

5 out of 318 Telangana BC students score above 90 pc

Hyderabad (TSIT): As many as 318 Backwards Class (BC) Gurukul students appeared for the 2026 Joint Entrance Examination - Mains (JEE Mains), out of which five students scored above 90 percentile and 28 students scored above 80 percentile.



2026 JEE MAINS

Stephen Colbert says CBS spiked interview with emocrat over FCC fears



WORLD NEWS

INDIA DEFEAT NETHERLANDS BY 17 RUNS IN T20 WORLD



T20 WORLD CUP

INBRIFS

Salim Khan suffering from minimal brain hemorrhage

Mumbai (TSIT): Veteran screenwriter Salim Khan of Salim-Javed duo has suffered a minimal brain hemorrhage, doctor Jaleel Parkar, who is looking after his case, has informed. The doctor shared that minimal brain hemorrhage does not require surgery. Earlier, there were discussions around his discharge but now a decision will be taken once he feels better. A Digital Subtraction Angiography was performed on Salim Khan. He is currently on a ventilator, and has been kept in the ICU. Yesterday, he was admitted by family doctor Chopra. His blood pressure was also high so the medical professionals put him on a ventilator for backup as safety. Now he is doing better, recovery is slow due to old age.

BRS leader Balka Suman arrested for attacking Congress minister's convoy

Hyderabad (TSIT): Former MLA and Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader Balka Suman was arrested on Wednesday, February 18, for allegedly attacking Minister Vivek Venkatswamy's convoy in Mancherla district the previous day. He has reportedly been sent to a 14-day judicial remand. BRS cadres reportedly pelted stones at the minister when he was enroute to attend the election of the municipal chairperson of Kyathanpally along with his son, MP G Vamsi Krishna, and other Congress leaders on Tuesday. A police constable and a Congress worker reportedly suffered injuries in the attack. A case was registered against Suman for allegedly behaving rudely with the police and for trying to prevent them from discharging their duties. Tension prevailed at Suman's residence on Wednesday, when police arrived to make the arrest, as his supporters gathered there in large numbers and resisted the attempt by police.

HYDERABAD AIMS TO BECOME INDIA'S FIRST NET-ZERO CITY BY 2034: CM REVANTH

HYDERABAD TSIT BUREAU:

CM Revanth Reddy said green energy will power the next phase of economic and urban transformation in Telangana and reaffirmed the State's commitment to achieving net-zero targets through sustainable policies and clean infrastructure. He was speaking at the Mumbai Climate Week Conference organized by the Maharashtra Government at the Jio Convention Centre, Bandra Kurla Complex. The Chief Minister stated that Telangana is actively shifting from coal and conventional fuels toward solar and other renewable sources. He noted that the State provides free electricity to more than 30 lakh agricultural pump sets and nearly 50 lakh households, and future energy expansion will be increasingly green-based.

Revanth Reddy announced that Hyderabad is targeted to become a Net-Zero City by 2034 and will be the first Indian city to undertake a comprehensive carbon footprint audit. He said industries will be gradually



moved out of the core urban zone as part of planned, climate-sensitive urban restructuring. Explaining the State's strategic growth framework, the CM highlighted the CURE-PURE-RARE zoning model: CURE (Core Urban Region Economy): Innovation, services, and clean mobility within the Outer Ring Road zone; PURE (Peri Urban Region Economy): Large green manufacturing hub between ORR and Regional Ring Road; RARE (Rural & Agriculture Region Economy): Agriculture

and resource-driven growth. He said the PURE belt will be developed as a major green manufacturing destination and positioned as a global "China+1" alternative for investors, powered by renewable energy.

Sharing power sector projections, the CM said Telangana's average daily demand stands at about 16,610 MW, with peak demand expected to cross 19,000 MW this year and reach 34,000 MW by 2034. Nearly 25 percent of the State's power already comes from green sources. Highlighting clean mobility initiatives, he said EV taxes have been removed in core urban areas, over 2 lakh auto-rickshaws are being retrofitted, more than 3,500 RTC buses are being converted to electric, and Hyderabad Metro is planned to expand beyond 200 km. Environmental programmes such as Musi River rejuvenation, lake protection, and dedicated ecological enforcement through HYDRAA are also underway.

PM Modi, Croatia PM discuss ways to add momentum to bilateral ties

The Croatian leader also said his visit is taking place in the context of the AI Impact Summit-2026, during which his delegation will discuss the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in shaping today's world

NEW DELHI (TSIT) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday (February 18, 2026) had a "fruitful" meeting with his Croatian counterpart Andrej Plenkovic and discussed ways to add momentum to bilateral ties in areas such as technology, innovation, shipbuilding and blue economy, officials said. Mr. Modi also expressed gratitude to Mr. Plenkovic for his personal support for the India-European Union free trade agreement (FTA), which will bring "unprecedented progress" for people in India and Europe.



the first 11 months of 2025, trade exchange increased by 10%, and Croatia saw further opportunities for cooperation in logistics and maritime transport, digital transformation, defence and security, and in other areas. "It was a pleasure to meet again with the Prime Minister of India in New Delhi, following his visit to Zagreb last year. We are building excellent political relations

with India, the world's most populous country," he posted on X. Mr. Plenkovic also said they reflected on Croatia's priorities as Chair of the Three Seas Initiative (3SI) and the EUMED9 group. The 3SI is a political and economic forum launched in 2015-2016 by Croatia and Poland, focusing on 13 EU member states between the Baltic, Adriatic, and Black Seas.

Galgotias University apologises for 'confusion' at AI summit, says representative 'ill-informed'

Says there was no institutional intent to misrepresent the innovation



New Delhi (TSIT) Private university Galgotias on Wednesday apologised for "confusion" after a controversy arose over the display of a made-in-China robotic dog as its own innovation during the India AI Impact Summit and said one of its representatives manning the pavilion was "ill-informed". The controversy erupted after Neha Singh, a

professor of communications at the University, on Tuesday showed to DD News a robotic dog Orion, saying it "has been developed by the Centre of Excellence at Galgotias University". As the video went viral, social media users highlighted that the robot was actually a Unitree Go2, manufactured by China's Unitree Robotics and

commonly used in research and education worldwide. As the episode snowballed into a controversy, the university was asked to vacate the stall at the AI summit. "We wish to apologise for the confusion created at the recent AI summit. One of our representatives manning the pavilion was ill-informed," a university spokesperson said. "She was not aware of the technical origins of the product and, in her enthusiasm for being on camera, gave factually incorrect information even though she was not authorised to speak to the press. There was no institutional intent to misrepresent the innovation," the spokesperson added. Earlier on Wednesday, IT Secretary S Krishnan said the government does not want any exhibitor to showcase items that are not their own. "We do not want such exhibits to continue," he said, after organisers asked Galgotias University to vacate its stall.

CM Stalin tables high-level panel report on Union-State relations, pushes for greater state autonomy

The committee, chaired by retired Supreme Court judge Justice Kurian Joseph, with former bureaucrats K. Ashok Vardhan Shetty and M. Naganathan as members, submitted its report to the Chief Minister on Monday.

CHENNAI (TSIT): Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Wednesday tabled Part I of the report of the High-Level Committee on Union-State Relations in the state Assembly, reiterating the DMK government's long-standing demand for enhanced state autonomy and a stronger federal structure. The committee, chaired by retired Supreme Court judge Justice Kurian Joseph, with former bureaucrats K. Ashok Vardhan Shetty and M. Naganathan as members, submitted its report to the Chief Minister on Monday.



Presenting it in the House, Stalin described the moment as a significant step in redefining Centre-State ties. "Today is the day we take the initiative to amend the Constitution to ensure that state governments are vested with all necessary powers. If we cannot do it, who else can?" he asked, drawing the loud desk-thumping from members of the DMK and its alliance partners. The Chief Minister alleged that the Union government was centralising authority and exercising its powers in an "autocratic manner" without due regard for the states. "The Union keeps all powers with itself, and states are compelled to depend on it for everything. How long can this continue?" he asked, adding that the committee's report was aimed at offering a structured solution to this imbalance. In a sharp remark, Stalin said: "To put it simply, we have now belled the cat", signalling what he described as a bold initiative to address

long-standing federal concerns. He further contended that several subjects originally under the State List were being shifted to the Concurrent List by the BJP-led Union government, thereby eroding the constitutional rights of states. "The rights of states are being taken away one after another, and we are forced to fight even for the basic rights of our people," he said. The Chief Minister also raised concerns over fiscal devolution, alleging that economically developed states were receiving reduced shares of central funds despite their significant contributions to national revenue. Calling for bipartisan support, Stalin urged political parties across the country to adopt states' autonomy as a guiding principle, ensuring that all languages, cultures, and communities could thrive with dignity and equal rights within a truly federal framework.

Prez Murmu Steers Int'nal Fleet Review in Vizag

Visakhapatnam (TSIT): In a grand display of maritime diplomacy, President Droupadi Murmu reviewed the International Fleet Review (IFR) 2026 in Visakhapatnam today, with navies from over 70 countries participating. The event transformed the Bay of Bengal into a symbol of global cooperation under the theme "United Through Oceans." Addressing international sailors and commanders, the President emphasized that the gathering of diverse fleets reflects mutual trust and shared maritime traditions. She stressed that collective naval resolve is essential to overcome modern challenges. President Murmu anchored India's maritime approach in the philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (The World is One Family), stating that global security is built through partnerships. She elaborated that the Fleet Review



advances India's MAHASAGAR vision—Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth across Regions—aiming for a secure maritime commons for all. The President lauded the Indian Navy for its dual role as a credible deterrent and a first responder dur-

ing humanitarian crises, offering assistance with "compassion and competence." She extended appreciation to foreign naval officers, expressing confidence that the bonds reaffirmed today would ensure oceans remain gateways for global growth and well-being.

Tamil Nadu native enters Washington DC Mayor race

Washington (TSIT): Rini Sampath, a 31-year-old government contractor born in Tamil Nadu, on Wednesday announced her candidacy in the Democratic primary for Mayor of Washington, DC, pledging to "fix the basics" and restore confidence in city governance. Sampath, who immigrated to the United States at age seven and has lived in the US capital for more than a decade, launched her campaign with a sharp critique of the city's political establishment and a focus on infrastructure and essential services. "As Mayor, my priority will be to make sure our city lives up to its basic commitments to our residents: Fill the potholes. Stop the catastrophic wastewater spill in the Potomac.



India focused on practical applications of AI to solve population-scale challenges: Vaishnaw

NEW DELHI (TSIT): IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday said India is focused on practical applications of AI, including enterprise productivity, and solutions for population-scale challenges such as healthcare, agriculture, and climate change. Speaking at a research symposium at the AI Impact Summit, the minister also expressed happiness over the strong participation and optimism shown by young people at an AI Expo on Tuesday. He informed that about 2.5 lakh attendees, mostly under the age of 30, took part across the exhibition area. "It was a phenomenal response when I



interacted with the young minds. I was so surprised by the optimism that most of the young people expressed towards this opportunity which is coming for them," Vaishnaw said. The minister said he was feeling hopeful for a totally

new future for India and for the world. "We, in India, are very focused on AI in the edge, AI for use cases, AI for solving real-world problems, AI for improving the productivity in the enterprises, for population-scale problems like healthcare, like agriculture, like climate change. These are things we are focussed on here in India. And the AI submit brings that opportunity," he said. The minister asked participants of the symposium to come out with solid concrete suggestions on how to make AI safe. AI is a great tool and should be used for the benefit of humans.

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Indiramma Houses for All Eligible Poor in Hyderabad District Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar

Hyderabad, Feb 18: State Transport and BC Welfare Minister and Hyderabad District In-charge Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar said that Indiramma houses will be sanctioned to all eligible poor families in Hyderabad district and assured that the selection process will be carried out with full transparency.

Minister conducted a review meeting at the State Secretariat on the Indiramma housing scheme and the progress of pending two-bedroom housing projects. The meeting

(ii) Replacement of Mechanically Operated Lifting Barrier (MOLB) with Electrically Operated Lifting Barrier (EOLB) at LC No. 17B @ Km 24/25-27 between MAG-KCC-Electrical arrangements. Tender Ref No: GNT-E-15/2025-26, Dt. 17.02.2026. Approx. value in Rs.: 39,67,068.83/- Earnest money deposit in Rs.: 79,400/- Cost of tender form (non-refundable) in Rs. 0

Last Date and time for online submission of E-bids: 12.03.2026 up to 15:30 hours Any further Communication/Corrigendum will be published in E-portal www.ireps.gov.in only.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Maintenance/Guntakal Acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Tender No: GTL-EM-75-2025-26 Name of the Work: Guntakal Division-Dharmavaram-Provision of 6 no. of Escalators (Up & Down) for New 12m FOB (Escalators Portion) Approximate Value Rs.: 5,50,55,087.94/-

Closing date and time: 11-03-2026 at 15:00 hrs. For Bidding the tender and other details login to http://www.ireps.gov.in

SI. No.: 1, Tender No: Y-SG-36-2025-26-39, Tender dated: 17.02.2026, Name of the work: Proposal for Outsourcing of Loading/Unloading of material in connection with draw of raw material from Dy. CMM (G&S/MFT) and Inter shop movement of components for a period of 1 year at S & TWS/MFT. Approx. value Rs.: 56,19,21,92/-EMD Rs.: 1,12,400/-

Sr. Division Signal & Telecom Engineer/Hyderabad E-TENDER NOTICE No: GNT/E-31/32/TrD/2025-26

E-Tenders from the Contractors for the following works are invited by the undersigned up to 15:30 hrs on 09-03-2026.

SI. No.: 1, Tender Title: GNT Division-Comprehensive Maintenance Contract of SCADA system in NLPD-NDL section for a period of 4 years, Tender Ref No: GNT/E-31/TrD/2025-26, Approx. value in Rs.: 1,09,23,91/- Earnest money deposit in Rs.: 2,04,100/- Cost of tender form (non-refundable) in Rs.: NIL

SI. No.: 2, Tender Title: GNT Division-1. Interlocking of 6 Nos mid-section LC gates over Guntur division at LC No.20 @ BDPL-SRFM.63 @ TPPI-KADM. 56 @ RYGA-TPPI. 289 @ STUR-NRT. 57 @ BMK-CPGN & 69 @ PGL-TMLU. - Modification to 25KV OHE. 2. Interlocking of 6 Nos mid-section LC gates over Guntur division at LC No.22 @ TLU-CBM. 33 @ PKPU-SAP. 34 @ PKPU-SAP. 81 @ KDKL-VNUP. 76 @ RYGA-KDGL & 54 @ RYGA-TPPI. Modification to 25KV OHE. Tender Ref No: GNT/E-32/TrD/2025-26, Approx. value in Rs.: 86,30,144/- Earnest money deposit in Rs.: 1,72,500/-Cost of tender form (non-refundable) in Rs.: NIL

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Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TrD/Guntur Open e-Tender Notice No. Dy. CE/TMLines/01/2026 dt.17.02.2026

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MEPA Telangana State Committee Attends and Blesses Children at Traditional Ceremony



Hanamkonda: Members of the MEPA Telangana (Mudhiraj Employees and Professionals Association - Telangana) State Committee attended and blessed children at a traditional new clothes, fruit and floral decoration, and dothi ceremony held at Rajapalle in Ward 12 of Narsampet Municipality.

The ceremony was organized for Advika and Ashreeth Mudhiraj, daughter and son of MEPA committee member Muthyam Kiran Mudhiraj and Soujanya Mudhiraj. Family members and relatives gathered to celebrate the occasion in a festive and spiritual atmosphere.

Students should choose a bright future away from addictions

MAHABUBABAD (TSIT): organized an awareness seminar under the auspices of the Mahabubabad District Legal Services Organization to create awareness about the laws and also emphasized the importance of discipline during the student phase and suggested using mobile phones, social media, etc. with a positive attitude. He warned that the law will not ignore those who indulge in addictions and engage in illegal activities. Later, a short film on drugs made by the Telangana State Legal Services Authority was screened. The principal, teachers and students participated in the program.

Public Welfare is Top Priority, Says TGIC Chairperson Nirmala Jagga Reddy



SANGAREDDY: TGIC Chairperson Nirmala Jagga Reddy asserted that public representatives must work diligently to resolve people's issues and ensure transparent utilization of development funds. She was addressing the oath-taking ceremony of newly elected Chairperson Munipalli Anjamma Satyanarayana and Vice-Chairperson Renuka Chiru at Sadashivpet Municipality. "The municipal council should always prioritize solving public problems as its main goal," she stated, urging authorities to work committedly for the town's progress. Later, Reddy visited Maddikunta, Eti Gadda Sangam, and Thangedupalli villages, inaugurating multiple development initiatives. She performed housewarming ceremonies for newly constructed Indiramma Houses and conducted Bhoomi Pooja for new school compound constructions in Maddikunta and Thangedupalli. Local sarpanches and Congress leaders participated in the programs, with residents praising her active involvement in public welfare activities.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public at large are hereby informed that my client Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Limited, Hyderabad Branch are proposing to consider Housing Loan to the Applicant VARIKUPPALA PARASHURAM is intending to Mortgage House No. 3-74 (Old No. 2-97), Area 121 Sq.Yds and bounded as North: Village Road; South: Open Place of Shaik Sale Bai; East: Land of Shaik Sale Bai & West: Open Plot of Tadakala Yadaiah, was misplaced/lost and it is not traceable. In case any person / claimants have come into possession of the same may be restored to us within 7 days, failing which it will be presumed that the property is free from encumbrances and any claim in respect thereof against my client as a mortgagee and Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Limited as Mortgagee shall be Null / Void and ineffective, or else it is deemed that no person has any claim, interest or demand in the said property. B.NAGENDER RAO, B.S., DPM, LLB. ADVOCATE & NOTARY Office: 128/C, S.R.Nagar Colony Hyderabad - 500038, (Mob): 9391101961

SHIRAM FINANCE LIMITED DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors/mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from Shiram Finance Limited, (Formerly known as Shiram City Union Finance Limited, amalgamated with Shiram Transport Finance Company Limited, subsequently Shiram Transport Company Limited name Changed as Shiram Finance Limited) We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/guarantors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non-Performing Asset in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorized Officer of SHIRAM FINANCE LTD. under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 calling upon the following borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the notices and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. until the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of notices.

