anticipated presence on the Sunday .. but hopefully shall be with all this coming Sunday.

Meet Bhavitha Mandava: The Hyderabad model who made Vogue history



Hyderabad: Bhavitha Mandava, a 26-year-old model from Hyderabad, is making waves in the global fashion industry. She gained fame after becoming the first Indian woman to open a show for Chanel at the Métiers d’Art Show in 2026, which was held on a subway platform at Manhattan’s Bowery station. Bhavitha’s journey into fashion began in a most unexpected way. While waiting at a subway station in New York City, she was spotted by a fashion scout. This chance encounter led her to walk as an exclusive model for Bottega Veneta in the Spring/Summer 2025 show. Despite being a student at New York University at the time, Bhavitha managed to juggle her academics and modeling career.

Covering British Vogue
Bhavitha’s success continues to soar. She was recently featured on the cover of British Vogue’s March 2026 issue, a major milestone in her career. In the feature, she is celebrated for her natural presence, confidence, and how she represents a shift toward greater diversity in the fashion world.

How Shah Rukh Khan refuses to slow down despite major health issues



Hyderabad: Veteran actor Govind Namdev recently shared his admiration for Shah Rukh Khan’s unwavering work ethic, despite facing significant health challenges. Speaking on The Lallantop, Namdev revealed that King Khan is one of the few actors who works tirelessly around the clock, often managing to sleep only three to four hours a day.

● **Shah Rukh Khan’s Intense Work Schedule**
Namdev reflected on his experience working with SRK during the 2000 film Phir Bhi Dil Hai Hindustani. He shared that SRK works 24 hours a day, balancing several commitments, including gym workouts, learning dialogues, attending events, and performing. Namdev was astonished by Khan’s energy and dedication, despite his severe health

problems, including chronic back issues. “Ek hi hai banda jo 24 ghante kaam karta hai, sona bhi 3-4 ghante, ussi mei dand bhaitak bhi hai, udghatan bhi karna hai, dialogue bhi yaad karna hai, kahin perform karne bhi jaana hai, main hairaan ho gaya ki ye kaisa aadmi hai. (There is only one man who works 24 hours a day. He sleeps barely three to four hours, and in that time he also manages workouts, event inaugurations, learning dialogues and travelling for performances. I was stunned, what kind of person is he?)” He further added, “Physical bahut zyada problem hai, reedh ki haddi ki problem hai, kaafi problem hai, dekh kar hame bhi sikhaaya (He has serious back problems, issues with his backbone, and several other health concerns. But watching him, even we learned something.

“King Buddha” Shooting Across Global Buddhist Nations – Hollywood Director Satya Reddy Participates in World Peace Padayatra

A unique World Peace Padayatra is currently being undertaken by 60 Buddhist monks from Thailand, covering nearly 400 kilometers, starting from Swarnabhumi in Karnataka to Buddhabhumi at Nagarjuna Sagar in Telangana. As part of this spiritual journey, a 17-kilometer walk from Hyderabad to Turkayamjal was conducted today, where Hollywood Director Satya Reddy, along with the King Buddha film unit, actively participated in support of global peace. During the event, senior Buddhist monks blessed Director Satya Reddy by presenting him with a Gautama Buddha locket, wishing grand worldwide

success for the upcoming Hollywood film “King Buddha.”

Director Satya Reddy Speaks
Addressing the gathering, Satya Reddy stated “We are rapidly progressing with our Hollywood project King Buddha (We Want World Peace), which was initiated in the United States. Shooting has already been completed in 10 countries, and filming is planned across 15 more Buddhist nations. The film features prominent actors from Hollywood, Bollywood, and South Indian cinema. Our vision is to release the film in over 100 languages worldwide.” He also recalled that revolutionary poet Gaddar

Garu, during the making of his earlier 100-day celebration film Ukku Satyagraham, introduced him to Buddhism and encouraged the inclusion of Buddha-related themes in cinema. Satya Reddy expressed that creating a full-fledged international film based on Gautama Buddha is both a great responsibility and a meaningful challenge.

Global Promotions & Events
The director announced that:

- Teaser and trailer launches will be held in Thailand and Malaysia.
- Pre-release events are planned in Delhi and Amaravati.
- The King Buddha

film team will continue participating in the Padayatra until its completion. He further expressed his aspiration to expand similar peace marches from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, promoting unity and harmony across India. Satya Reddy shared that evolving from Tollywood to Hollywood as a filmmaker is a matter of great pride for him.

About King Buddha
King Buddha is an international Hollywood project carrying the message of world peace. The film is being made with a global vision, focusing on the life of Gautama Buddha and the principles of Pancha Sheela, aiming to spread peace, compassion, and harmony across nations.