Table with columns: Name of the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantors, NPA DATE, Date of Demand Notice, Outstanding Amount, Loan Amount. Includes details for (1) Dyapa Padma, W/o: Govardhan Reddy Dyapa, D/o: Narayan Reddy Pulugara, Age: 45 Years, Occ: Self Employee, R/o: Address: H.No: 2-49, 1st Floor, Almasguda Bus Stop, Near Hanuman Temple, Badangpet, Balapur, Hyderabad-500058, Address-II: H.No: 2-85/1/P-65, Lakshmi Mega Township, Hayathnagar Mandal, Turkayyamb, Rangareddy-501510, B/o: Poprator of 'Mahalaxmi Milk Parlor' At # 4-63, Opp Hanuman Temple, Almasguda, Balapur, Badangpet, Sarromangla-500058, 5014098900, 2) Govardhan Reddy Dyapa, S/o: Ram Reddy Dyapa, Age: 47 Years, Occ: Private Employee, R/o: Address: H.No: 2-49, 1st Floor, Almasguda Bus Stop, Near Hanuman Temple, Badangpet, Balapur, Hyderabad-500058, Address-II: H.No: 2-47, Posaipalle, Choukru, Pulak, Medak-502223, O/o: Marketing Executive, 836764228, (3) Shashi Varadhan Reddy Gaddampally, S/o: Ram Reddy Gaddampally, C/o: Gaddampally Pavani, Age: 42 Years, Occ: Self Employee, R/o: H.No: 9-1-539, ARR Colony, Vishaka Nagar, Near Petrol Pump, Saroor Nagar, Almasguda, Badangpet, Hyderabad-500058, B/o: Proprietor of 'Pavani Traders' At # Same As Resi Address, 9848059023

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Table with columns: NAME OF THE BORROWER(S)/ Co-Borrower(S)/Guarantors, NPA DATE, DATE OF DEMAND NOTICE, OUTSTANDING AMOUNT, LOAN AMOUNT. Includes details for 1) Kancharla Chandra Shekhar, S/o: Pedda Narsimha, Age: 30yrs, Occ: Sri Santhosh's Polity Farm H.No: 2-9/1 Muthyalamma Nagar, Bangarugadda Chandur Nalgonda(DI)-506255 Cell: 9846334438, 2) Kancharla Ganesh, S/o: Pedda Narsimha, Age: 30yrs, Occ: Business H.No: 2-9/3/1 Muthyalamma Nagar, Bangarugadda Chandur Nalgonda(DI)-506255 Cell: 833920810, 3) Yanjala Yadaiah, S/o: Ramaiah, Age: 55years, Occ: Kamate, H.No: 8-3-84-1, Palecheru, Mailardevpally, Rajendranagar, Ranagareddy (DI)-500005 Cell:901245539

SHIRAM FINANCE LIMITED DEMAND NOTICE

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Table with columns: NAME OF THE BORROWER(S)/ Co-Borrower(S)/Guarantors, NPA DATE, DATE OF DEMAND NOTICE, OUTSTANDING AMOUNT, LOAN AMOUNT. Includes details for 1) Pankamanda Saidulu, S/o: Pankamanda Ramachandru, Age: 45 Years, Occ: Self Employee, R/O: H.No: 13-105/108, Kalyanpuri, Raghavendra Colony, Uppal, Hyderabad-500039, Address-II: H.No: 2-18-23/1, Kalyanpuri, Uppal, Hyderabad-500039, B/O: 'L&T Contractor Works', Same As Residence Address, 9666747387, 2) Pankamanda Kasamma, W/o: Pankamanda Saidulu, Age: 45 Years, Occ: Housewife, R/O: H.No: 13-105/108, Kalyanpuri, Raghavendra Colony, Uppal, Hyderabad-500039, Address-II: 2-18-23/1, Kalyanpuri, Uppal, Hyderabad-500039, 7886497992, 3) Gacharla Nivarty, S/o: Gacharla Karba, Age: 58 Years, Occ: Self Employee, R/O: H.No: 2-20-3/71, Adarsha Nagar, Uppal, Hyderabad-500039, B/O: 'Electron', 9948061994

FOR ADVERTISEMENT PLEASE CONTACT: 9948480279, 7330778889

MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED POSSESSION NOTICE. The undersigned being the authorized officer of Manappuram Home Finance Ltd ("MANOHFI") under the Securitization 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 pay 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:

DCB Bank Limited POSSESSION NOTICE. The undersigned being the authorized officer of the DCB Bank Ltd., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice on below mentioned dates calling upon the borrowers (Borrower's and Co-Borrower's) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice as detailed below in tabular form with further interest thereon from within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower and Co-Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower, Co-Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 also r/w section 14(1) of the Security Interest Rules 2002 on 13th day of February, 2026. The borrower, Co-Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property (Description of the immovable property) and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the DCB Bank Ltd., for respective amounts as mentioned here below. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Axis Bank Limited, DEMAND NOTICE

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

Ref.No. SARFAESI/13(2)/AGR/FEB/2026 Date: 11-02-2026 1. Mr. Adulapuram Raju (Applicant) S/o Shankariah, 5-6-7/1, Lakshkar Bazar, Hanamkonda, Hanamkonda, Warangal, Telangana- 506001. Also At: Mr. Adulapuram Raju, S/o Shankariah, H.No. 35-3-23/A6, Gopulapur Village, Sakrishna Colony, Near Water Tank, Hanamkonda, Telangana -506009-2. Mr. Adulapuram Ramesh (Co-applicant) S/o Shankariah, 5-6-7/1, Lakshkar Bazar, Hanamkonda, Hanamkonda, Warangal, Telangana-506001. Also At: Mr. Adulapuram Ramesh, S/o Shankariah, H.No. 35-3-23/A6, Gopulapur Village, Sakrishna Colony, Near Water Tank, Hanamkonda, Telangana -506009 Demand Notice Date: 11-02-2026. Loan Account No: 9240300582583 / 9240300582589, NPA Date: 31-01-2026, Amount Outstanding : Rs.24,67,768/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Eight Only)

Ref.No. SARFAESI/13(2)/AGR/FEB/2026 Date: 04-02-2026 Mr. N. Gopal Rathod, S/o. Beema Naik, H No: 1 54, P. C Thanda, Mushrif, Mahabub Nagar, Telangana-509339 Demand Notice Date: 04-02-2026. Loan Account No: 9230300219284 / 91903003246631. NPA Date: 05-11-2026. Amount Outstanding: Rs. 22,25,516/- (Rupees Twenty-One Lakh Nineteen Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy-Five Only) SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY: All That Part And Parcel Of The Residential House Bearing H.No. 54-19, 54-19/A, 5-5-114 And 5-5-115 (Old) Sit Corresponding H. No. 5-5-148 And 5-5-149 (New) Constructed Within An Extent Of 185-00 Sq. Yards Situated At Kammanwada, Lashkarbazar, Hanamkonda City and District Standing In The Name Of Adulapuram Raju Vide Doc No. 11000/2007 Before S/o At Warangal And Bounded By: East: House Of A. Jayaprakash And House Of R. Pratap; West: House Of R. Rajender; North: Open Land Belongs To Anees Fazal; South: 30 Feet Wide Road.

Ref.No. SARFAESI/13(2)/AGR/FEB/2026 Date: 11-02-2026 1) Mr. Kunta Ganja Reddy (Applicant), S/o. Mr. Kunta Kishiah, R/o/H.No.1-88, Gadoke, Sirkonda, Nizamabad,ZPHS School Road, Telangana-503165 2)Mrs. Kunta Sumalatha (Co-Applicant), D/o. Mr. Janganna, R/o.H.No.1-88, Gadoke, Sirkonda, Nizamabad,ZPHS School Road, Telangana-503165 Property Address: Mrs. Kunta Sumalatha, Plot No.1-88 & 1-49, Sirkonda Mandal, Nizamabad District, Telangana-503165 Demand Notice Date:11.02.2026, Loan Account No. 92230001625847 / 92230001625847 NPA Date :05-11-2025 / Amount Outstanding : Rs. 20,26,583/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh Twenty-Six Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-Three Only) SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY: All that part and parcel House bearing G.P.No. 1-88 and 1-49, admeasuring total site area: 1883.16 Square feet or 209.24 Square yards or 174.94 square metres situated at GADKOLE village, sirkonda mandal, Nizamabad, Grama Sachivalayam, GADKOLE mandal parishad: siri sirkonda district and zilla parishad Nizamabad Standing in the name of Mrs. Kunta Sumalatha, vide Document No. 2075/2021, before the SFO, Bheemalpur, and bounded by: (House No. 1-88 & 1-49, Area: 209.24 square yards) Boundaries East:GP Road, West:GP Road, North:House Belongs to Nimma Ramulu and Others: South:House Belongs to Nimma Ramulu and Others.

Ref.No. AXIS/SARFAESI_000/FEB-26 Date:11-02-2026 1.Mrs. Kamame Narsama (Applicant) W/o. Kamame Ramdoh, H.No. 7-3-6/1/ Baga Nagar, Nimal Bangalpet, Adilabad, Telangana- 504106. Also At: Mrs. Kamame Narsama W/O. Kamame Ramdoh, H.No 11 3911C/Bangalpet, Krishna Nagar, Near Valdehi Ashram, Saidabad, Hyderabad, Telangana -500059 2.Mr. Kamame Mahender (Co-Applicant) S/o. Kamame Ramdoh, H.No 7-3-6/1/ Baga Nagar, Nimal Bangalpet, Adilabad, Telangana-504106. Also At: Mr. Kamame Mahender/S.O. Kamame Ramdoh, H.No 11 3911C/B Ground Floor, Krishna Nagar, Near Valdehi Ashram, Saidabad, Hyderabad, Telangana -500059 Demand Notice Date:11-02-2026. Loan Account No. 922030011654216 / 92203001165422, NPA Date : 05-02-2026, Amount Outstanding : Rs. 30,26,523/- (Rupees Thirty Lakhs Twenty Six Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Three Only) SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY: All That Part And Parcel Of The Residential Building, In Survey No. 132, An Extent Of 1678 Square Feet, Open Plot No. 8, With Dimensions 60' X 40', Total Extent 2400.00 Square Feet, Out Of This, A Built Up Area Of 266.66 Square Feet And A Vacant Area Of 2133.00 Square Feet, Located At Baga Nagar, Nimal, Adilabad, Telangana In Stands In The Name Of Mrs. Kamame Narsama Vide Doc No. 2233/1998 Before The S/O At Nirmal And Bounded By: North Plot No. 7, South 30' 0" Wide Road, East:30' 0" Wide Road, West:Plot No. 8.

Ref. No. SARFAESI/13(2)/AGR/FEB-26 Date:05-02-2026 Mr. Kurva Narsimulu S/o. Kurva Malliah H No 4-1-256/6 New Guntur Ward No 6, 6.Ammapati, Vikarabad, K.V. Rangareddy, Telangana -501101 Demand Notice Date:05-02-2026 Loan Account No. 91903003463140 / 91903003463134. NPA Date : 28-01-2026 Amount Outstanding :Rs.13,65,805/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Sixty Five Thousand Eight Hundred and Five only) SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY: All That Part And Parcel Of The Residential House Bearing No. 4-1-256/6 On Plot No. 34/Part Eastern Side In Sy No. 17/Pat, L.P. No. 7/197, Admeasuring 121 Sq Yards Consisting Of Ground + First Floor, Situated At Block No. 1, Near Byle Bazar, Vikarabad Mandal, Vikarabad District, Standing In The Name Of Mr. K. Narsimulu Vide Doc No:2755/2007. At S/O Of Vikarabad And Bounded By: Bounded As follows:North:- 33' 0" Wide Road, South : Plot No. 15, East: Plot No. 33, West: Open Plot No. 34/Part Western Side.

Date: 17-02-2026 Place: Secunderabad For Axis Bank Ltd. (Authorized Officer)

Big Push for RRR and HAM Roads in Budget Planning Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy Reviews

Hyderabad: Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy directed officials to prepare focused, outcome-driven Budget Estimates for 2026-27 and prioritize key infrastructure works including the Regional Ring Road (RRR) and HAM-based road projects across Telangana.

role in accelerating the State's growth and stressed the need for disciplined financial planning and measurable outcomes in the upcoming budget. Linking the proposals to the State's long-term Rising Telangana-2047 vision, he said strengthening the road network is essential in view of growing vehicular traffic and population.



State fund sharing for all ongoing and proposed projects. Minister announced that the 8-lane expansion of National Highway 65 between Hyderabad and Vijayawada is expected to commence shortly and said he would once again request Union Minister Nitin Gadkari to expedite the works.

FOR ADVERTISEMENT CONTACT: 9948480279, 7330778889

HINDUJA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED DEMAND NOTICE. Corporate office at #167-169, 2nd Floor, Little Mount, Saidapet, Chennai-600 015. Includes details for various borrowers and loan amounts.

FISHERIES CHAIRMAN METTU SAI KUMAR CRITICIZES BRS LEADERSHIP. Hyderabad: Telangana State Fisheries Corporation Chairman Mettu Sai Kumar strongly criticized BRS working president K. T. Rama Rao during a media conference held at Gandhi Bhavan.

CONGRESS HAS NO ALTERNATIVE IN TELANGANA, SAYS TPCC CHIEF MAHESH KUMAR GOUD. HYDERABAD: Telangana PCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud asserted that the Congress party has no alternative in the state, citing recent local body election victories.

WRITTEN EXAM DATES ANNOUNCED FOR TGFSL POSTS BY RECRUITMENT BOARD. Hyderabad: The Telangana State Level Public Recruitment Board (TSLPRB) has announced the written examination schedule for recruitment to various posts in the Telangana State Forensic Science Laboratory (TGFSL).

POSESSION NOTICE. The undersigned being the authorized officer of the DCB Bank Ltd., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act (SARFESI) Act, 2002.

తెలంగాణ గ్రామీణ బ్యాంక్ TELANGANA GRAMEENA BANK. Regional Office: Hyderabad-1, 9-27/1, 1 Floor, Lalithnagar, Dilshukhanagar, Hyderabad-500 060. Ph.No. 9491041962. PREMISES REQUIRED ON LEASE.

SHRIRAM Finance SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED. Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032. DEMAND NOTICE. Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD.

Table with columns: S.No., Sy. No., Area, Sub-Collector, Date, Status, Name of Borrower, Address, etc. It lists various land parcels and their details under the Government of Telangana, Office of the Sub-Collector, Kalluru.

SHRIRAM Finance SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED. Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032. DEMAND NOTICE. Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from Shriram Finance Limited.

DCB Bank Limited. Jyothi Majestic, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad-Telangana 500 034. POSSESSION NOTICE. The undersigned being the authorized officer of the DCB Bank Ltd., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act (SARFESI) Act, 2002.

RERA CHIEF: 15% OF FLATS MORTGAGED TO GOVT TO PROTECT BUYERS

HYDERABAD (TSIT): Real estate projects cannot proceed without RERA permits, warned Dr. Pallepada Damodar after meeting RERA Chairman M Satyanarayana. Consumer representatives highlighted major issues, including failures to hand over flats on time, fraudulent pre-launch collections, and illegal constructions near the Bhadrakali pond and railway zones in Warangal and Nizamabad. Addressing these concerns, Satyanarayana announced that 15% of each apartment will be mortgaged in the government's name to safeguard consumer rights. He urged buyers to verify project details on the RERA website and deposit payments only into official bank accounts to ensure protection.

CONGRESS SUSPENDS SHANKAR REDDY FOR ALLEGED CROSS-VOTING IN POLLS

SANGAREDDY (TSIT): The Congress party has suspended leader Shankar Reddy for anti-party activities, holding him responsible for the defeat of its candidate in the recent municipal elections. Reddy was accused of supporting his nephew, who contested on a BRS ticket from Ward No. 12, leading to the loss of Congress nominee Praveen Kumar. Party sources also alleged his actions contributed to the party's defeat in three wards of Pothireddypalli. This is Reddy's second suspension; he was previously suspended during the MLA elections but was reinstated after apologizing to the high command. The party stated the action was taken to maintain organizational discipline.

COLLECTOR SURPRISES PHC AND KGBV WITH INSPECTION, DINES WITH STUDENTS

MAHABUBNAGAR (TSIT): District Collector Vijayendra Boi conducted a surprise inspection of the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) and the Primary Health Centre (PHC) in Bhutpur mandal on Wednesday. At the KGBV, he reviewed Hindi exam papers for Class 10 students and discussed the test with them. He also had lunch with the students to check the quality of the midday meal, inquiring if the menu was followed daily. He directed officials to prepare estimates for a new playground and shed. At the PHC, the Collector inspected the inpatient ward, lab, and maternity section. He reviewed delivery records—the Medical Officer reported four cases this month—and instructed staff to ensure monthly checkups for pregnant women. He specifically ordered that the hospital surroundings be kept clean.

SANT SEVALAL IS THE GUIDING DEITY OF BANJARA COMMUNITY: MLA THUDI MEGHA REDDY

WANAPARTHY: Legislator Thudi Megha Reddy stated that the ideals of Sant Sri Sevalal Maharaj, the revered deity of the Banjara community, serve as a practical guide for all. He spoke during the deity's 287th birth anniversary celebrations held at the Sevalal Banjara Bhavan in Nagavaram, organized by the District Tribal Development Department. District Collector Adarsh Surabhi, Sports Authority Chairman Shiva Sena Reddy, and others performed a traditional homam, offering ghee and kadav prasadam, praying for the district's prosperity and well-being. Lambadi women in traditional attire added color to the event. Tribal leaders, public representatives, students, and a large number of community members participated in the ceremonies.

DGP FLAGS OFF 4TH TELANGANA POLICE SPORTS MEET, OVER 2,500 ATHLETES PARTICIPATE

HYDERABAD: Director General of Police B. Shivadhar Reddy inaugurated the 4th Telangana State Police Sports & Games Meet-2026 at the Cyberabad Police Parade Grounds, calling upon personnel to prioritize fitness and sportsmanship. The DGP received a guard of honour and lit the sports torch presented by Cyberabad Police Commissioner Dr. M. Ramesh Reddy. Over 2,532 athletes from 33 districts, including 300 women, are competing in 31 disciplines, with 14 events earmarked for women. Addressing the gathering, the DGP emphasized that sports build discipline and mental resilience, urging personnel



to make exercise a daily routine. Cyberabad CP announced incentive awards for national medal winners: Rs.3 lakh for Gold, Rs.2 lakh for Silver, and Rs.1 lakh for Bronze. Several police sports persons who excelled at international and national levels were felicitated. A Police Welfare & Wellness Expo featuring healthcare, fitness equipment, and drug detection kits was also inaugurated at the Cyberabad Commissionerate premises.

Ramzan is a Symbol of Religious Harmony CM Revanth Reddy

Hyderabad: Revanth Reddy Chief Minister of Telangana stated that Ramzan stands as a symbol of religious harmony and spiritual discipline, while extending heartfelt greetings to the Muslim community on the commencement of the holy month. In his message, the Chief Minister said that the month-long observance of fasting and prayers by Muslims strengthens spirituality, self-discipline, and compassion. He noted that Ramzan promotes values of peace, charity, and unity among people.

ANDHRA SENIOR WOMEN ENTER BCCI ONE DAY TROPHY QUARTER-FINALS

Visakhapatnam (TSIT) The Andhra Senior Women's team secured a quarter-final berth in the BCCI Senior Women's One Day Tournament after defeating Jammu & Kashmir in Guwahati on Tuesday. Andhra topped Group D with four impressive wins in the league stage, overcoming strong teams like Mumbai, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand and Gujarat. Led by captain Anjali Sarvani, the team will face Rajasthan in the quarter-final on February 23, 2026, in Chandigarh. The Andhra Cricket Association credited the squad's consistent performance and overall development structure for this historic achievement, as all state age-group teams have reached the knockout stage this season.

VMC Hyderabad Celebrates 100 Percentile in JEE Main 2026

Hyderabad, 18 February 2026. VidyaMandir Classes (VMC), a veteran in IIT-JEE and NEET coaching for over four decades, has extended its legacy of excellence with stellar performances in the JEE-Main 2026 results. Leading the institute's achievers is Shreyas Mishra, a student of the 2-Year Classroom Course, who secured a perfect 100 Percentile, placing him among the nation's top rankers. Close on his heels, Bhavya Gupta, Aarush Goel (both 4-Year Classroom Course), and Akshat Agrawal (2-Year Classroom Course) each scored an impressive 99.99 Percentile. This marks the third consecutive year of record-breaking results for VMC,



underscoring the effectiveness of its structured methodology and mentorship. Gautami Reddy, Director of VMC Hyderabad, expressed pride in the students' accomplishments. "These results are a testament to disciplined preparation, conceptual clarity, and the continuous academic support embedded in the VMC system," she said. With this momentum, VMC is set to commence new batches at its Hyderabad campuses in Madhapur and Suchitra. Admissions are now open for IIT-JEE, NEET, Integrated Intermediate, and Foundation programs. "Hyderabad students now have access to the proven system that has launched thousands into IITs, NITs, and AIIMS. We are eager to shape the next generation of achievers," Reddy added.

One in Three Bypass Patients Face New Blockages: Doctors

Anantapur (TSIT): A 70-year-old man from Anantapur district, who underwent triple-vessel bypass surgery (CABG) in 2008, recently suffered a heart attack with heart failure, serving as a stark reminder of the long-term risks following cardiac surgery. Cardiologists warn that nearly 30-40% of bypass patients develop new or recurrent blockages within 10-15 years, particularly in vein grafts. This makes them vulnerable to fresh cardiac events even decades later. The patient, who presented with chest pain and breathlessness, was found to have critical vein graft blockages, including in the Right Coronary Artery. Timely treatment at Medivisor Hospitals, Secunderabad, proved crucial. In November 2025, Dr.



Pramod Kumar Kuchulakanti successfully performed stenting using advanced IVUS imaging. The patient was discharged within 24 hours and is now stable. Doctors emphasize that men above 55 account for nearly 70% of post-bypass complications. However, patients from rural areas often delay seeking help, mistaking symptoms for ageing or acidity, which increases the risk of heart

failure. Key warning signs include chest pain, breathlessness, excessive fatigue, and swollen feet. Dr. Kuchulakanti advises that a follow-up angiogram five years after surgery is essential to assess graft health. Regular monitoring of vitals and strict adherence to prescribed medications—especially blood thinners—can significantly reduce the risk of repeat blockages.

NSS VOLUNTEERS CLEAN BUS STAND, COLLECT HALF-TONNE WASTE IN TIRUPATI



Tirupati, 18 February 2026: In a massive cleanliness drive, NSS Units-I and 20 of Sri Padmavathi Mahila Visvaavidyalayam jointly organized a one-day cleaning program at Balaji Link Bus Stand and Alipiri Depot today, collecting nearly 40 kg of plastic waste and half a tonne of garbage. The event began with a cleaning session at Alipiri Depot, where over 200 volunteers actively collected plastic waste and cleaned the premises. This was followed by an awareness rally, with volunteers carrying placards and chanting slogans on Swachhta. Special invitee Sri R. Saida, Youth Officer from the Regional Directorate of NSS, Hyderabad, addressed the students, emphasizing how the NSS program cultivates discipline and a sense of responsibility for cleanliness. Prof. I.V. Lalitha Kumari, NSS Program Coordinator, and Sri S. Haribabu, Alipiri Depot Manager, also spoke on the crucial role of volunteers in promoting community well-being. NSS Programme Officers Dr. B. Vishali (Unit-I) and Dr. K. Rukmini (Unit-XX) led the initiative. Depot staff, including Smt. Pushpa Latha and Sri Prabhakar, actively participated. The program reinforced the volunteers' commitment to environmental awareness and social responsibility, setting an inspiring example for a cleaner, greener community.

TENSION AT ANDHRA UNIVERSITY AS 'OUTSIDERS' ATTACK STUDENTS

Visakhapatnam, 18 February 2026: The Andhra University (AU) campus has witnessed violent clashes over the past three days after a group of alleged outsiders entered the premises and attacked students, leading to a university-wide bandh today. According to eyewitnesses, the trouble began when 50 to 70 unidentified individuals forcibly entered the campus basketball ground, planted saffron flags, and conducted drills with sticks while raising religious slogans. Students had alerted the Vice-Chancellor on February 16, but the situation escalated on the evening of February 17. When the University Security Dean attempted to clear the grounds, the outsiders reportedly summoned reinforcements and attacked students with sticks, bottles, and footwear. Witnesses claim the violence continued even as student leaders headed



to the Registrar's office, allegedly in the presence of police. Female students were reportedly subjected to physical assault and verbal abuse. "The attackers threatened us saying, 'Our governments are in power, no one can touch us,'" a victimized student reported. Protesting students demand criminal cases against the attackers and stricter security to prevent outsiders from occupying university grounds.

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED
 Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No. 14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032.
 Administrative office: 6th Floor (level 2), Building No. Q2, Aarum Q parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710.

DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors/mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from **Shriram Finance Limited**, (Formerly known as **Shriram City Union Finance Limited**, amalgamated with **Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited**, subsequently **Shriram Transport Company Limited** name Changed as **Shriram Finance Limited**) We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/guarantors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non-Performing Asset in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorized Officer of **SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD.** under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein below under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002, calling upon the following borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the notices and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. until the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of notices.

The notices issued to them on their last known addresses have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Borrowers(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantors	NPA DATE: 07.10.2022	Date Of Demand Notice: 14.01.2026
(1) Sreehari Milatmakuru, S/o: Milatmakuru Vengalish, Age: 50 Years, Occ: Self Employee, R/o: H.No: 3-9-29, Sri Sai Nagar Colony, L B Nagar, Lal Bahadur Nagar, Chintalankunta, Hyderabad-500074. B/o: Proprietor of "M.S Enterprises (Wheel Alignment)" At # Plot No: 74, Omkar Nagar, Sagar Road, Saroor Nagar, Hyderabad-500074, 9640336832, 9848266208, 9542152970. (2) Alleshwaram Ramesh, S/o: Ramulu Alleshwaram, Age: 41 Years, Occ: Self Employee, R/o: H.No: 2-58, Jyothi Nagar Colony, Saroor Nagar, Near Shivayalam Temple, Karamanghat, Hyderabad-500079. B/o: "Sri Durga Bhavani Flower Decaration" At # Same As Resi Address, 9676670573. (3) Pati Chandra Prakash Reddy, S/o: Pati Vijaya Laxman Reddy @ P Vijay Laxman Reddy, Age: 44 Years, Occ: Self Employee, R/o: H.No: 10-1-99/4/1B, Bhagya Nagar Colony, Road No: 6, Lingojiguda, Saroor Nagar, Hyderabad-500035. B/o: "Prakash Centring" At Same As Resi Address, 8712864979 or 919.	Outstanding Amount: Rs. 24,89,118/-	Loan Amount: Rs. 10,00,000/-

.....Borrowers/Co-borrower /Guarantors/Legal heirs

DLSKNTF2112070001 - DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: All that the Piece And Parcel of Open Land Bearing Plot No. 154/A, Admeasuring 178 Sq-Yards or equivalent to 148.82 Sq.mtrs, in Survey No. 40, Situated At Surmaiguda Village, Abdullapurmet Revenue Mandal, Ranga Reddy Dist., Under Lashkarguda Grampanchayath and Bounded as follows: **Towards East:** Park, Present: Neigh Open Plot, **Towards West:** 30 Feet Road, **Towards North:** 66 Feet Wide Road, Present: Open Plot, **Towards South:** Plot No 154, Present: 60 Feet Wide Road.

In the circumstances as aforesaid, the notice is hereby given to the above borrowers, co-borrowers and/or their guarantors (where ever applicable) to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and the mortgagors under Section 13(4) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the applicable rules there under.

Please note that under Section 13 (13) of the said Act, no Borrower shall, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.

Dated: 18.02.2026
 Place: HYDERABAD
 Authorized Officer
 SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD.

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED
 Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No. 14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032.
 Administrative office: 6th Floor (level 2), Building No. Q2, Aarum Q parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710.

DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors/mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from **Shriram Finance Limited**, (Formerly know as **Shriram City Union Finance Limited**, amalgamated with **Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited**, subsequently **Shriram Transport Company Limited** name Changed as **Shriram Finance Limited**) We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/guarantors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non-Performing Asset in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorized Officer of **SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD.** under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein below under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002, calling upon the following borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the notices and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. until the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of notices.

The notices issued to them on their last known addresses have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Borrowers(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantors	NPA DATE: 08.04.2024	Date Of Demand Notice: 12.01.2026
(1) Bhashapaka Harikrishna, S/o: Bhashapaka Venkaiah, Age: 53 Years, Occ: Self Employee, R/o: H.No: 5-11-48, Srivenkateswara Apartments, Shantheni Nagar, Nalgonda (M & D)-508001. B/o: Proprietor of "Earth Movers, 7036099922, 985091755. (2) Bhashapaka Jyothi, W/o: Bhashapaka Harikrishna, Age: 46 Years, Occ: Govt. Employee, R/o: H.No: 5-11-48, Srivenkateswara Apartments, Shantheni Nagar, Nalgonda (M & D)-508001. O/O: "E.S.I.C Dispensary Hospital", Choutupuri (V & M), Yadadri-Bhongiri (D)- 508252, 9063230590, 8008740318. (3) Kathula Srihar, S/o: Kathula Laxmaiah, Age: 38 Years, Occ: Self Employee, R/o: H.No: 5-10-289, Near SBI Back Side, Manyam Chalka (V), Nalgonda (M & D)-508001. B/o: Proprietor of "Civil Contractor Road And Buildings", 7659808616.	Outstanding Amount: Rs. 20,26,719/-	Rs. 18,00,000/-

.....Borrowers/Co-borrower /Guarantors/Legal heirs

MTHKUTF2104300002 - DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: All that Open House Plot within Survey No. 83 in Ward No. 5, Block No. 11 inside Residential Zone, Comprising Total Area as per Plan 666.0 Square Yards or 556.86 Square Meters Situated At Shantheniagar, Naolognd Town, within the Registration District and Sub District Nalgonda and Bounded as follows: **Towards East:** Land of Vendor, **Towards West:** Land of Chinta Venkataiah, **Towards North:** 20' Wide Road, **Towards South:** Plot of Kathula Renuka.

In the circumstances as aforesaid, the notice is hereby given to the above borrowers, co-borrowers and/or their guarantors (where ever applicable) to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and the mortgagors under Section 13(4) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the applicable rules there under.

Please note that under Section 13 (13) of the said Act, no Borrower shall, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.

Dated: 17.02.2026
 Place: NALGONDA & YADADRI-BHONGIRI
 Authorized Officer
 SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD.

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED
 Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No. 14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032.
 Administrative office: 6th Floor (level 2), Building No. Q2, Aarum Q parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710.

DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors/mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from **Shriram Finance Limited**, (Formerly known as **Shriram City Union Finance Limited**, amalgamated with **Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited**, subsequently **Shriram Transport Company Limited** name Changed as **Shriram Finance Limited**) We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/guarantors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non-Performing Asset in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorized Officer of **SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD.** under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein below under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002, calling upon the following borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the notices and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. until the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of notices.

The notices issued to them on their last known addresses have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Borrowers(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantors	NPA DATE: 31.10.2011	Date Of Demand Notice: 04.02.2026
(1) Krishna Reddy N, S/o: N Venkat Reddy, Age: 50 Years, Occ: Self Employee, R/o: Address - I: H.No: 21-122, Venkateshwara Colony, Atmakur (M), Wanaparthy (D), Pincode: 509133, Address -II: Champapat, Agriculture Colony, Nidi Seri Apartment, Disukhnagar, Hyderabad (D), Pincode: 500060, B/o: Contractor, Ph. No: 9848115152. (2) N Srinivas Reddy, S/o: N Venkat Reddy, Age: 50 Years, Occ: Self Employee, R/o: H.No: 21-122, Venkateshwara Colony, Atmakur (M), Wanaparthy (D), Pincode: 5091033. B/o: IT Returns, Ph. No: 966993900	Outstanding Amount: Rs. 54,57,668/-	Rs. 10,00,000/-

.....Borrowers/Co-borrower /Guarantors/Legal heirs

GADWLT07070003 - DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: SCHEDULE: Property on the name of N Krishna Reddy, District Register Office Mahabubnagar, Sub Register Atmakur, Block No. 21, Venkateswara Nagar Site Measuring East to West 23 Feet North to South 5.6 Feet And East to West 8.3 Feet, North to South 14.03 Feet Total an extent 160 Sq.Yards or 133-78 Sq.Ms in that House Bearing Old D.No. 9-68 New D.No. 21.122 of Atmakur Mandal, Mahabubnagar Dist. This Property belongs to Sri. N. Krishna Reddy R/o: Atmakur. And bounded as follows: **Towards East:** 20 Feet Wide Road, **Towards West:** APSRTC Bus Stand, **Towards North:** 3.6-4.6 Wide Land From Bada Basumya, **Towards South:** 6 Feet Lane From Shankar Reddy House.

In the circumstances as aforesaid, the notice is hereby given to the above borrowers, co-borrowers and/or their guarantors (where ever applicable) to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and the mortgagors under Section 13(4) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the applicable rules there under.

Please note that under Section 13 (13) of the said Act, no Borrower shall, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.

Dated: 17.02.2026
 Place: WANAPARTHY
 Authorized Officer
 SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD.

www.thesouthindiatimes.com

info.southindiatimes@gmail.com

Review on Farmer Registry, Crab Booking Urea Stocks and Sales, Farmer Insurance

WARANGAL, February 18, TSIT : A video conference was held with District Collector Dr. Satya Sharada, Assistant Director of Agriculture Department Anuradha and Agriculture Extension Officers at the District Collector's office on Wednesday. In this video conference, a review was conducted on schemes such as farmer registry, crab booking urea storage and sales, farmer insurance etc. In this video conference, the district collector said that without any mis-



takes, the district collector ordered that every AEO should visit the crops planted by the farmers and record the details of the crops according to the survey numbers. AEOs should collect all the details of pending farmers related to farm-

ers register in all the villages under their jurisdiction and create ID, said that it should be ensured that all the PACS are stocked without any difficulty so that urea can be supplied to the farmers. Agriculture Department officials and agricultural extension officers ensure that farmers use fertilizers and pesticides as required and The district collector has directed the concerned field level officials of the agriculture department to train the farmers on organic farming.

BA, B.COM COMBINED TEAM LIFTS CRICKET TROPHY AT GOVT. DEGREE COLLEGE HAYATHNAGAR

HYDERABAD: The BA and B.Com final year students' team, led by captain Chandu, clinched the cricket final at the annual day games competitions organized by the Physical Education Department of Government Degree College Hayathnagar. In the closely contested match held on Wednesday, the winning team defeated the B.Sc final year side captained by Saikumar, who finished as runners-up. College Principal Dr. Suresh Babu presented prizes to the winners, emphasizing that sports foster mental development



and teach valuable lessons in facing competition. Physical Director Dr. Anitha supervised the event. Vice Principal Indira, faculty members Dr. Bala Narasimha, Dr. Avesh, Dr. Shekhar, Ramadevi, Yadaiah, Dr. Venkateswarlu, Dr. Durga Prasad, and others congratulated the students on their achievement.

JOURNALISTS MUST WORK WITH SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: TELANGANA MEDIA ACADEMY CHAIRMAN : SREENIVAS REDDY

SERILINGAMPALLY TSIT: Telangana Media Academy Chairman K. Sreenivas Reddy emphasized that journalists should uphold social responsibility while performing their duties, safeguarding the respect they command in society and prioritizing their health. He was speaking at the launch of the Rangareddy District Media Diary 2026, prepared by the Telangana Union of Working Journalists (TUWJ), held at the Media Academy office in Nampally on Wednesday. The diary was unveiled by State TUWJ President Virahath Ali, Secretary Kompalli Srikanth Reddy, along with District President MD Salim Pasha and Secretary Satyanarayana. Presiding over the meeting, District President MD Salim Pasha highlighted the com-



mendable role of the Rangareddy unit in addressing journalists' issues. He praised initiatives such as providing Rs.5 lakh accident insurance and organizing health camps in various assembly constituencies. The union's support for the family of journalist Ramulu, who passed away in Shabad, Chevella constituency, was described as a positive development. Chairman K. Sreenivas Reddy commended

the Rangareddy unit for compiling the diary with comprehensive district information. He announced that the Academy would provide assistance to families of deceased journalists through a compiled list. He noted that widows of deceased journalists receive a monthly pension of Rs.3,000 for five years, and children studying below Class 10 get Rs.1,000 per month.

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DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from Shriram Finance Limited, (Formerly known as Shriram City Union Finance Limited, amalgamated with Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited, subsequently Shriram Transport Company Limited name Changed as Shriram Finance Limited) We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/guarantors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non-Performing Asset in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorized Officer of SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD. under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein below under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 calling upon the following borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the notices and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. until the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of notices.

The notices issued to them on their last known addresses have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantors	NPA DATE:	Date Of Demand Notice:
(1) Yebbilli Sunkanna, S/o. Yebbilli Ganganna, Age: 50 Years, R/O: H.No: 7-5-101, Kunta Street, Gadwal (V & M), Gadwal (D), Pin Code: 509125, Ph. No: 9052974387 (Borrower By Name Yebbilli Sunkanna Was Died Intestate, So far his following Surviving Legal Heirs I.E., Wife, Son & 2 Daughters is Impleaded as a party to the Notice), (2) Yebbilli Jayalakshmi, W/o: Yebbilli Sunkanna, Age: 45 Years, Occ: House Wife, R/O: H.No: 7-5-101, Kunta Street, Gadwal (V & M), Gadwal (D), Pin Code: 509125, Ph. No: 9959521056 (Guarantor and Legal Heir of the Deceased Borrower by Name Yebbilli Sunkanna), (3) K. Syamsundhar, S/o. K. Krishnaya, Age: 45 Years, Occ: Self Employee, R/O: H.No: 7-5-5812, Kuntaveedhi, Gadwal (V & M & D), Pincode: 509125, Ph: LIC Agent, Ph: 9949267689. (4) Yebbilli Thulasi, D/o: Yebbilli Sunkanna, Age: 20 Years, Occ: Self Employee, R/O: H.No: 7-5-101, Kunta Street, Gadwal (V & M), Gadwal (D), Pin Code: 509125 (Legal Heir of the Deceased Borrower by Name Yebbilli Sunkanna), (5) Yebbilli Arun, S/o: Yebbilli Sunkanna, Age: 24 Years, Occ: Self Employee, R/O: H.No: 7-5-101, Kunta Street, Gadwal (V & M), Gadwal (D), Pin Code: 509125 (Legal Heir of the Deceased Borrower by Name Yebbilli Sunkanna), (6) Yebbilli Anusha, D/o: Yebbilli Sunkanna, Age: 27 Years, Occ: Self Employee, R/O: H.No: 7-5-101, Kunta Street, Gadwal (V & M), Gadwal (D), Pin Code: 509125 (Legal Heir Of The Deceased Borrower By Name Yebbilli Sunkanna)	30.09.2018	04.02.2026
	Outstanding Amount: Rs. 28,45,290/-	Loan Amount: Rs. 8,00,000/-

PROPERTY ADDRESS OF SECURED ASSETS: MRLGDTF1703290011- DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
 Property Holder Name: Yebbilli Sunkanna, Mahabubnagar Regn. Dist., Gadwal Sub Dist., Gadwal Town Municipal Area, Dilapidated House And Now Vacant Site No. 7-5-95/1 Measuring East To West 15, Ft North To South 18 Ft, Total 30 Sq.Yards or 25 Sq.Meters, And bounded as follows: Towards East: House of Madar Sab, Towards West: Road, Towards North: House of Carpenter Syed Sab, Towards South: House of E. Jamadagni.

In the circumstances as aforesaid, the notice is hereby given to the above borrowers, co-borrowers and/or their guarantors (where ever applicable) to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and the mortgagors under Section 13(4) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the applicable rules there under.

Please note that under Section 13 (13) of the said Act, no Borrower shall, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.

Dated: 17.02.2026
 Place: GADWAL
 Sd/-Authorized Officer
 SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD.

FORM BIS STANDARDS CLUBS ACROSS TELANGANA TO SENSITIZE STUDENTS: CONSUMER LEADER

HYDERABAD: Dr. Pallepada Damodar, President of the Southern States Consumer Coordinating Committee, has urged the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to establish Standards Clubs in schools and colleges across Telangana to foster quality awareness among students. During a meeting with BIS Telangana Head Srikanth, accompanied by consumer representatives Mamidi Bheem Reddy, Sambaraju Chakrapani, and Anand Srikrishna Reddy, Damodar emphasized that such clubs would help students understand product quality standards, ultimately strengthening consumer



protection. Srikanth explained that BIS already conducts training programmes for teachers, who in turn guide students in Standards Clubs. He assured that efforts would be made to activate the clubs statewide. Damodar also stressed that BIS must ensure uniform implementation of quality standards for all commodities.

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DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from Shriram Finance Limited, (Formerly known as Shriram City Union Finance Limited, amalgamated with Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited, subsequently Shriram Transport Company Limited name Changed as Shriram Finance Limited, by its Incorporation dt.30-11-2022). We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/guarantors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non Performing Asset in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorized Officer of SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD. under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein below under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 calling upon the following borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the notices and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc until the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of notices. The notices issued to them on their last known addresses have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

NAME OF THE BORROWER(S)/ Co-Borrower(S)/Guarantors	NPA DATE:	DATE OF DEMAND NOTICE:	OUTSTANDING AMOUNT:	LOAN AMOUNT
1) Kandela Sreeramulu, S/o: Anjaiah, Age: 40 Years Occ: Business R/O: H.No: P-1257 Pylon Colony Chintalapalem Power House Hostel Vijaya Puri North Nalgonda - 508203 Cell: 9550717807 2) Kandela Veeramna, W/o: Kandela Sreeramulu, Occ: R/O: H.No: D-174 Pylon Colony Nelikela Colony Nalgonda Town Nalgonda District - 508202 Cell: 81132282 3) Kandela Ramulama, W/o: Anjaiah, Age: 58years, Occ: House Wife, H.No: P-1258, Pylon Colony, Vijayapuri North, Chintalapalem, Nalgonda District - 508203 Cell: 901006978 4) Madain Nagaiash, S/o Maraiash, Age: 39years, Occ: Business, H.No: P-1299, Pylon Colony, Vijayapuri North, Chintalapalem, Power House, Nalgonda Dist, Cell: 8142378841	31.10.2017	13.01.2026	Rs. 34,14,230/-	Rs. 6,00,000/-

PROPERTY ADDRESS OF SECURED ASSETS: MRLGDTF1703290011- DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
 Property Holder Name: Kandela Ramulama W/O: Kandela Anjaiah With Document No: 1853 OF 2017
 All That The Part Of The House In Sy Nos: 690/8 & 691 And House No: 28-155 Ad Measuring 121 Sq Yards Equivalent To 101.16 Sq Meters Situated At Block No: 28 Sundhar Nagar Residential Area Miryalaguda Municipality & Town Revenue Mandal Nalgonda District And Bounded As Follows: North: Venma Muthyala Place, South: 18 Feet Wide Road, East: K Maraiash House, West: K Bod Sunkaiah & Others Place

In the circumstances as aforesaid, the notice is hereby given to the above borrowers, co-borrowers and/or their guarantors (where ever applicable) to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and the mortgagors under Section 13(4) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the applicable rules there under.

Please note that under Section 13 (13) of the said Act, no Borrower shall, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.

Dated: 18-02-2026
 Place: MIRYALAGUDA
 Sd/-Authorized Officer
 SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD.

COLLECTOR INSTRUCTS STRICT ARRANGEMENTS FOR INTERMEDIATE EXAMS STARTING FEB 25

WARANGAL: District Collector Dr. Satya Sharada has directed officials to ensure smooth and controlled conduct of Intermediate Public Examinations, commencing February 25 across 26 centers in the district. Chairing a coordination review meeting at the Collectorate, she ordered mandatory facilities including dual desks, fans, lighting, drinking water, and CC TV cameras at all exam venues. Medical staff will also be deployed at each center. A total of 12,166 students will appear for the exams—6,003 first-year and 6,163 second-year students. The Collector announced the appointment of a district examination committee, one flying squad, two sitting squads, 26 chief superintendents, and 26 departmental officers for supervision. Strict protocols for transportation, question paper storage, and answer sheet handling were emphasized. Students with queries can contact toll-free number 9240205555.

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED
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DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from Shriram Finance Limited, (Formerly known as Shriram City Union Finance Limited, amalgamated with Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited, subsequently Shriram Transport Company Limited name Changed as Shriram Finance Limited, by its Incorporation dt.30-11-2022). We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/guarantors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non Performing Asset in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorized Officer of SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD. under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein below under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 calling upon the following borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the notices and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc until the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of notices. The notices issued to them on their last known addresses have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

NAME OF THE BORROWER(S)/ Co-Borrower(S)/Guarantors	NPA DATE:	DATE OF DEMAND NOTICE:	OUTSTANDING AMOUNT:	LOAN AMOUNT
1) Boddupally Lakshmanachary, S/o Venkataramulu, Age: 32 Yrs Occ: Laxmanachary Iron Works & Bhavani Cable Networks At Devarakonda R/O H.No: 14-66 Nehru Bazar Devarakonda Nalgonda(d)-508248 Cell: 9843397157 2) Boddupally Venkataramulu, S/o Narsimha/narasiah, Age: 76 Yrs Occ: Business R/O H.No: 14-66 Nehru Bazar Devarakonda Town & Mandal Nalgonda District - 508248 Cell: 9014555420 3) Boddupally Kanakamma, W/o Venkataramulu, Age: 62 Yrs, Occ: House Wife, R/O H.No: 14-66, Nehru Bazar, Devarakonda, Nalgonda District - 508248 Cell: 9640305929 4) Mohamad Bin Abdulla, S/o Abdullahin Ahmad, Age: 48 Yrs, Occ: Helper Non It In Trstc At Devarakonda Depo, Emp Id: 255179, R/O H.No: 19-156, Gandhi Nagar, Devarakonda, Nalgonda(d), Cell: 7382833029	30.11.2015	13.01.2026	Rs. 27,83,749/-	Rs. 6,00,000/-

PROPERTY ADDRESS OF SECURED ASSETS: MRLGDTF150325002- DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
 Property Holder Name: Boddupally Venkata Ramulu S/O Boddupally Narasiah With Document No: 2845 OF 2015
 Nalgonda District Devarakonda Sub District Nalgonda Zilla Parishad Devarakonda Grampanchayath And Village Accounts Block No. 15 Sy No. 421 Site Measuring East To West 25 Ft North To South 14 Ft. Total Admeasuring 406 Sq Ft Or 45.1 Sq Yards. In This House Bearing Dno. 15-142 (Pinth Area 363.0 Sq.Yards Age Of Building 20 Years): North: House Of N.Jangiah, South: House Of O.Amuthabai, East: House Of A.Srinivasulu, West: Internal Road

In the circumstances as aforesaid, the notice is hereby given to the above borrowers, co-borrowers and/or their guarantors (where ever applicable) to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and the mortgagors under Section 13(4) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the applicable rules there under.

Please note that under Section 13 (13) of the said Act, no Borrower shall, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.

Dated: 18-02-2026
 Place: MIRYALAGUDA
 Sd/-Authorized Officer
 SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD.

Rajadhani Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd,
 H.No. 3-4-1005/2/1, Indrani Complex, Barkatpura, Hyderabad - 500 027.

AUCTION SALE NOTICE TO THE BORROWER/GUARANTORS & GENERAL PUBLIC
 NOTICE issued under rule 8 (6) & 9 (1) of Security Interest Enforcement Rules 2002
SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY MORTGAGED TO THE BANK UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002.
To: 1. Borrower & Mortgagor: Sri.Kunal Gupta, H No 1-2-303, Flat No 303, SNR The Legend Apartment, Domalguda, Hyderabad 20. 2. (Borrower) Smt.Durga Agarwal, H No 1-2-303, Flat No 303, SNR The Legend Apartment, Domalguda, Hyd-bad 500 020. 3. (Guarantor) Smt.Shilpa Agarwal, H No 5-9-122/A/1/31, Maheshwari Apartments, Adash Nagar, Basheerbagh, Hyderabad. 4. (Guarantor) Sri.Ruchin Agarwal, H No 8-8-884/3/14, Vemireddy Enclave, Road No 12, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad 500 034. 5. (Guarantor) Sri.Nitin Kumar Agarwal H No 5-9-122/A/1/31, Maheshwari Apartments, Adash Nagar, Basheerbagh, Hyderabad.
Time Schedule for auction of property:
 Tender forms available: At the Barkatpura Branch from 16/03/2026 to 17/03/2026 from 10.30 a.m to 04.30 p.m during the working days.
 Last date and time for submission of closed Bids on or before: 18/03/2026 till 04.00 p.m
 Date of inspection/verification: 20/03/2026 between 11.00 a.m to 02.00 p.m
EMD Payment: DD/BPO in favour of Rajadhani Co-operative urban bank ltd.
Opening of Closed bids: 23/03/2026 at 11.00 a.m.
Auction Place & time: 23/03/2026 at 11.30 a.m. Rajadhani Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd, Barkatpura Branch, Hyderabad
Reserve Price: Rs. 4,00,00,000/-EMD: Rs. 40,00,000/-
 Prior Encumbrance: Rajadhani Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd, Barkatpura Branch, Hyderabad
Currency: Auction Property: Mortgaged properties: Schedule of property belonging to Sri Kunal Gupta S/o Sri Raman Lal agarwal, (Sale Deed No 2437/2019)
 All that the said property bearing Municipal No 7-20/25, in survey No 876, with total built-up area of 11616 square feet, with total land admeasuring 2000 sq yds., or 1672.2 square meters, situated at Kukkalpally village, Balanagar Mandal, Under GHMC Kukkalpally Circle, Medchal-Malkajgiri Dist (erstwhile Rangly District), Telangana State, bounded by: North: Property of A.Maisiah South: Part of Property No 7-20/26, East: Road 30 feet wide, West: Maisamma Cheruvu

Terms and Conditions:
 1. The auction is being held on "AS IS WHERE IS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS".
 2. The sale shall be subjected to rules/conditions prescribed under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.
 3. The purchaser should go through the complete terms and condition available in our Rajadhani Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd, Barkatpura Branch Bid form for application. Further please Contact No:9848335327.
Note: The SA 32/2024 filed by Sri Kunal Gupta before DRT-I, Hyderabad was dismissed on 2/11/2025.

P.Adinarayana Reddy
 Authorized Officer/Chief Executive Officer
 Rajadhani Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd,
 Barkatpura, Hyderabad.

Dated: 17-02-2026.
 Place: Hyderabad.

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED
 Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No. 14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032.
 Administrative office: 6th Floor (level 2), Building No. Q2, Aarum Q parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710.

DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from Shriram Finance Limited, (Formerly known as Shriram City Union Finance Limited, amalgamated with Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited, subsequently Shriram Transport Company Limited name Changed as Shriram Finance Limited, by its Incorporation dt.30-11-2022). We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/guarantors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non Performing Asset in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorized Officer of SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD. under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein below under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 calling upon the following borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the notices and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc until the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of notices. The notices issued to them on their last known addresses have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

NAME OF THE BORROWER(S)/ Co-Borrower(S)/Guarantors	NPA DATE:	DATE OF DEMAND NOTICE:	OUTSTANDING AMOUNT:	LOAN AMOUNT
1) Maddimadugu Kishore, S/o: Laxmaiah, Age: 45 Years Occ: Business R/O: H.No: 4-621 Sc Colony Anumula Village And Mandal Nalgonda District - 508377 Cell: 9010010803 2) Madanu Jyothi, W/o: Kishore, Age: 36 Years Occ: Business R/O: H.No: 6-46/1 Kethapalli Village And Mandal Nalgonda District - 508211 Cell: 9032532434 3) Ganekampuri Rathan Kumar, S/o: Ramulu, Age: 40 Years Occ: Business R/O: H.No: 17-1-382/V/1 Plot No: 16 Phaso No: 01 Vysali Nagar Post Office Hyderabad- 500079 Cell: 9393663366	31.03.2019	13.01.2026	Rs. 33,62,409/-	Rs. 10,00,000/-

PROPERTY ADDRESS OF SECURED ASSETS: MRLGDTF1802280016- DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
 Property Holder Name: Maddimadugu Kishore With Document No: 1023 OF 2018
 All That S No: 38 Ad Measuring 225 Sq Yards Equivalent To 189 Sq Meters Situated At Block No: 04 Anumula Gram Panchayath And Revenue Village Anumula Revenue Mandal Nalgonda District: North: Perur Road, South: Boddupally Ididiah Vacant Land, East: Erati Yadaiah Etc Vacant Land, Hno: 4-628, West: 25 Feet Wide Road

In the circumstances as aforesaid, the notice is hereby given to the above borrowers, co-borrowers and/or their guarantors (where ever applicable) to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and the mortgagors under Section 13(4) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the applicable rules there under.

Please note that under Section 13 (13) of the said Act, no Borrower shall, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.

Dated: 18-02-2026
 Place: MIRYALAGUDA
 Sd/-Authorized Officer
 SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD.

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED
 Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No. 14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032.
 Administrative office: 6th Floor (level 2), Building No. Q2, Aarum Q parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710.

DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from Shriram Finance Limited, (Formerly known as Shriram City Union Finance Limited, amalgamated with Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited, subsequently Shriram Transport Company Limited name Changed as Shriram Finance Limited, by its Incorporation dt.30-11-2022). We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/guarantors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non Performing Asset in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorized Officer of SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD. under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein below under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 calling upon the following borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the notices and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc until the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of notices. The notices issued to them on their last known addresses have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

NAME OF THE BORROWER(S)/ Co-Borrower(S)/Guarantors	NPA DATE:	DATE OF DEMAND NOTICE:	OUTSTANDING AMOUNT:	LOAN AMOUNT
1) Kanchanapally Satyam Goud, S/o: Kanchanapally Yadi Ramulu, Age: 42 Years, Occ: Self Employee, R/O: H.No: 1-3, Singannaguda(V), Mulugum(M), Kukkonda, Siddipet(D)-502336, B/O: Proprietor Of "Satyam Poultry Farm & Vegetable Supply", At Singanapally, Vantamandi, Zaphi Singanapally, Mulug, Siddipet-502336, 7659955504. 2) Kanchanapally Sri Latha, W/o: Kanchanapally Satyam Goud, Age: 35 Years, Occ: House Wife, R/O: H.No: 1-3, Singannaguda(V), Mulugum(M), Kukkonda, Siddipet(D)-502336, B/O: Proprietor Of "Satyam Poultry Farm & Vegetable Supply", At Singanapally, Vantamandi, Zaphi Singanapally, Mulug, Siddipet-502336, 7659955504. 3) Manne Baskar, S/o: Manne Yadagiri, Age: 31 Years, Occ: Self Employee, R/O: H.No: 2-182, Singannaguda(V), Kukkonda, Mulugum(M), Siddipet(D)-502336, 9666700882.	09.05.2024	16.01.2026	Rs. 21,42,734/-	Rs. 14,00,000/-

PROPERTY ADDRESS OF SECURED ASSETS: HMTYNTF2308020001- DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
 All That The Piece And Parcel Of House Bearing No. 1-7, Admeasuring An Area Of 90.22 Sq. Yards, Having Construction Area Of 270 Square Feets, Assessment No. 3205574/0007, Situated At Singannaguda Village And Gram Panchayath, Mulugu Mandal, Siddipet District And Bounded As Follows: Towards East: House Of Kanchanapally Satyanarayana, Towards West: Road, Towards North: House Of Kanchanapally Nagarani, Towards South: House Of Kanchanapally Rajaiah.

In the circumstances as aforesaid, the notice is hereby given to the above borrowers, co-borrowers and/or their guarantors (where ever applicable) to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and the mortgagors under Section 13(4) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the applicable rules there under.

Please note that under Section 13 (13) of the said Act, no Borrower shall, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.

Dated: 18-02-2026
 Place: SIDDIPEET
 Sd/-Authorized Officer
 SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD.

EDITORIAL

THE US IS MULTITASKING 2 VERY DIFFERENT PEACE DEALS

The US opened two sets of major peace negotiations in Geneva on Tuesday, in what's best described as a form of diplomatic speed dating. The one with Iran broke up after less than four hours, as the two sides left to draw up competing draft agreements. The talks on ending Russia's war in Ukraine were only getting started and will continue Wednesday. That should come as no surprise, if only because it's a lot harder to stop a war than to avoid starting one.

That's something both the US and Iran have strong motivations to do. For leaders of the Islamic Republic, a collapse of negotiations would invite a military contest with Israel and potentially two US carrier strike groups. They might survive that, but could never hope to win. For the US, military action is also less than appealing, because after reducing Iran's nuclear facilities to rubble last year, a win this time would require regime change. And that's not only historically unlikely without putting boots on the ground, it could also produce politically toxic blowback in the leadup to November's midterm elections.

Iran is, of course, unhappy to be negotiating under the threat of attack. Its announcement of a partial closure of the Strait of Hormuz for military exercises, just as the talks began on Tuesday, was an attempt to level the playing field. But for all his bombast, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei knows the weakness of his position. Khamenei can ill-afford a repeat of Iran's humiliating defeat in last year's 12-day war with Israel and the US. He might feel obliged this time to follow through on his last-throw-of-the-dice threats, such as hobbling world oil markets (and his own primary revenue source) by blocking the Strait of Hormuz to tanker traffic, or attacking US military bases and Gulf allies. But the more the conflict escalates, the greater the US and Israeli response and the higher the risk of regime collapse. So Iran is now following Russia's playbook - and that of pretty much every country that has business with Washington these days - by offering Trump commercial incentives to take a deal Khamenei can accept. Iranian officials have made it broadly clear what that is, even if they're tactful enough to put it differently: Something similar to the 2015 nuclear agreement that Trump abrogated in 2018.

There's little cost to Khamenei in agreeing to a lengthy suspension of his uranium enrichment program, together with limits and verification inspections, because US and Israeli bombs already froze it. With a nation in turmoil over plummeting living standards, Tehran's deeply unpopular leaders need US sanctions eased far more than they need a rebuilt uranium enrichment program that, at the best of times, was a huge net drain on resources.

With Iran hawks in Israel and Washington champing at the bit for regime change, that may not be enough for Trump, so nothing is certain. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel has made it clear that the only deal he thinks worth making would also eliminate Tehran's arsenal of missiles capable of reaching Israel and force an end to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' support for Iranian proxies across the region, from Hezbollah in Lebanon to the Houthis of Yemen.

From Iran's point of view, that would leave it unable to respond to all should Israel attack again, and would involve an inspection regime far more intrusive of IRGC military dispositions than anything a nuclear deal would require. It would amount to surrender, which Khamenei certainly deserves but won't accept. A win for Trump on Iran's nuclear threat, by contrast, is there for the taking.

And yet it's the Moscow-Kyiv talks Trump told reporters would be easy to resolve ahead of Geneva, warning that "Ukraine better come to the table, fast." It's a misapprehension the US president has labored under since he said he could end the war in 24 hours, well over a year ago. Kyiv has been at the table for a long time. It's Moscow that insists on terms that further its war aims and leave the gate open to restarting the war at a later date, against an opponent that would emerge weakened by the terms of the settlement. The more Trump has become involved in driving this peace process, the more brutal Russia's invasion has become. Putin hasn't hidden his intent. His officials have been signaling his inflexibility. He has sent his former culture minister and history-propagandist-in-chief, Vladimir Medinsky, to head the delegation in Geneva again, after being absent for two more pragmatic sessions.

India's Northeast Has A New Problem - 'Jamaat' Surge Along Bangladesh Border



The 13th Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad election of 2026 has produced two simultaneous political messages. First, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has won and will form the government. Second, and strategically more consequential for the region, the Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami (Jamaat) has registered an unprecedented surge. Jamaat secured 68 seats and 31.76% of the vote, contesting 223 out of 300 constituencies. Its previous best was in 1991, when it won 18 seats with around 12% of the vote. Even more striking is the broader right-wing Islamist vote share, which has climbed to roughly 38% - far above the earlier ceiling of about 15%. This is not merely an electoral fluctuation; it is a structural shift in Bangladesh's political demography. Jamaat's registration was cancelled by Bangladesh's Supreme Court in 2013, and it could not contest elections in 2014, 2018, and 2024. However, some Jamaat leaders contested the 2018 election under the BNP party symbol, in a tacit understanding. Whether deliberate or incidental, the transitional period when Mohammed Yunus helmed the interim government in Bangladesh helped create space for Jamaat's organisational consolidation and electoral preparation, aided by the vacuum created by the Awami League's ban from contesting the election. The 2026 verdict, therefore, reflects not just campaign momentum but also the gradual normalisation

of a party that had once been politically marginalised. For India, the correct lens is neither alarm nor indifference. The BNP is in power. Yet, the Jamaat's emergence as a major parliamentary force will shape the political tone, policy debates and street mobilisation in Bangladesh over the next five years. The Border Geography adds a security dimension to India's concerns. Most of Jamaat's victories have come from the north-west and south-west regions adjoining Indian states such as West Bengal, Assam and Meghalaya. In Indian border districts like Khulna, Rongpur and Rajshahi, Jamaat completely dominated the election result. This does not automatically translate into instability. Border management and intelligence cooperation between India and Bangladesh have improved significantly in recent years. However, political representation matters. When border constituencies are dominated by a party historically sceptical of India, New Delhi's security calculus inevitably adjusts. The memory of the 2004 Chittagong arms haul remains relevant. Ten truckloads of arms were seized, allegedly destined for the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) in India. Among those later convicted by Bangladeshi courts was Motiur Rahman Nizami, then Jamaat's Ameer (Chief) and a cabinet minister in the BNP-led government. Nizami and ULFA chief Paresh Barua (in absentia) were sen-

tenced to life imprisonment with others. It is a different matter that Nizami was prosecuted in 2016 after Bangladesh's International Crime Tribunal found him guilty for his role in masterminding the Demra Massacre of May 13, 1971, in which 800-900 unarmed Hindu civilians were killed. The arms trafficking episode with direct association of high-profile figures underscored how cross-border insurgent linkages can complicate bilateral ties. While today's leadership distances itself from militancy, the precedent explains why Indian agencies will watch border developments closely. A Capital Breakthrough One of the most underappreciated aspects of the result is Jamaat's breakthrough in the political capital. For the first time, the party has won seats in the Dhaka metropolitan area. Out of 20 seats in Dhaka, it has secured six. In symbolic and practical terms, this matters enormously. Dhaka is not just an electoral cluster; it is the centre of administrative authority, media influence, and ideological contestation. A stronger parliamentary presence from the capital gives Jamaat additional visibility, bargaining power, and narrative control. For India, this suggests that Jamaat's rise is no longer confined to peripheral districts. It now has a foothold in the heart of Bangladesh's power structure. Jamaat And The Ideological Question Jamaat's past continues to shape perceptions. During the 1971 Liberation War, ele-

ments within the party collaborated with the Pakistani Army and supported the Rajakar militia. Subsequent war crimes trials cemented its controversial legacy. Cut to 2026, the party is seeking to moderate its public posture. It expressed support for minority rights and stepped back from explicit calls for establishing a Sharia-based state. It even fielded a Hindu candidate in the recently concluded polls, though unsuccessfully. Yet, the outfit's core ideological positions remain unchanged. Full membership (rukun) is constitutionally restricted to Muslims, effectively excluding non-Muslims from leadership and policy-making roles. The party fielded no women candidates. Its Ameer publicly reiterated that women should not occupy leadership positions within Jamaat, citing religious doctrine. In the run-up to the election, he said to Al Jazeera, "On the question of women, Jamaat's position is neither confused nor apologetic - it's principled. We do not think women should come into leadership. In Jamaat, it is impossible. Allah did not permit it." Allegations Of Extremist Links Bangladeshi security assessments over the years have reported ideological overlaps between Jamaat, its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir, and extremist organisations such as Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami Bangladesh (HuJI-B). Jamaat has consistently denied such institutional links. However, investigations have pointed to similarities in recruitment pipelines and messaging ecosystems. For India, the issue is operational rather than rhetorical. Any weakening of Bangladesh's internal counter-extremism vigilance could have spillover effects in India's North-East, where insurgencies have declined but not entirely disappeared. BNP in Power, Jamaat in Ascent Here, it is important to reiterate that Jamaat has not won the election - the BNP has. The government in Dhaka will be led by a party with its own strategic calculus and diplomatic priorities. However, the former's strengthened parliamentary presence introduces a new dynamic. As a powerful opposition or coalition influencer, it may adopt a sharper positioning to expand its base. One tactic could be to take a pronounced anti-India line.

INDIA'S AI IMPACT GOES BEYOND THE US-CHINA BINARY

As New Delhi hosts the India-AI Impact Summit, the significance extends far beyond a packed Bharat Mandapam and a high-profile guest list. For the first time, a major global AI summit is being held in the Global South, after earlier editions in the United Kingdom, South Korea and France. The venue change is not merely symbolic. Instead, it signals an emerging reality: India's voice is increasingly shaping the rules and the relationships that will define the next era of technology, and the world seems eager to hear what the country has to say. For years, global technology governance has been framed as a binary choice. The United States represents a corporate-led model: rapid innovation driven by private platforms, proprietary ecosystems, and regulation that is often fragmented or reactive. China, by contrast, represents a state-led model: strategic industrial policy, tightly coupled technology and governance systems, and the export of digital infrastructure through bilateral and multilateral arrangements that often bundle technology with geopolitical influence. As competition between these two models intensifies, many countries, particularly in the Global South, have found both options unsatisfying. The American model promises innovation but often leaves governments dependent on a handful of global firms with limited accountability. The Chinese model offers scale and speed, but at the cost of deep strategic dependence, opaque governance, and reduced policy autonomy over data and digital infrastructure. Increasingly, the search is on for a path that allows sovereign nations to access modern digital systems that serve citizens at scale, without locking governments into vendor monopolies or long-term geopolitical alignments that they cannot easily exit. India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi is increasingly presenting itself as this option: a credible third way that emphasises public value, interoperable infrastructure, and practical governance over ideology. Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) sits at the centre of this pitch. Over the past decade, systems such as Aadhaar for digital identi-

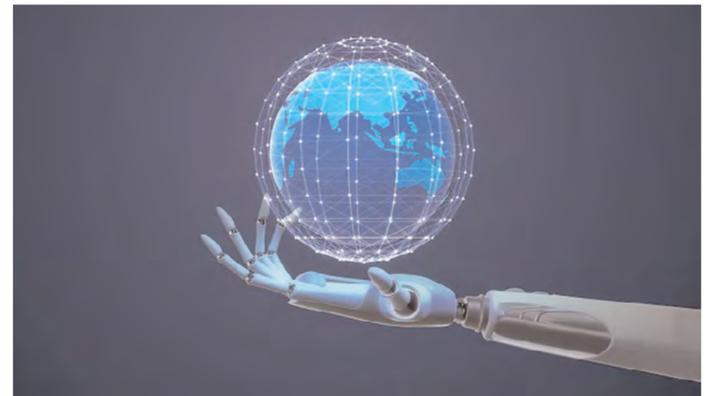


ty, UPI (Unified Payments Interface) for real-time payments, and ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce) for marketplaces have demonstrated that large-scale digital systems can be built as public goods rather than proprietary platforms. These systems now form the backbone of service delivery, financial inclusion, and governance for over a billion people. Crucially, this has meant that they have also proven to be exportable. Over the past two years, India has signed formal cooperation agreements on DPI with more than twenty countries across Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean. Several African nations are among the fastest adopters. Countries such as Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, and Lesotho are working with India to replicate components of the India Stack for digital identity, payments, health systems, and public administration. India's payment infrastructure has also quietly gone global, with UPI now available in multiple countries, including the United Arab Emirates, Singapore, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Qatar, and France. Digital document and data-exchange platforms are travelling as well. Countries such as Cuba, Kenya, the UAE, and Laos have signed agreements to adopt or adapt India's DigiLocker framework, allowing citizens to store and verify official documents digitally. Education platforms like DIKSHA and governance tools such

as e-Office and e-Courts are also being shared through India Stack Global, a government-backed initiative that makes India's DPI components available for replication rather than resale. What is more striking is that this interest is no longer confined to developing economies. The European Union, which was once among the sharpest critics of India's digital identity and data practices, is increasingly engaging with Indian DPI concepts as it grapples with its own concerns about technological sovereignty. While Europe's regulatory standards remain distinct, the shift itself is telling: India's experience is no longer seen merely as an outlier, but as a reference point in a broader global conversation about how digital infrastructure should be built and governed. Taken together, these examples reveal why India's third way in technology is gaining traction. It is not exporting any particular ideology, nor does it seek to assert dominance. What it does offer instead is architecture - an open, interoperable digital framework that allows countries to modernise while retaining control over their own systems. The AI Impact Summit itself reflects this positioning. Consider the summit's guiding idea: Sarvajan Hitaya, Sarvajan Sukhaya, meaning welfare for all, happiness for all. Through this lens, India is deliberately pushing global AI diplomacy away from abstract declarations and toward measurable deployment.

WHY AI IS ALSO A STORY ABOUT ENERGY

India's artificial intelligence ambitions are entering a decisive phase. The Union Budget's 21-year tax holiday for data centres, followed by the India-US agreement to expand cooperation in advanced technologies such as graphics processing units (GPUs), sends a clear signal. India intends to host a larger share of the world's AI infrastructure, not merely consume it. As the India AI Summit approaches, this moment invites a broader reflection. AI is often discussed in terms of talent, algorithms, and compute capacity. Increasingly, however, it is also an energy story. Watching the debate unfold from Washington, DC, it is striking how quickly AI has moved from being a technological conversation to one framed in the language of power plants, grid capacity, and fuel security. Beneath the excitement lies a simple truth: AI runs on electricity. It depends on power supply, cooling systems, and grid reliability, and the way countries plan these foundations will determine the sustainability and competitiveness of their AI ecosystems. That shift is already visible globally. In several advanced economies, rapid growth in data centres is reshaping power system planning as electricity demand from the sector climbs sharply. The consequences are becoming clearer: rising costs for consumers, greater reliance on fossil fuels in some on-site deployments, and growing competition with other electrification priorities such as housing and transport. In



Ireland, where data centres account for roughly a fifth of national electricity use, regulators have tightened grid connection rules and required new facilities to provide on-site generation or storage. In parts of the United States, surging data-centre demand is driving gigawatts of new capacity, with some operators turning to integrated projects that combine data centres with dedicated gas plants to guarantee reliability. Singapore temporarily paused new data-centre approvals after the sector's rapid expansion, and the Netherlands has curtailed hyperscale projects amid concerns over grid constraints and renewable power allocation. These developments are less about policy missteps and more about the sheer speed of AI-driven demand. GPU-intensive workloads are significantly more power-intensive than traditional cloud services and are designed to operate on uninterrupted, high-quality electricity with

multiple layers of backup. Ensuring reliability at this scale is a genuine challenge, even for advanced grids. At the same time, rapid solutions adopted today can shape energy systems for decades. It is against this backdrop that India's position stands out. Over the past decade, the country has undertaken one of the most ambitious energy transformations in the world. Electricity access has expanded to more than 230 million people. Installed power capacity has crossed 500 GW. India is now the world's fourth-largest renewable energy market, with renewable capacity more than tripling since 2014 and non-fossil sources accounting for over half of total installed capacity. Record annual additions and major investments in interstate transmission corridors are strengthening the system's ability to integrate large volumes of clean power. These achievements have undermined India's

economic growth and digital expansion. They also offer a foundation for the next phase - one that will be more energy-intensive as AI adoption scales. At the same time, AI-driven data centres introduce distinct system demands. Their electricity use is concentrated and continuous, often near urban centres. Cooling requirements intensify during periods of heat stress, when grids are already under pressure. What matters is not only annual generation capacity, but whether clean and reliable power is available at the precise hours it is needed. This is where policy alignment becomes critical. The long-term tax incentive for data centres should be seen as a strategic enabler. It offers investors certainty while creating space for thoughtful system design. Aligning AI infrastructure growth with energy planning from the outset can allow India to avoid the carbon-intensive detours now visible elsewhere.

Mangaluru International Airport gets dedicated police outpost



Mangaluru, Feb 18: Dr G Parameshwara, home minister of Karnataka, inaugurated a dedicated police outpost at Mangaluru International Airport, reinforcing landside security and operational coordination at the coastal gateway. Strategically located adjacent to the airport's exit toll gate, the facility is designed to ensure a continuous police presence at a critical access point, enabling swift action in the event of any security or law-and-order situation.

Spread across 1,650 square feet, the two-floor outpost has been purpose-built to support real-time response and coordination. The ground floor houses a holding cell, two workstation rooms and an office, providing on-site capability for enquiry handling, documentation and immediate intervention. The first floor comprises a lounge and a dedicated landside control room to strengthen monitoring of vehicular movement and public areas outside the terminal building. With passenger traffic steadily rising and airport operations becoming increasingly complex, strengthening landside

vigilance has become increasingly important. The new outpost complements the existing police check post near the entry toll gate, creating integrated coverage of both entry and exit points and enhancing deterrence against unlawful activities.

The presence of an on-site holding facility and operational workstations reduces reliance on off-airport infrastructure, enabling faster decision-making and improving response times during emergencies. The landside control room supports closer surveillance and seamless information sharing among agencies.

The initiative is expected to deepen coordination between various authorities, including airport management, the Airport Security Group unit of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and the Mangaluru City Police, fostering joint preparedness and streamlined response protocols.

The inauguration underscores the commitment of the Government of Karnataka, law enforcement authorities and airport stakeholders to continuous-

ly upgrade security infrastructure in line with evolving operational requirements, ensuring a safe, secure and resilient environment for passengers, visitors and the wider community.

About Mangaluru International Airport Limited (MgIAL) Mangaluru International Airport Limited (MgIAL) is a subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL), the flagship of the globally diversified Adani Group, and the largest private operator of seven functional airports in India through Adani Airport Holdings Limited (AAHL). AAHL holds a 49 per cent stake, while AEL, the parent company, holds the majority 51 per cent stake in MgIAL. MgIAL operates and is modernising Mangaluru International Airport (IXE), a major aviation hub in Mangaluru, Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka.

Mangaluru International Airport, Mangaluru (IATA: IXE ICAO: VOML) M a n g a l u r u International Airport, with a rich history of over 70 years, is spread over 583.77 acres and holds the distinction of being Karnataka's second busiest airport in terms of passenger traffic, having managed 2.32 million passengers in FY 2024-25. The airport, which is the first in Karnataka to have two runways, including one made of rigid pavement and overlaid with asphalt, currently caters to over 50 air traffic movements (ATMs) every day.

Woman with rare reproductive anomaly diagnosed with cervical cancer, successfully treated at KIMS Saveera

Anantapur, February 18, 2026: Doctors at KIMS Saveera Hospital, Anantapur, have successfully treated a rare case of cervical cancer in a 42-year-old woman who had a life-long history of primary amenorrhoea (absence of menstruation) due to a congenital reproductive system anomaly. Senior Gynaecologist Dr. Geetha Rani Vellidareddy said the patient, a resident of Ballari district in Karnataka, approached the hospital with complaints of white vaginal discharge for the past three months. Notably, she did not report common warning symptoms such as foul smell, itching, pain, or abnormal bleeding. Initial imaging studies revealed a suspicious mass arising from the cervix, while the uterus and ovaries appeared normal. Detailed medical history showed that the woman had never attained menarche. Previous hormonal evaluations indicated normal Follicle Stimulating Hormone (FSH) and Luteinizing Hormone (LH) levels. Despite well-developed secondary sexual characteristics, she had never experi-



enced menstrual pain or urinary and bowel-related complaints.

Further evaluation at KIMS Saveera revealed that the lower end of the vagina was completely closed, making routine cervical examination and biopsy impossible. On vaginal and rectal examination, doctors detected a hard mass measuring approximately 6 x 6 cm, raising strong suspicion of malignancy. Given the diagnostic challenge, a multidisciplinary oncology team decided to proceed with definitive surgical management.

The patient underwent a radical hysterectomy along with bilateral pelvic lymph node dissection. During surgery, a fungating cervical growth measuring about 5-6 cm was identified. The ovaries and fallopian tubes were found to be normal. Examination of the uterus revealed the absence of a functional endometrial cavity, and lymph nodes showed no evidence of cancer spread.

Doctors explained that the extremely underdeveloped endometrium was the reason for the patient's lifelong absence of menstruation. Dr. Geetha Rani clarified that this condition was not the commonly known Mayer-Rokitansky-Küster-Hauser (MRKH) syndrome, but an exceptionally rare developmental anomaly of the female reproductive system. "The coexistence of primary amenorrhoea, an obstructed vagina, underdeveloped endometrium, and cervical cancer is extremely rare. Making a clinical decision without the possibility of biopsy was a major challenge," Dr. Geetha Rani said.

She emphasised that the case highlights the need for heightened vigilance for gynaecological cancers even in women with congenital reproductive tract anomalies and underlined the importance of seeking care at a multidisciplinary hospital for managing such complex and rare conditions.

Two Die, Three Injured in a Accident

Rangareddy : A tragic road accident near the Raikal Toll Plaza in Rangareddy district late at night left two persons dead and three others seriously injured. Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar expressed deep anguish over the incident. According to

preliminary information, an unidentified vehicle collided with an Innova Crysta car carrying five passengers. Two of them died on the spot due to the severe impact. The deceased were identified as P. Purushottam Reddy and Gangireddy Madhusudan Reddy, both hailing from Turkayamjal in Rangareddy district. The

three injured victims were rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment. The group was returning to Hyderabad after completing a pilgrimage to Arunachalam when the mishap took place. Veerlapalli Shankar visited the hospital, paid homage to the deceased, and conveyed his sympathies to the bereaved families.

One Time Opportunity (OTO) provided to Obtain Permission for Legacy Advertisements : D. S. Ramesh

Bengaluru: Commissioner of Bengaluru East City Municipal Corporation, D. S. Ramesh, has urged that, One-Time Opportunity (OTO) has been provided for obtaining permission for legacy advertisements and for conversion of LED self-display advertisement boards into commercial advertisement boards. All eligible advertising agencies and individuals within the East City Corporation limits to avail this opportunity and display advertisements strictly in accordance with the rules.

As advertising agencies that had obtained permission under the BBMP Advertisement Bye-laws-2006 to install advertisements on private properties and have paid the full advertisement tax are considered as Legacy Advertisement Agencies. A One Time Opportunity (OTO) has been provided for conversion of all LED self-display advertisement boards that were permitted under any previous advertisement bye-laws and are still within their valid approval period, into commercial advertisement boards. Eligible advertisers or individuals within the Bengaluru East City Corporation limits may submit applications in the prescribed format along with supporting documents on or before 13-04-2026 during office hours to The Office of the Commissioner, Bengaluru East City Corporation.

Will dump garbage in front of your houses if you obstruct disposal, DCM Shivakumar warns BJP MLAs

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Wednesday warned BJP MLAs and leaders that the government will impose the Essential Services Maintenance Act and dump garbage in front of their homes if they obstruct waste disposal in Bengaluru.

Speaking to reporters at the KPCC office, Shivakumar, who holds the Bengaluru city development portfolio, accused BJP MLAs Arvind Limbavali and Dheeraj Muniiraju of blackmailing the government for funds while opposing waste disposal in their constituencies.

"If they keep objecting to disposal of waste in their constituency, where do we dispose the garbage? We will have to send it to the homes of R Ashok, Vijayendra or the BJP party office," he said.

Asked about the nature of the blackmail, he said the MLAs are blocking disposal to secure funds for their constituencies. He noted that waste is being disposed in the constituencies of Congress MLAs S T Somashekar, Shivanna and Krishna Byregowda as well.

On concerns over allegations involving garbage trucks, Shivakumar said the law will take its course, but waste disposal cannot be stopped. He added that the government has purchased two more sites for waste disposal and is addressing legal formalities. Responding to the Contractors' Association threat to stop work over alleged commission demands, Shivakumar said contractors should file a complaint. He blamed the previous BJP government for issuing tenders worth Rs.30,000-40,000 crore against a budget allocation of only Rs.10,000 crore. "Our government is paying money as per budget allocations. We also have humanity, will try to do something after the budget," he said.



Urban Mandate, Endorsement of 'Praja Palana



AMARAVAJJI NAGARAJU
PRO TO TPCC PRESIDENT

In a democracy, elections are not merely periodic exercises in representation; they are moments of collective political introspection. Municipal elections, in particular, serve as a granular audit of governance testing the credibility of promises made on roads, drinking water, sanitation, urban infrastructure and transparency. The latest municipal verdict in Telangana appears to have delivered a clear message: an endorsement of the ruling Congress government's

'Praja Palana' (people-centric governance) model. The results are being interpreted within the Congress as more than a localised success. For Chief Minister and TPCC president, the outcome represents a reaffirmation of the political momentum that began with the 2023 Assembly elections. Campaign rhetoric that projected continuity into 2029 now appears less aspirational and more grounded in evolving political arithmetic.

The Congress, having performed strongly in the panchayat polls, sustained its momentum in urban local bodies, reportedly securing a substantial number of mayoral and chairperson posts across municipalities. The scale of the victory is politically significant: it marks one of the most extensive urban gains for the Congress in Telangana since the State's formation in 2014. The verdict suggests a convergence of rural and urban support — an alignment that parties often struggle to achieve

simultaneously. *Strategy and Organisation* Party insiders attribute the outcome to early preparation and calibrated strategy. Ministers were assigned parliamentary segments as in-charges; coordination committees were formed; district-level outreach was intensified soon after notification. Even during overseas engagements, the Chief Minister is said to have monitored campaign progress virtually, reinforcing organisational discipline.

Candidate selection appears to have balanced local social equations with winnability metrics. The involvement of AICC functionaries in oversight and conflict resolution at the constituency level helped contain factional strains — a recurring vulnerability in Telangana politics. The Congress campaign also foregrounded welfare delivery as tangible governance rather than abstract intent.

Much of the ruling party's confidence rests on its welfare architecture. The

Malahalakshmi scheme providing free bus travel for women, subsidised LPG cylinders at Rs.500, 200 units of free electricity for eligible households, and the expansion of AarogyaSri health coverage limits are cited as direct-benefit interventions with visible household impact. Housing allocations under Indira Aashra and the issuance of new ration cards have reinforced outreach in both peri-urban and rural belts.

In agriculture, loan waivers and input support mechanisms have sought to rebuild trust among farmers. Youth-oriented credit and skill initiatives, alongside accelerated recruitment processes, have targeted unemployment anxieties. Measures such as enhanced reservations for backward classes and steps toward Scheduled Caste categorisation have been projected as markers of social justice.

Opposition and Counter-Narratives The verdict also reflects voter reassessment of the previous regime led by of the

Bharat Rashtira Samithi. Allegations relating to fiscal stress, infrastructure controversies and governance opacity appear to have shaped urban voter sentiment. Simultaneously, the Bharatiya Janata Party's limited traction in municipal contests indicates that national-level presence does not automatically translate into local consolidation.

Road to 2028 and Beyond Politically, the municipal outcomes will inevitably be read as precursors to the 2028 Assembly and 2029 parliamentary elections. While local body polls do not always predict State-wide verdicts, they influence narrative, cadre morale and organisational depth. For the Congress, the challenge now shifts from electoral validation to delivery sustainability. Urban governance demands sustained improvements in infrastructure financing, waste management reform, property tax rationalisation and climate-resilient planning.

Aakash Institute Bangalore students shine in JEE Main 2026, Adarsh Kumar Behera tops with 99.99 percentile



Bangalore : Students from Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL) branches in Bangalore have delivered an outstanding performance in JEE Main 2026 (Session 1), with Adarsh Kumar Behera of the Indira Nagar branch securing the top score in the region at 99.9924416 percentile. The results, declared on February 16 by the National Testing Agency, saw several students from the city achieve exceptional percentiles. Other top performers include Ayush S Kolekar (99.98), Pranil Singi (99.9679), Adarsh Das (99.8937), Gokul Harikrishnan (99.8824), Naman Agarwal (99.8501), and T R S Sanjeet (99.8206). High achievers also include Gudal Satya Yashasw (99.7291), Johaan Job (99.6938), Vyom Gupta (99.667), Shivansh Pant (99.6410), Aditya (99.6189), Sai Nitin S Kolekar (99.4840), Darshan Harish (99.4566), Kausal Gundu (99.4472), Aditya Sharma (99.4147), and Advait Raveendran (99.359). Aakash Educational Services Limited Chief Academic and Business Head Dheeraj Kumar Misra congratulated the students, stating that their success reflects their dedication and the strength of the Aakash educational ecosystem. Students attributed their performance to self-discipline, consistent practice, rigorous training, timely mentoring, and regular assessments. Many noted that the structured curriculum, guidance from qualified instructors, and simulated tests helped them maintain focus and improve steadily. JEE Main serves as the gateway for admission to NITs, IITs, and other centrally funded institutions, and also qualifies students to appear for JEE Advanced for admission to IITs.

Middle Class Under Pressure: The Silent Squeeze No One Is Talking About.



RAMESH PAKA

In policy discussions and political debates, the Indian middle class often appears as a convenient statistic, too prosperous to qualify for welfare and too numerous to be ignored at election time. Yet, behind this numerical comfort lies a growing reality of quiet distress. Inflation, rising EMIs, spiralling healthcare expenses, and unaffordable education costs have placed the salaried middle class under relentless pressure, largely unnoticed and rarely addressed.

Inflation: The Invisible Tax For salaried households, inflation acts like an invisible tax. While incomes rise modestly, the cost of essentials like food, fuel, electricity, rent, and transportation continues to surge. Unlike businesses, salaried employees cannot pass on higher costs. Unlike the wealthy, they lack buffers of capital. What remains is a shrinking disposable income and a growing sense of insecurity.

EMIs: Dreams on Instalments Home ownership and quality

education, once symbols of stability have turned into long-term financial commitments. Easy credit has made aspirations accessible, but rising interest rates have transformed EMIs into monthly stress points. A job loss, medical emergency, or economic slowdown can push even well-planned households into debt traps. For many middle-class families, the fear is not poverty but slipping into it.

Healthcare: One Illness Away from Crisis Despite progress in public health schemes, quality healthcare remains expensive and largely out-of-pocket for the middle class. Government insurance often excludes them, while private insurance premiums rise with age and illness. A single hospitalization can erase years of savings. In a country aspiring for economic leadership, healthcare insecurity continues to be a harsh equalizer.

Education: The Cost of Hope Education is the middle class's primary ladder of mobility, yet it has become increasingly unaffordable. School fees, coaching centres, professional courses, and overseas education impose crushing financial burdens. Ironically, families invest heavily in education without guaranteed employability, exposing a gap between academic degrees and market-ready skills.

Policy Blind Spot: The middle class occupies a policy blind spot overburdened but under-recognized. Welfare schemes target the poor, while tax incentives often favour corporates and the wealthy. Salaried taxpayers, with limited deductions and rising compliance burdens, are expected to shoulder both growth and governance without complaint. Their silence is mistaken for comfort.

The Way Forward: Relief need not come through populism. Rational tax reforms, inflation-indexed deductions, affordable healthcare models, regulation of education costs, and skill-linked employment opportunities can restore balance. More importantly, policymakers must acknowledge the middle class not merely as taxpayers, but as stakeholders in national stability.

A nation's strength lies not just in lifting the poor or celebrating the wealthy, but in sustaining the middle class that bridges both. Ignoring their silent stress risks economic stagnation and social discontent. The middle class may not protest loudly, but its resilience has limits and policy must respond before those limits are breached.

Ramesh Paka, General Secretary, Telangana Tahsildar's Assn. & OSD to Health

Siddaramaiah government has something to hide and somebody to shield; Vijayendra

Bengaluru : "The Siddaramaiah government has something to hide and somebody to shield. That's the reason why the government has banned the entry of electronic media into Vidhana Soudha," state BJP President B. Y. Vijayendra said on Wednesday.

While responding to the questions from the media, Vijayendra said this move of the government to ban media from entering the state secretariat is most undemocratic and goes against the principles of free press. "I demand that

the ban on entry of media into Vidhana Soudha be withdrawn immediately," the BJP President added.

According to Vijayendra, the Congress government is panic-stricken and desperate and hence has resorted to doing things that are murky. "I want to know if this latest desperate & panic-stricken move has something to do with the recent trace of heavy cash and gold in the chambers of a cabinet minister. This is all murky. The government has something to hide and somebody to

shield," Vijayendra reiterated. "The media personnel have every right to enter Vidhana Soudha in order to perform their professional duties. By banning its entry and putting restrictions to their movement, the Siddaramaiah government has curtailed its rights. This is not only unacceptable but also strongly condemnable in a democratic set-up," Vijayendra said. He also said that he will write to the DPAR shortly asking for explanation and urge the government to lift the ban immediately.

EDII Announces PGDM Entrepreneurship for Tech Startups

Bengaluru : Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), India's pioneering institution in entrepreneurship education, today in Bengaluru announced PGDM in "Entrepreneurship for Tech Startups," which is an AICTE-approved management programme designed to empower tech professionals with entrepreneurial learning, mentorship, and venture-building support to help convert their high-potential ideas into successful startups. The newly announced Tech Startups specialization focuses on growing areas like EdTech, HealthTech, FinTech, AI-based businesses, and digital ventures



that scale. It is designed with a practical bent, aiming to equip aspiring entrepreneurs with skills that include identifying opportunities, assessing feasibility, creating a business model, product development, funding readiness, and go-to-market strategies. Dr. Sunil Shukla, Director General, EDII, said,

"Given the fact that Bengaluru is the hub of technology activity in India, and that Karnataka is at the heart of the startup boom, we thought that this would be the right place to launch our specialization in Tech Startups. Young people today are choosing entrepreneurship as a career option with a purpose, and EDII is committed to providing a clear pathway for the development of entrepreneurship that can make a difference to the growth of the nation in the coming decade or so and fulfill the dream of a developed India by 2047." PGDM Entrepreneurship: Building Entrepreneurs, Not Job Seekers

Major sectors take lion's share in TN interim budget

The General Budget and the Agriculture Budget were presented by Minister for Finance, Environment and Climate Change Thangam Thennarasu and Minister for Agriculture MRK Panneerselvam, respectively

CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu government on Tuesday presented its Interim Budget for 2026-27, bereft of any new schemes and allocations largely focused on sustaining ongoing programmes and strengthening key sectors.

The General Budget and the Agriculture Budget were presented by Minister for Finance, Environment and Climate Change Thangam Thennarasu and Minister for Agriculture MRK Panneerselvam, respectively. While no fresh announcements were made, major departments received enhanced allocations, compared to 2025-26 Budget estimates.

The Rural Development Department has been allocated Rs 29,465 crore, up from Rs 28,687 crore. The Municipal Administration and Water Supply department received Rs 28,277 crore, compared to Rs 26,678 crore last Budget.

Key departments such as Higher Education, Sports Development, Health and Family Welfare, Industries, Information Technology,



Water Resources, Highways and Public Works have also received enhanced allocations, ranging from Rs 100 crore and Rs 500 crore over the previous Budget.

Among them, School Education and Energy received a significant share, with Rs 48,534 crore and Rs 10,076 crore, respectively. Housing, Adi Dravidar Welfare, and Tribal Welfare departments have been allocated funds on par with last year's Budget.

Fiscal Position
Despite increased allocations, the State continues to

face a revenue deficit. The revenue deficit for 2025-26 is estimated to rise to Rs 69,219 crore in the Revised Estimates, compared to Rs 41,635 crore in the Budget Estimates. For 2026-27, the revenue deficit is projected at Rs 48,696.32 crore in the Interim Budget.

Total revenue expenditure has increased from Rs 3,73,204 crore in the 2025-26 Budget Estimates to Rs 3,78,917 crore in the Revised Estimates. It is projected to rise further to Rs 3,93,271.63 crore in 2026-27, marking a 3.79% increase over the

Revised Estimates.

Revenue receipts, which stood at Rs 3,31,569 crore in the 2025-26 Budget Estimates, are estimated at Rs 3,09,698 crore in the Revised Estimates and are projected to increase to Rs 3,44,575.31 crore in 2026-27.

The government plans to borrow Rs 1,79,809.65 crore during 2026-27 and repay Rs 60,413.42 crore. As a result, the outstanding debt is expected to reach Rs 10,71,770.34 crore by March 31, 2027, accounting for 26.35% of the Gross State Domestic Product.

VCK backs Cong demand for share in govt if DMK alliance returns to power in TN

CHENNAI: VCK leader and Member of Parliament from Chidambaram Lok Sabha constituency, V Thirumavalavan, has defended the Congress party's demand for a share in government if the DMK-led alliance wins the upcoming Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, stating that such a request is neither unusual nor unreasonable within a coalition framework.

Speaking to reporters in Tiruchi, Thirumavalavan responded to questions regarding Congress seeking ministerial participation should the DMK form the government again.

He said that discussions and negotiations are a natural part of alliance politics during election season. "During elections, such discussions happen in every alliance. The Congress has asked for a share in the government. Whether it can be given or not will be decided through talks. These matters are resolved through dialogue," he said.



The VCK leader emphasised that such demands alone would not destabilise the alliance. According to him, Congress, as a long-standing ally, has the right to raise such a request.

"For years, we have all worked for the success of the DMK. If Congress now seeks a share in power, what is wrong with that?" he asked. Chief Minister and DMK president M.K. Stalin had earlier stated that sharing power in Tamil Nadu was not feasible within the current political framework.

Responding to this, Thirumavalavan reiterated that discussions would determine the final decision and stressed that the Congress party would continue to remain part of the DMK alliance.

Couldn't rein in Manickam Tagore, but questions PM on Trump: Tamilisai slams DMK over alliance drift
Suspecting foul play, the woman lodged a complaint at Kotagiri Police Station. The investigation revealed that the accused used AI technology and fake documents to deceive the victim. Police are conducting a thorough probe into the case and have warned the public against trusting strangers they meet on social media.

EC announces election date for six Rajya Sabha seats

CHENNAI: The Election Commission has announced that elections for the six vacant Rajya Sabha seats from Tamil Nadu, along with 37 vacancies across the country, will be held on March 16.

The nomination process will begin on February 26, with the last date to submit nominations set for March 5. Candidates can withdraw their nominations until March 9. The six Rajya Sabha members from Tamil Nadu:



Thambidurai, G K Vasan, N R Elango, Kanimozhi Somu, Tiruchy Siva, and P Selvarasu, will complete their terms on April 2. Based on the current composition of the state assembly, the DMK is expected to secure four seats, while the AIADMK can win two seats.

Couldn't rein in Manickam Tagore, but questions PM on Trump: Tamilisai slams DMK over alliance drift

CHENNAI: Senior BJP leader Tamilisai Soundararajan on Wednesday took a swipe at the ruling DMK, questioning its moral authority to criticise the Prime Minister's global engagements while failing to maintain cohesion within its own alliance.

"Can they control Congress MP Manickam Tagore? They ask whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi can handle US President Donald Trump, but they are unable to manage their own allies. They could not even constitute a committee to hold alliance talks here, while the Prime Minister is forming committees and engaging with several nations," she said, addressing reporters at the



Chennai airport. Turning to the State's interim Budget, she alleged that it offered no tangible benefits to the people and was aimed at blaming the Union government. "There is no need to target the Centre through the Budget. The Union government has allocated Rs 11 lakh crore for infrastructure. The State's allocation for infrastructure is comparatively low," she said. She said there was no announcement on pro-

viding Rs 3,200 per quintal for paddy, nor on the demand for Rs 4,000 for sugarcane or farm loan waivers. "There are no concrete development schemes. Tamil Nadu will not gain from this Budget," she added. The BJP's manifesto committee would visit the delta districts to understand farmers' demands and incorporate them transparently, she said, alleging that the DMK's allies themselves lacked confidence in the ruling party.

Coimbatore: Retd bank manager loses Rs 66 L to cyber scammers

COIMBATORE: A 60-year-old retired bank manager from Coimbatore was defrauded of Rs 66 lakh by cyber fraudsters who lured her with promises of high returns through a fake stock market investment scheme.

According to police, the woman recently received a message on her mobile phone offering substantial profits through investments in the stock market. The message, sent in the name of a reputed investment firm, claimed assured and significant returns, prompting her to show interest. The scammers persuaded her to download a mobile application and pro-



vided her with a user ID and password. The app appeared sophisticated, featuring options such as chat support, voice communication, investment tracking, and real-time display of invested amounts along with purported profits. It also claimed that the accumulated balance, including returns, could be transferred to her bank account at any time. "Unaware that it was a

trap, the woman invested Rs 66 lakh in multiple instalments. The application later reflected that her total investment had grown to over Rs 1 crore," police officials said. However, when she attempted to withdraw the amount, the transaction failed. Upon contacting the company representative, she was told that there were additional processing charges to facilitate the release of her funds. Shortly thereafter, the scammers became unreachable. Realising that she had been duped, the victim lodged a complaint with the Coimbatore City Cyber Crime Police. An investigation is under way.

Study finds many continue Ozempic for weight loss despite side effects

New Delhi, Feb 18: GLP-1 receptor agonists, originally developed for type 2 diabetes, are now witnessing soaring demand for weight management, with drugs like Ozempic gaining widespread popularity, particularly on social media.

Ozempic is the brand name for semaglutide, a GLP-1 receptor agonist that mimics the hormone glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1), which regulates blood sugar, insulin secretion and appetite. While the drug continues to be prescribed for diabetes, its off-label use for weight loss has surged globally.

A recent study published in the Journal of Medical Internet Research found that many users are willing to continue using Ozempic despite experiencing unpleasant side effects, primarily because of the weight loss benefits.

Instead of conducting a traditional clinical trial, researchers used "invoicellence," analysing 60 anonymous public reviews from the website Drugs.com to understand real-world patient experiences with Ozempic for weight loss. The study found that perceived effectiveness was the main factor driving satisfaction and continuation of treatment. Patients who reported significant weight loss or improvements in appetite



and food cravings were more inclined to tolerate side effects.

Around 67 per cent of users reported a significant drop in appetite or food cravings. Many described a reduced desire for sugary and greasy foods, allowing them to eat less without feeling deprived. Gastrointestinal issues such as nausea and vomiting were the most commonly reported side effects, though their severity varied. Importantly, these side effects did not significantly impact overall satisfaction or decisions to continue treatment in most cases. However, individuals who experienced minimal weight loss or non-gastrointestinal side effects were more likely to discontinue the medication. Common side effects associated with Ozempic include nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, constipation and fatigue. Less com-

mon but more serious side effects may include pancreatitis, kidney problems, allergic reactions and gall-bladder issues.

Ozempic works in three primary ways. It stimulates the pancreas to release insulin when blood sugar levels are high, helping to control post-meal glucose spikes. It slows gastric emptying, which prolongs the feeling of fullness and reduces blood sugar fluctuations. It also acts on appetite-regulating centres in the brain to reduce hunger and cravings. Health experts emphasise that individuals prescribed GLP-1 medications for diabetes should strictly follow medical advice. For those considering such medications solely for weight loss, they should be used as part of a broader strategy that includes balanced nutrition, regular physical activity and sustainable lifestyle changes.

Silent infections during pregnancy can harm unborn babies, warn experts

New Delhi, Feb 18: Pregnancy is a phase when women become especially conscious about their health — eating nutritious food, taking adequate rest and attending regular antenatal check-ups. However, medical experts caution that certain infections may remain completely silent in the mother while posing serious risks to the unborn baby.

Doctors explain that these are known as asymptomatic infections, where the expectant mother may not experience fever, pain or any visible signs, yet the infection may quietly affect the foetus. Dr Alka Chaudhary, Senior Consultant - Obstetrician and Gynaecologist at Rainbow Hospital, says many such infections go unnoticed without routine screening. "These infections often do not cause symptoms in the mother, which is why regular testing during pregnancy is extremely important," she notes.

Echoing similar concerns, Dr Tripti Raheja, Director - Obstetrics & Gynaecology at CK Birla Hospital, explains, "Sometimes a pregnant woman can have an infection without feeling sick at all. She may feel completely normal. But without proper screening, the baby could still be affected." Health experts emphasise that antenatal check-ups are not merely routine visits but crucial opportunities for early detection and prevention.

One of the most widespread silent infections is Cytomegalovirus (CMV). Most adults may have been exposed to the virus at some point in their lives. In pregnant women, CMV rarely produces noticeable symptoms. However, if transmitted to the foetus, it can lead to congenital



CMV, which may result in hearing loss, developmental delays, vision impairment or neurological complications in the child. Since mothers often remain asymptomatic, awareness and screening play a vital role.

Toxoplasmosis is another infection that may not cause symptoms in expectant mothers. It is commonly contracted through consumption of undercooked meat, contact with contaminated soil or handling cat litter. While the mother may feel unaffected, the infection can cause miscarriage, brain damage or eye disorders in the baby, depending on the stage of pregnancy. Rubella, particularly

dangerous in early pregnancy, may present as a mild illness or go completely unnoticed in the mother. If contracted during the first trimester, it can lead to severe birth defects such as heart abnormalities, hearing loss and vision problems. Doctors stress that vaccination prior to pregnancy remains one of the most effective preventive measures against rubella-related complications.

Certain infections may remain silent in mothers but can be transmitted to the baby during pregnancy or delivery.

Hepatitis B and HIV may not show obvious early symptoms, yet without timely intervention, they

can lead to long-term health complications in newborns. Syphilis, often unnoticed in its initial stages, can result in stillbirth, prematurity or congenital infection if left untreated.

Group B Streptococcus (GBS), commonly present in the birth canal without symptoms, can infect the baby during delivery and cause severe conditions such as sepsis, pneumonia or meningitis.

blood tests and screening during pregnancy help detect these infections early, allowing doctors to initiate appropriate treatment and reduce potential risks.

Regular testing crucial for a healthy pregnancy

Many women question the need for multiple blood tests during antenatal visits, particularly when they feel healthy. However, doctors clarify that silent infections cannot be identified based on symptoms alone.

Dr Tripti Raheja states that simple blood investigations during pregnancy can detect infections at an early stage. "Early diagnosis allows timely treatment, which can significantly reduce risks to the baby," she says.

Dr Alka Chaudhary further highlights the importance of preventive measures such as vaccination where applicable, safe food practices, maintaining proper hygiene and adhering to scheduled check-ups. The message from medical experts is unequivocal: feeling well does not always guarantee the absence of infection. Regular prenatal care is essential to safeguard both mother and child, as early detection can make the difference between complications and a healthy beginning to life.

India, Canada may finalise terms of reference for FTA talks next month

New Delhi: India and Canada are expected to finalise terms of reference for initiating talks for a free trade agreement (FTA) during the visit of Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney to India next month, an official said. The terms of reference (ToR) outline the scope and modalities of a proposed trade pact. The two countries were earlier negotiating a trade pact but it was paused by Canada in 2023. Now they have decided to resume talks from the beginning as a lot has changed on the global trade front during these two years. The official said that the two sides are engaged in finalising the ToR for a mutually beneficial trade agreement. "It is likely to be finalised during the visit of the Canada's prime minister," the official added. Both sides have appointed their chief negotiators for the trade pact negotiations. Joint Secretary in Department of Commerce Brij Mohan Mishra is the chief negotiator from the Indian side. Bruce Christie is Canada's chief negotiator. India's exports to Canada rose 9.8 per cent to USD 4.22 billion in 2024-25 from USD 3.84 billion in 2023-24. Imports, how-



ever, declined 2.33 per cent to USD 4.44 billion in the last fiscal year from USD 4.55 billion in 2023-24. Bilateral trade in goods and services stood at USD 18.38 billion in 2023. There are about 2.9 million Indian diaspora and over 4,27,000 Indian students in Canada. The two countries were earlier negotiating a trade pact but it was paused by Canada in 2023. Now they have decided to resume talks from the begin-

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MobiKwik turns PAT profitable in Q3 FY26; Delivers strong upswing of INR 593 Mn YoY

Hyderabad, February 2026: One MobiKwik Systems Ltd. (MobiKwik) (NSE: MOBIK-WIK / BSE: 544305), India's largest digital wallet, today announced its earnings results (standalone and consolidated) for the quarter ended December 31, 2025. The Company reported a profitable quarter, underpinned by strong execution across its Payments and Financial Services businesses. This marks a significant inflection point as MobiKwik transitions to profitability while continuing to scale its platform & strengthens its role in enabling digital financial access across Bharat. All amounts are in INR Mn. The company delivered a strong operating quarter in Q3FY26 through sharp cost control & healthy margin expansion. Operational discipline led to a INR 576 Mn EBITDA swing on YoY basis, delivering PAT profitability. Headline Results for the Quarter Ended December 31, 2025 Consolidated Financials Total income remained steady at INR 2,972 Mn, reflecting a balanced growth profile. Contribution profit increased 76% YoY (34% QoQ) to INR 1,288 Mn, underscoring continued focus on cost efficiency. Fixed Costs as a % of Total Income reduced to 38% in Q3FY26



from 42% Q3FY25 EBITDA for Q3 FY26 stood at INR 150 Mn, marking a profitable quarter with a sequential improvement of INR 576 Mn YoY (INR 214 Mn QoQ). Payments The Company's core payments business continued to deliver strong growth with improving unit economics and high operating leverage. Consistently ranked as the #1 PPI Wallet in India. Ranked amongst Top 5 Fastest Growing UPI Apps[1] in India's UPI Ecosystem, achieving 3.2x YoY growth in UPI transactions. Payments GMV hit an all-time high of 481 billion, growing at 63% YoY (11% QoQ), marking a record high for the 12th quarter in a row. User base grew to 186.6 Mn and merchant base expanded to 4.79 Mn. Best-in-class Net payments processing margin of 17 bps, reflecting improved monetisation beyond UPI. Consequently, gross margin for the payments business reached an all-time high of 37%, reflecting a 125% YoY expansion (36% QoQ). #7th largest Customer Operating Unit [3] in the BBPS ecosystem. Financial Services Business makes a turnaround, delivering High-Quality Revenue on the back of enhanced credit quality and collection efficiency. ZIP EMI GMV grew 126% YoY (12% QoQ), reflecting renewed momentum in the lending business. ZIP EMI GMV reached an all-time high of INR 9,000 Mn, surpassing previous peak levels and marking a full recovery from the interim slowdown. Financial services Gross Profit at INR 372 Mn, up by 405% YoY (45% QoQ). Net FS Margin Quadrupled YoY from 1.05% in Q3FY25 to 4.13% in Q3FY26, owing to improvement in credit quality. The improvement across these metrics reflects a complete recovery in the Lending business.

Can't say when I'll return to India, Vijay Mallya tells Bombay High Court

Mumbai: Fugitive businessman Vijay Mallya, facing multiple cases of fraud and money laundering, told the Bombay High Court on Wednesday, February 18, that he cannot say when he will return to India as he is legally barred from leaving the UK. In a statement submitted through his counsel Amit Desai to the high court, Mallya said he did not have an active passport after it was revoked and hence, he cannot give a definite date of return to India. The statement was submitted after a bench of Chief Justice Shree Chandrashekhar and Justice Gautam Ankhad made it clear last week that it would not hear Mallya's plea against the order declaring a fugitive economic offender until he returns to India. The court had then asked the former liquor to clarify whether or not he intended to return to India. Mallya, based in the United Kingdom since 2016, has filed two petitions in the HC — one challenging an order declaring him a fugi-



tive economic offender and the other questioning the constitutional validity of the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act. The 70-year-old liquor baron is accused of defaulting on multiple loan repayments of several thousand crores and facing money laundering charges. The businessman, in his statement to HC, said he cannot give a definite date for his return as he does not have his Indian passport, which was revoked by the government in 2016, and also because there are orders of courts in England and Wales that prohibit him

from leaving the country. "Mallya is not permitted to leave or attempt to leave England and Wales or apply for or be in possession of any international travel document. In any event, the petitioner is unable to precisely state when he will return to India," Desai read out the statement in the court. The senior counsel reiterated that Mallya's presence was not required in the country for the court to hear his pleas against the fugitive tag and the provisions of the Act. "If he (Mallya) were to appear in India, then all these pro-

ceedings would be rendered irrelevant as the statute says that once the offender appears in the concerned court of law, then all these orders would be set aside," Desai told the court. The bench directed the Union government to file its reply to Mallya's statement and posted the matter for further hearing next month. Mallya was declared a Fugitive Economic Offender in January 2019 by a special court hearing cases under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The businessman left India in March 2016.

Ramadan in Dubai 2026: The Ultimate Guide to the Best Iftar Experiences

18th February 2026: Ramadan is one of the most evocative times to experience Dubai. As the holy month unfolds from 19 February to 19 March 2026, the city adopts a gentler rhythm - days are calm and reflective, while evenings come alive with food, lights and a strong sense of community. For visitors, Ramadan in Dubai offers a rare opportunity to witness age-old traditions while enjoying some of the city's most memorable culinary experiences, many of which are exclusive to this time of year. For Indian travellers in particular, the experience resonates through shared values of hospitality, storytelling, and communal dining. From elegant hotel venues and atmospheric Ramadan tents to open-air desert settings, Dubai offers a diverse range of iftar experiences available exclusively during the holy month, making Ramadan 2026 an ideal time to explore the city through its culinary and cultural offerings. The Best Places for Iftar in Dubai: Asateer Tent, Atlantis The



Palm: A staple of Dubai's Ramadan calendar, the Asateer Tent at Atlantis, The Palm is renowned for its sheer scale and variety. Designed like an opulent Arabian majlis, the space is illuminated with chandeliers and lanterns, creating a festive yet traditional atmosphere. The iftar buffet spans multiple cuisines, featuring classic Middle Eastern dishes such as lamb ouzi, chicken mandi, mezze platters, lentil soup and freshly baked Arabic breads, alongside Indian curries, Asian stir-fries and

international favourites. "A dedicated dessert section showcases kunafa, umm ali, baklava and dates stuffed with nuts, complemented by traditional Ramadan beverages like qamardeen and jellab. Ramadan Nights by Armani, Armani Hotel Dubai: Set beneath the towering Burj Khalifa, Armani/Pavilion offers a refined, intimate iftar experience with uninterrupted views of the Downtown skyline. The open-air venue is transformed for Ramadan with soft lighting, neutral

tones and elegant table settings. The menu blends Middle Eastern flavours with contemporary global cuisine, featuring dishes such as slow-cooked lamb, grilled seafood, fragrant rice dishes, fresh salads and artisanal desserts. The experience is unhurried, making it perfect for those looking to savour both food and ambience. Al Hadheerah, Bab Al Shams Desert Resort: For a truly immersive Ramadan experience, Al Hadheerah at Bab Al Shams offers iftar in a traditional desert setting.

Historic trade deals put India on global stage - but challenges remain

From a trade perspective, 2026 would probably go down in history books as an epochal year for India. March has not even begun and Delhi has concluded the "mother of all trade deals" with the European Union and also what's now being termed the "father of all trade deals" with the United States - even though grave concerns remain about the asymmetric nature of the interim agreement which, many say, is stacked heavily in favour of the US. Nonetheless, the pact is India's 10th free trade agreement (FTA) since 2014, signalling a sharp pivot from its protectionist stance that previously forced negotiations with several countries to languish for decades. Fresh off the back of these new pacts, India has now also agreed to start talks for a deal with the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) bloc, accounting for 15% of its global trade. While directionally positive, these deals are hardly a silver bullet for faster exports growth and



won't substitute for deeper trade reform, say experts. "The success of any FTA lies in how it is utilised, and India has historically exhibited a low utilisation rate of only about 25%, in contrast to a level of 70%-80% among developed economies," Sumedha Dasgupta of the Economist Intelligence Unit told the BBC. That's because for many Indian exporters, especially small companies, the burden of paperwork, audit risks and a lack of understanding of FTA provisions often outweigh tariff benefits. History shows that this has been the case.

According to consultancy EY, between 2017 and 2022 India's exports to its FTA partners rose by 31%, while imports from those countries surged by 82% - a gap it described as an "alarming failure" to fully leverage preferential market access. After a government review, however, agreements signed since 2023 with countries such as Australia and the United Arab Emirates have shown stronger export growth, which EY attributes to improved trade infrastructure and faster dispute resolution mechanisms. But much more needs to happen.

No impediments to India producing next AI champion: Sundar Pichai

New Delhi: Google CEO Sundar Pichai on Wednesday, February 18, said India is already witnessing the kind of transformation that can produce the next world-leading AI major from within, asserting that the ecosystem has evolved significantly and the country is producing "extraordinary" homegrown companies. Pichai lauded high developer energy and thriving entrepreneurship ecosystem in India. Responding to a question on what needs to change for the "next Sundar" to stay back (in India) and build a world-leading company from here, Pichai, currently in India to attend the India AI Impact Summit, said the shift is already underway. He pointed to the rise of homegrown startups such as Flipkart and Oyo as evidence that "India has been producing extraordinary companies" that are scaling successfully. "I mean, it's already changed. India is producing extraordinary companies, right? You know, when you look at companies like Flipkart, Oyo, etc, these are all companies homegrown here, and they're doing



really well," Pichai said. He added that the developer energy in the country, particularly in hubs like Bengaluru, is second to none, and described the entrepreneurship ecosystem as "thriving". Pichai also highlighted recent progress in artificial intelligence, noting that companies like Sarvam have begun developing local AI models, signalling that advanced innovation is taking root domestically. He said he does not see any impediments to India building globally competitive AI firms, adding that the country is positioned well.

"You know, even recently, the work Sarvam has done developing local AI models, certainly what you're talking about is actually happening. And, you know, I just don't see any impediments to that, and I think it is very, very well positioned," Pichai said. Responding to a question on what needs to change for the "next Sundar" to stay back (in India) and build a world-leading company from here, Pichai, currently in India to attend the India AI Impact Summit, said the shift is already underway. He pointed to the rise

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AUSTRALIA BANS CITIZEN TRYING TO RETURN FROM IS CAMP IN SYRIA

Australia has barred a citizen linked to the Islamic State (IS) group from the country for up to two years. The person is among the group of 34 Australian women and children who tried to head home after being released from a Syrian camp earlier this week, only to be turned back by Syrian authorities for "technical reasons". The ban was issued "on advice from security agencies", Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke said on Wednesday, adding that the other 33 people do not meet "required legal thresholds" to be banned. Canberra has refused to repatriate the group, believed to be made up of the wives, widows and children of IS fighters. There are 23 children among them. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese stressed that these families will not receive government support to come back to the



country. "You make your bed, you lie in it," he told a press conference on Wednesday. "These are people who chose to go overseas to align themselves with... a brutal, reactionary ideology that seeks to undermine and destroy our way of life." However legal experts have warned

the government has an obligation to allow citizens the right of return, and, responding to reports the group had valid Australian passports, Albanese said his government would not "breach Australian law". This group in the al-Roj camp in northern Syria is among dozens of

Australians who have been held in camps and prisons across the country since 2019, when IS was driven from its final foothold in Syria. Opposition politicians have raised security concerns about the possibility of these Australians' return. "How can only one member of this group be

deemed a risk and the rest somehow okay?" Liberal Party Senator Jonno Duman said on Tuesday, offering to help amend laws to bar more of the group. The al-Roj camp is home to more than 2,000 others from 40 different nationalities, mainly women and children.

Among them is thought to be Shamima Begum, who was stripped of her British citizenship in 2019 on national security grounds. Speaking to ABC, the camp's director Hakmiyeh Ibrahim made an appeal to all countries that have citizens held in limbo there: "Take your citizens, take these children and women". The children especially are growing up surrounded by "dangerous ideas and ideologies" in the camp, she said. "The more time passes, the more complicated the situation becomes." Several of these camps have made headlines as the women and children living in them are severely malnourished and lack access to basic resources. Several other foreign governments - including France, the Netherlands, and the UK - have also refused to repatriate most of their citizens still held in Syria.

Stephen Colbert says CBS spiked interview with Democrat over FCC fears



US late-night host Stephen Colbert has accused his network of refusing to broadcast an interview with a Democratic politician over fears of retaliation by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). CBS, the network which hosts the programme, denies that it "prohibited" the interview from being aired, saying it gave only "legal guidance". On Monday night's show, Colbert said that CBS would not show his interview with Texas lawmaker James Talarico out of concerns about a response from the FCC, which has new guidance on equal airtime for political candidates. "We were told in no uncertain

terms by our network's lawyers, who called us directly, that we could not have him on the broadcast," he said. "Then, then I was told in some uncertain terms that not only could I not have him on, I could not mention me not having him on. And because my network clearly doesn't want us to talk about this, let's talk about this." Colbert, host of The Late Show, went on to explain that new FCC guidance on the "equal time" rule - which requires certain TV and radio broadcasters to give equal time to rival political candidates - could have created legal trouble for the network, according to CBS lawyers.

Climber on trial for leaving girlfriend to die on Austria's highest mountain



More than a year after a 33-year-old woman froze to death on Austria's highest mountain, her boyfriend goes on trial on Thursday accused of gross negligent manslaughter. Kerstin G died of hypothermia on a mountain climbing trip to the Grossglockner that went horribly wrong. Her boyfriend is accused of leaving her unprotected and exhausted close to the summit in stormy conditions in the early hours of 19 January 2025, while he went to get help. The trial has sparked interest and debate, not just in Austria but in mountain climbing communities far beyond its borders. Prosecutors say that, as the more experienced climber, the man on trial was "the responsible guide for the tour" and failed to turn back or call for support in time to help his girlfriend. Identified by Austrian media as Thomas P, he denies the charges and his lawyer, Kurt Jelinek, has described the woman's death as "a tragic accident." The tragedy unfolded after the couple began their climb of the 3,796m (12,460ft) Grossglockner. Prosecutors

accuse Thomas P of making mistakes from the outset and have published a list of nine errors. At stake is the question of when personal judgement and risk-taking become a matter of criminal liability. If the climber is found guilty it could mean "a paradigm shift for mountain sports", says Austria's Der Standard newspaper. Key to the case is the charge by state prosecutors in Innsbruck that he was to be considered the "responsible guide for the tour", as "unlike his girlfriend [he was] already very experienced in high-altitude Alpine tours and had planned the tour". They said he attempted the trip even though his girlfriend had "never undertaken an Alpine tour of this length, difficulty, and altitude, and despite the challenging winter conditions". They also allege he started out two hours too late and had failed to take "enough emergency bivouac equipment". He also "allowed his girlfriend to use... snowboard soft boots, equipment that is not suitable for a high-altitude tour in mixed terrain", say prosecutors.

SUSPECT IN RHODE ISLAND ICE HOCKEY SHOOTING KILLED EX-WIFE AND SON

Two victims shot dead at a high school ice hockey game in Rhode Island have been identified as the suspect's ex-wife and son, police said on Tuesday. Robert Dorgan - who police said also went by the names Roberta Esposito and Roberta Dorgan - was found dead inside the Dennis M Lynch Arena in Pawtucket on Monday, apparently from a self-inflicted gunshot wound after what authorities said was a targeted attack. Dorgan's ex-wife, Rhonda Dorgan, and adult son, Aidan Dorgan, died. Rhonda's mother and father along with a family friend were injured. All three were in a critical condition at hospital. Police have not given a motive, but said it appeared to be a

family dispute. Video of the incident showed shots fired while players were on the rink, sparking panic as the teams scrambled to leave the arena, which is located a few miles from the state capital of Providence. Asked at a news conference on Tuesday if the shooting followed a confrontation, Pawtucket Police Chief Tina Goncalves said no. She said two guns recovered from the scene - a Glock 10mm pistol and a SIG Sauer P226 - were legally owned. Goncalves told reporters a bystander "stepped in and interjected" and "that's probably what led to a swift end of this tragic event". Court documents show that Rhonda Dorgan filed for divorce from Robert Dorgan, 56, in February 2020.

I would scream in my sleep: Women from Syria's Alawite minority tell of kidnap and rape

Ramia was preparing for a family picnic, on a warm summer day in her village in Latakia province in western Syria, when a white car drove up, she said. Three armed men got out, saying they were government security forces, and dragged her into the vehicle, the teenager, whose name has been changed for her safety and to protect her identity, told the BBC World Service. The men beat her, she said, hitting her harder when she started crying and screaming. "One of them asked if I was Sunni or Alawite. When I said Alawite, they began insulting the sect," she added. Ramia is one of dozens of women reported kidnapped since the fall of the dictatorship of Bashar al-Assad in December 2024. The Syrian Feminist Lobby



(SFL), an advocacy group for women's rights, says it has recorded reports - from families, media and other sources - of more than 80 women who have gone missing. It says it has confirmed 26 of those cases to be kidnappings. Nearly all those reported missing are members of the Alawite sect, an offshoot of Shia Islam that makes up about 10% of Syria's population and to

its officers mocked her when she reported her ordeal. The interior ministry's spokesman said in November that it had investigated 42 alleged kidnappings, and found all but one were "false". When contacted by the BBC, it said it had no further comment. However, a security source told the BBC that kidnappings had occurred, including some involving members of the security service, who he said had been dismissed. The kidnappings and disappearances recorded by the SFL span a period from February 2025 to early December. This is both before and after March, when more than 1,400 people, mostly Alawite civilians, were killed in sectarian violence in the western coastal regions.

RESCUERS SEARCH FOR NINE MISSING SKIERS AFTER CALIFORNIA AVALANCHE

Nine backcountry skiers are missing following an avalanche in California's Lake Tahoe region on Tuesday, authorities say. Six others have been rescued after they became stranded, the Nevada County Sheriff's Office said. The avalanche was reported about 11:30 PST (19:30 GMT) in the Castle Peak area near the town of Truckee, according to officials. Weather conditions remain dangerous, with a high chance of further avalanches. "Highly skilled rescue ski teams" have deployed from two nearby ski resorts, the sheriff said. The six known survivors have been "directed to shelter in place as best they can in the condi-



tions," the sheriff added. Officials initially reported that a group of 16 people in total - four guides and 12 clients - were involved, though that number was later lowered to 15. "The six initially reported skiers who survived the avalanche have

been successfully rescued this evening," the sheriff's office wrote on Facebook late on Tuesday night. Two of the six rescued skiers were taken to hospital, it said. Experts from the nearby Boreal Mountain Ski Resort and the Alder Creek

Adventure Center are also attempting to reach the site. An earlier statement posted by the sheriff's office said 46 emergency responders had joined the rescue efforts. The Sierra Avalanche Center wrote in a forecast: "Large avalanches are expected to occur [on] Tuesday, Tuesday night, and into at least early Wednesday morning across backcountry terrain." The avalanche centre listed the danger rating as "high" - a four out of five on the rating scale. "Travel in, near, or below avalanche terrain is not recommended today. A widespread natural avalanche cycle is expected over the next 24 hours," the centre said.

US says 'meaningful progress' made as Ukraine talks enter second day



US special envoy Steve Witkoff said talks between Ukraine and Russia had "brought about meaningful progress" to end the war, as both sides prepared for a second day of negotiations in Geneva on Wednesday. However, hopes of a breakthrough remain low, with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky saying it "was not fair" that US President Donald Trump keeps asking his country to compromise, adding that "peace wouldn't be achieved if victory is handed to Russia". US President Donald Trump has recently suggested it is up to Ukraine to ensure talks in Switzerland are successful, without mentioning Russia. The Kremlin has not wavered from its maximalist demands for Ukrainian territory. "President Trump's success in bringing both sides of this war together has brought about meaningful progress, and we are proud to work under his leadership to stop the killing in this terrible conflict," Witkoff wrote on X after the first day of talks. Zelensky has repeatedly said his country is being asked to make disproportionate compromises

compared to Russia. Russia occupies roughly 20% of Ukraine, including large parts of the eastern Donbas region. The Kremlin wants Ukraine to hand over the rest of the region, which Ukraine has ruled out. Ukraine says robust security guarantees from the West - including the US - must come before any settlement with Russia can be agreed. Zelensky told the Axios website on Tuesday it was "not fair" that Trump kept calling on Ukraine to broker a deal, adding: "I hope it is just his tactics and not the decision." In a statement on social media on Tuesday evening, top Ukrainian negotiator Umerov said the first day of talks focused on "practical issues and the mechanics of possible solutions". In a video address shortly afterwards, Zelensky said Ukraine was ready to refrain from carrying out strikes, as proposed by the US to both Kyiv and Moscow. "We don't need war," he said, stressing that Ukrainians were "defending our state, our independence". "We are also ready to quickly move towards a worthy agreement to end the war."

PERU'S CONGRESS OUSTS PRESIDENT AFTER FOUR MONTHS IN OFFICE

Peru's Congress has ousted interim President José Jeri just four months after he took office for failing to disclose meetings with Chinese businessmen. The scandal unfolded last month after videos emerged of Jeri meeting several times outside his official schedule with businessman Zhihua Yang, who was under government scrutiny. Jeri had previously apologised for the meetings, but denied any wrongdoing and accused his rivals of a public smear campaign. His removal from office makes him the third consecutive president to be ousted, after he replaced former leader Dina Boluarte, who was impeached in October last year. Jeri was Peru's seventh president

since 2016 amid a tumultuous political landscape that has seen a succession of leaders leave the post under contentious circumstances. He was not elected by the Peruvian people, but - as head of Congress - was sworn in as president after his predecessor, Dina Boluarte, was impeached in October 2025. While lawmakers had set a date to discuss impeaching Jeri, in the end they opted for a different parliamentary procedure called censure, which only required a simple majority to pass rather than the super majority needed for an impeachment. Later on Wednesday, Congress will name a new interim president who will serve only for a few months - until a new



president is chosen by the people in a general election this April. Jeri had come under fire following a series of controversies dubbed "Chifa-gate" - after a local name for Chinese-Peruvian fusion food and the restaurants which serve it. Security camera footage of Jeri's meet-

ings with Yang, who owns several businesses and was granted a state concession for an energy project, was first reported by local media. In one of the videos, Jeri could be seen wearing a hooded top during a late-night visit at one of Yang's restaurants. Also present at one of the

meetings was another Chinese citizen who was under house arrest while being investigated for alleged links to an illegal timber network. Peruvian law requires presidents to document their official activities, but Jeri did not record those meetings. Jeri faced further criticism after it emerged that state contracts had been awarded to a number of women following late-night meetings they had with him in the presidential palace. Ruth Luque, one of the lawmakers who backed the censure measure, said she wanted a leader who would put public interest and security first. "We ask to end this agony so we can truly create the transition citizens are

hoping for," she said, according to Reuters news agency. "Not a transition with hidden interests, influence-peddling, secret meetings and hooded figures. We don't want that sort of transition." Pressure had been mounting for Jeri to resign in the wake of the scandals as he faced a corruption investigation launched by the attorney general and his approval ratings plummeted. His removal marks another chapter of instability for Peru, which is due to hold a general election in April, after which power will be transferred to a new president. Jeri's predecessor Boluarte was impeached following a tenure that was plagued by protest, scandals and a surge in gang violence.



THE OLYMPIC FAVOURITE WHO COULD HAVE COMPETED FOR GB

Emily Harrop says she was born with bindings on her feet and poles in her hands. On Thursday, she could have a Winter Olympic medal around her neck. As a three-time world champion in ski mountaineering, the 28-year-old is a hot favourite to be on the Milan-Cortina podium as the sport makes its Olympic debut. And yet, in a parallel world, it could have been the red, white and blue of the union jack flying in her honour, and not that of the French flag. Born in the French Alps to an English mother and father, she was initially an alpine skier and was downhill British champion in 2015 - but choosing her allegiance was never given much thought. "My dad wanted me to go with the Brits," Harrop told BBC World Service's More Than The Score podcast. "I've grown up in France and all my coaches, all my training partners, it's all been through the French system. It was hard for me to turn my



back on all that." Harrop only took up ski mountaineering - or skimo for short - as a 20-year-old after injuries veered the course of her career away from alpine skiing. "In skimo, when I started at least, the British team didn't really exist and they weren't actually competing on the World Cup," she said. "So the question [of allegiance] didn't really get

asked." And Harrop has never looked back. She goes into the Olympics as a three-time world champion in the mixed relay and team events, with silver and bronze individual medals also to her name. She has twice won the Pierra Menta - "the Tour de France of the skimo world" - and has four overall World Cup titles. But what actually is ski mountaineering? What

is ski mountaineering? In 2021, ski mountaineering was added to the Olympic programme for the Milan-Cortina 2026 Games and will take place in the resort of Bormio in the Dolomites, though there are no athletes competing in the sport for Team GB. The sport "blends endurance, technical skill, and alpine adventure", according to its governing

body. Three medal events will be contested - men's and women's sprint, and the mixed relay. The sprint events consist of both an ascent and descent, with athletes sprinting uphill with skins on their skis to provide traction. They then remove the skis, placing them in their backpack, and continue climbing on foot, before a further uphill section on top. Once they reach the top of the course, they remove the skins, and ski downhill to the finish line. The average duration of a race is about three minutes. In the mixed relay, each team consists of one male and one female athlete. On the course, there are two ascents on skis plus sections on foot, and two descents. "It is a brutal sport," said Harrop. "It's probably one of the hardest ones you have out there." Harrop was brought up watching British TV and has been told, by French people, that her British blood has given her "more optimism".

Pacquiao to face Provodnikov in exhibition in April



Veteran Manny Pacquiao will face former light-welterweight world champion Ruslan Provodnikov in an exhibition on 18 April. Pacquiao, 47, ended a four-year stint of retirement in July when losing by majority draw against WBC welterweight champion Mario Barrios. The eight-weight world champion called for a rematch after that defeat but has since switched his direction of travel and will compete in an exhibition bout. Pacquiao and

Provodnikov, who retired in 2016, will fight in a 10-round exhibition at Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas. "I carry the Philippines with me every time I fight," Pacquiao said. "The support from my country and from fans around the world continues to inspire me. I'm coming back to give them a great fight - and I'm ready." "Returning to Las Vegas means so much to me." Pacquiao has a professional record of 62 wins, eight losses and three draws and is

unbeaten across three previous exhibitions - winning two and drawing one. In July - before facing Barrios after overturning his decision to retire - Pacquiao told BBC Sport that he intended to make an extended return to boxing. The Filipino was inducted into the boxing Hall of Fame in 2025. Russia's Provodnikov, 42, competed at light-welterweight and welterweight during his professional career - winning 25 and losing five.

1st Time In History: Australia Suffer Embarrassing Low After T20 World Cup 2026 Exit

Australia suffered an embarrassing low after the Mitchell Marsh-led side crashed out of the T20 World Cup 2026 with one group stage match still remaining. Australia won just one of their three matches, and their fate was sealed when the game between Ireland and Zimbabwe was washed out on Tuesday. As a result, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe booked their spots in the Super 8s, while Australia's remaining game against Oman became a "dead rubber." Australia won their opening game against Ireland but suffered back-to-back defeats against Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka. This marks the first time



Australia has failed to reach the T20 World Cup semifinals three times in a row. Since winning the T20 World Cup in 2021, Australia was knocked out in the Super 12 stage in 2022 and crashed out in the Super 8s in 2024 following a shock defeat against Afghanistan. Earlier,

Mitchell Marsh admitted his side was devastated and left relying on other results after Australia slumped to an eight-wicket defeat against Sri Lanka in a crucial clash of the T20 World Cup 2026 at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium in Kandy on Monday. Marsh felt

that 182 was a competitive target at the halfway mark but conceded that Australia had fallen short despite a blazing start. "I thought it was a competitive total at the halfway mark. We probably left ourselves a few short after the start we had. It is disappointing. Well played to Sri Lanka. They outplayed us tonight," he said. Australia were cruising at 110/2 before losing momentum dramatically in the latter stages. "We know that at our best, we can make big scores. We just lost our way towards the back-end. Couldn't get the partnership going. Sri Lanka bowled really well towards the back-end.

"These People Will Kill Me": What Imran Khan Told Sisters On Mohsin Naqvi

The jailed Pakistan cricket legend and former Prime Minister, Imran Khan, is reportedly facing serious health issues. The situation has escalated to the point where several former international cricket captains including Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil Dev, Greg Chappell, and Clive Lloyd have submitted a joint appeal to the Pakistan government, urging fair treatment for the country's cricketing icon. While international voices rally to support Khan, his sisters have alleged that Mohsin Naqvi, the Chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board and the country's Interior Minister, is threatening them. "Threat" From



Moshin Naqvi Imran Khan's sisters, Dr Uzma Khan and Aleema Khan, claimed that Mohsin Naqvi and Asim Munir, Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, are plotting a conspiracy to kill the cricket great. The sisters stated that Khan himself informed them of a plot

against his life during a recent meeting. "These people will kill me; they have made a plan to kill me," Uzma said during a press conference, narrating the conversation she had with her brother. Aleema Khan also highlighted concerns regarding the deteriorating condition

of her brother's eye, claiming that he is being denied access to his trusted medical team. "Mohsin Naqvi is threatening us; they have tasted blood," Aleema stated. "If anything happens to Imran Khan or to us, mark my words, we will not spare anyone's future generations either." Uzma and Aleema requested that Khan be examined by his personal physicians, Dr. Asim and Dr. Faisal, but this request was denied. "The government rejected the specialists recommended by our doctors, so they were provided with alternative names," the sisters explained. "We then put forward our cousin Nausherwan Burki's name to represent the family.

NAKAI, 17, TOPS WOMEN'S SHORT PROGRAM AS JAPAN DOMINATE



Japan dominated the short program in the women's figure skating at Milan-Cortina 2026 with their athletes occupying three of the top four places following the short program. Ami Nakai, 17, stormed to the top of the leaderboard with a season-best score of 78.71. She is followed by three-time world champion Kaori Sakamoto, while compatriot Mone Chiba - who won bronze at last year's worlds - is in fourth. They took advantage of errors by the fancied Americans, with reigning world champion Alysa Liu third and Amber Glenn well down the field. Liu, with her immediately recognisable halo hair and lip piercing, took the roof off the arena as her routine was acclaimed by spectators ranging from team-mate Ilia Malinin to rap icon Snoop Dogg. However, she lost points on her triple lutz for landing on the quarter - not fully completing the rotation, instead returning to the ice 90 degrees short. American champion Glenn meanwhile suffered a disaster as she missed her triple loop - meaning it was scored

as an invalid element, thus scoring zero points for that element. Glenn, 26, burst into tears as she exited the rink. She is 13th in the standings and knows her medal hopes are over. Adelia Petrosian, the Russian champion competing as an Individual Neutral Athlete (AIN), is in fifth place. Team GB's Kristen Spours - in her final event before injury-enforced retirement - finished 29th. The Woking-born skater misses out on the free skate, with the top 24 progressing to the medals decider on Thursday evening. So far, none of the AIN representatives, who come from countries which have been banned from competing at the 2026 Olympics, have won a medal. The most likely candidate to change that is 18-year-old Petrosian, the Russian national champion. The teenager is under the tutelage of controversial Eteri Tutberidze - the coach of Kamila Valieva at the last Olympics, and whose involvement with the Georgia figure skating team helped win the country's first ever Winter Olympic medal with pairs silver last night.



F1 pre-season testing: Problems for Aston Martin as Stroll brings out red flag

Ishan Kishan To Marry Aditi Hundia? Mother Reacts To 'Girlfriend' Revelation

Indian cricket team wicket-keeper batter Ishan Kishan grabbed the headlines with a brilliant match-winning knock against Pakistan in the T20 World Cup 2026. The left-handed opener slammed 77 off just 40 deliveries to guide India to a comprehensive victory in the match. The knock earned him praise from both fans as well as experts and even his family members expressed their thoughts on his performance. While the focus was completely on cricket, his grandfather's comments about his relationship with model Aditi Hundia sparked rumours of a possible wedding in the near future. However, his mother Suchitra Devi denied the rumours and said that this is time for him to concentrate on the game. "It's not about marriage, it is time

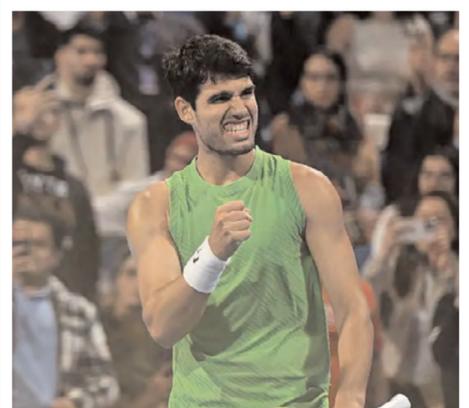


for him to play cricket. He's not old enough to talk about marriage. Grandpa is getting a little old. Old people are always a little excited. Something or the other keeps coming up on social media. He said all this based on what he saw on social media," she told IANS. Earlier, Kishan's grandfather, Anurag Pandey, confirmed that his grandson is currently dating model Aditi Hundia. He

even said that he has no issues if they want to get married. "Whoever Ishan chooses to marry, I fully accept. We are ready to accept whoever Ishan Kishan wants to marry. Aditi is his girlfriend. She is a model. One should accept what makes children happy," he told ANI. Kishan, following his stunning performance against Pakistan, said his Player-of-the-match award belongs to

all Indian fans and the whole team, not just him. Kishan said he kept it simple and treated the game against Pakistan as just another game, watching the ball and playing his shots after assessing the wicket and target. He felt no panic and credited his teammates with confidence, but added that his job isn't done and that he wants to move on to the next match. Ishan's dream run in T20s continued as he breezed through the Pakistan spin play, slamming his second successive T20 World Cup fifty and guiding a clinical India to a 61-run win at Colombo on Sunday, while also pulling off some fantastic work behind the stumps, including a stumping to remove a dangerous Usman Khan, who was slowly counter-attacking against Indian bowlers.

ALCARAZ WINS FIRST MATCH SINCE MELBOURNE TRIUMPH



Carlos Alcaraz says he was glad to get through some "difficult moments" against Arthur Rinderknech as he won his first match since triumphing at last month's Australian Open. Top seed Alcaraz had to save two set points in the second set but won 6-4 7-6 (7-5) against the unseeded Frenchman in the first round of the Qatar Open in Doha. It was seventh-time Grand Slam winner Alcaraz's first match since beating Novak Djokovic in Melbourne to become the youngest male player to achieve the career Grand Slam. "It was really difficult," said the Spaniard. "Arthur is a really dangerous player. Nobody wants to play against him in the first round, I'm happy with the level. I'm happy that I got through difficult moments in the match." Alcaraz, 22, started well and broke to go 3-2 up, before comfortably seeing out the rest of the set to take it 6-4 with a deft volley at the net. World number 30

Rinderknech improved from there, earning two set points at 6-5, but Alcaraz, helped by his 28 winners in the match, saved them before coming out on top in the tie-break. He sealed victory with a forehand down the line and sets up a second-round tie against France's Valentin Royer, who beat countryman Pierre-Hugues Herbert 6-0 6-3. Victory was Alcaraz's 150th at tour level on hard courts and extended his flawless start to the 2026 season to 8-0. Dubai Championships sees more withdrawals The second round of the Dubai Tennis Championships was hit by fitness issues again as four players, including fifth seed Mirra Andreeva, advanced because of player withdrawals. Andreeva went through when opponent Daria Kasatkina pulled out before the tie, while ninth seed Belinda Bencic was also handed a walkover when Sara Bejlek withdrew prior to the match.

“I BELIEVE ‘HEY BALWANTH’ WILL BECOME THE BIGGEST COMMERCIAL BLOCKBUSTER HIT OF MY CAREER”: SUHAS

The successful duo Bunny Vasu and Vamsi Nandipati, who recently delivered blockbuster films like Little Hearts, Raju Weds Rambhai, and Isha, are now bringing a full-length out-and-out entertainer titled “Hey Balwanth” (title changed from Hey Bhagwan) under the banners of Nandipati Entertainments and Bunny Vasu Works.



The film stars Suhas, Shivani Nagaram, senior actor Naresh, and anchor Sravanthi in key roles. Directed by Gopi Acharya, the film is produced by B. Narendra Reddy under the Trishul Visionary Studios banner. The movie is set to release on February 20.

Ahead of the release, a “Not A Title” event related to the film was held grandly in Hyderabad. Hero Sundeep Kishan attended the event as the chief guest.

Sundeep Kishan said: “I am happy to attend this event. Vamsi Nandipati’s name has been heard in the industry for some time now. I like his confidence. I like Suhas a lot. I have watched all his films. He is a hero who believes in stories and works very sincerely. Even after the title change, everyone calls this a Suhas film. With this movie, Suhas will once again win the hearts of the audience. When I watched the teaser, it looked very interesting. The way the film was promoted is good. I strongly believe this movie will definitely be a success.”

nately be a success.”

Hero Suhas said: “My thanks to hero Sundeep Kishan who always encourages me. The entire team worked very hard for this film. My co-artists put in a lot of effort. This film will feel like a musical night with music director Vivek Sagar’s music. The producer made this film without compromising anywhere. The entire shoot happened in a very positive atmosphere. I had heard about Vamsi Nandipati earlier, but through this film I understood him better. With good planning, he created strong buzz for the film. Director Gopi fulfilled his dream with this movie and worked very hard to make a good film. Shivani and Sudarshan both acted superbly.

I got a break in my career with the film Majili. Good offers started coming. Around that time, I got an offer to act with a big heroine in a film where my role had close scenes with the heroine. Someone questioned why I was called to the set. But later I acted with Keerthy Suresh in Uppu Kappurambu. That was a great moment for me. If someone talks down about you, just smile and move on. Anyone can achieve anything. I strongly believe ‘Hey Balwanth’ will bring me a big hit.”

Shivani Nagaram said: “When the title changed, we were all tense. But Bhagwan became Balwanth. This is a movie everyone will enjoy. People will laugh a lot. It has entertainment, emotion, everything. This film is special for our entire team. There is no doubt this will be a blockbuster. This is a special film for me with Suhas. I told him during Ambajipeta movie that we should do many films together and I should be part of every blockbuster of his. So this film will definitely be a blockbuster.”

Vamsi Nandipati said: “Even if dates or titles change, the impact our movie creates on February 20 will not change. This film has love, entertainment, and emotion — which everyone will like. It also has a father-son emotional track. This is a wholesome entertainer. When audiences leave the theatre, their hearts will feel heavy with emotion. Such films connect with real life. This movie will be worth the money people spend. It is a

paisa-vasool film and will provide 100% entertainment. On this occasion, I am giving an advance for director Gopi’s second film in front of all of you. That shows my confidence in ‘Hey Balwanth’.”

Producer B. Narendra Reddy said: “This is the first film from our banner. After listening to twenty stories, we liked Gopi’s story. We completed shooting quickly. After Vamsi Nandipati joined the project, I felt relaxed. The artists and technicians supported us greatly.”

Director Gopi Acharya said: “We changed ‘Hey Bhagwan’ slightly to ‘Hey Balwanth’. Only the title changed — not the content or entertainment. I believe I utilized the opportunity given by Suhas well. Even though he is very busy, he supported this film a lot. Producer Narendra Reddy had great passion for cinema. He was involved in everything and never compromised on budget. This film will definitely become a blockbuster.” The event was attended by lyric writer K.K., editor Viplav, DOP Mahireddy, writer Mithun, actor Harshavardhan, music director Vivek Sagar, director Sandeep Raj, producer Dheeraj Mogilineni, actors Divya, Vidya, producer and Chai Bisket founder Anurag Reddy, actor Sudarshan, actress Sravanthi Chokkarapu, Lavanya Reddy, and others.

GSR Movie Makers “Amma... Naaku Aa Abbayi Kaavali” Songs Recording Completed!!

Under the musical direction of sensational composer Sai Karthik, the film’s director Shivala Prabhakar has penned the lyrics for the songs. Produced by noted businesswoman G. Shailaja Reddy under the banner of GSR Movie Makers, the triangular love story “Amma... Naaku Aa Abbayi Kaavali” introduces Pawan Mahaveer as the hero. Directed by Sivala Prabhakar, this unique romantic entertainer has already completed song recordings even before the commencement of regular shooting, spreading musical excitement. Suhana stars opposite Pawan Mahaveer, while the second heroine will be revealed soon!!



Under Sai Karthik’s musical direction, lyrics written by director Sivala Prabhakar have been rendered by renowned singers Chitra, Harini, Brinda, Arun, Sai Charan, and Krishna Chaitanya. The film was grandly launched at Saradhi Studios, Hyderabad, in the presence of several distinguished guests. Regular shooting is scheduled to begin on the 19th of this month at the famous pilgrimage location Pattisima near Rajahmundry, after which the team will move to Vizag and Araku for further schedules!! Speaking on the occasion, producer G. Shailaja Reddy said:

“Our director Sivala Prabhakar is handling this project with great dedication, almost like a sacred mission. The songs composed under Sai Karthik’s direction and written by Prabhakar have come out wonderfully. I believe debut hero Pawan Mahaveer has a bright future ahead.”

Logan Paul’s rare Pokémon card sells for Rs 150 crore at auction

Hyderabad: Logan Paul, a social media star and professional wrestler, made history by selling his rare Pikachu Illustrator Pokémon card for Rs. 149.5 Crore at an auction. This sale set a new world record for the most expensive trading card ever sold at auction.



Bidding Process and Auction Details
The auction lasted 42 days, with many bidders trying to win the card. The winner was A J Scaramucci, a venture capitalist and the son of former White House communications director Anthony Scaramucci. After the auction, Logan Paul personally handed the card to AJ Scaramucci, marking a special moment. A Guinness World Records official, Sarah Casson, was present to confirm that the final bid was the highest ever paid for a trading card at auction, setting a new world record.

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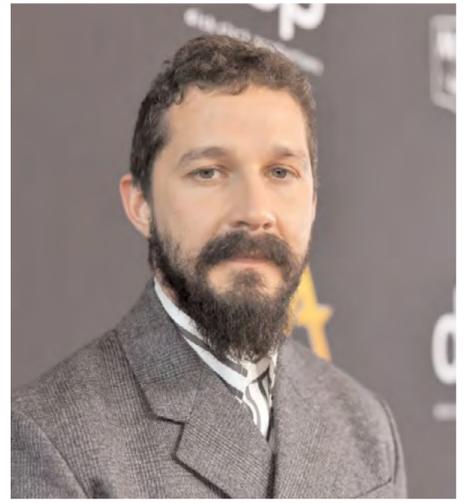
KING OF ENTERTAINMENT SREE VISHNU’S VISHNU VINYASAM TEASER OFFERS LAUGHTER-PACKED EXPERIENCE

King of Entertainment Sree Vishnu returns with yet another hilarious entertainer. His upcoming film, Vishnu Vinyasam, marks the directorial debut of Yadunaath Maruthi Rao and is all set to hit theatres on the 28th of this month. The film stars Nayana Sarika opposite Sree Vishnu and is produced by Sumanth Naidu G under the Sree Subrahmanyeswara Cinemas banner. With the release fast approaching, the makers have now dropped an entertaining teaser. Vishnu is obsessed with horoscopes, while his father worships money. He checks vaastu before making even the smallest decision. In the middle of this chaos, he falls in love, but the girl is even more unpredictable than he is. One



moment she’s deeply affectionate, the next she asks him to search for a groom for her. This strange dynamic sets the stage for a fresh, quirky love story. The teaser opens cleverly with a “Use Headphones” warning and a playful emoji, instantly promising a fun ride.

Shia LaBeouf Posts ‘Free Me’ After Arrest at Mardi Gras



Shia LaBeouf wrote “Free me” on his X account Wednesday morning, one day after his arrest over an alleged physical altercation during Mardi Gras in New Orleans. The “Transformers” actor was involved in an incident early Tuesday outside a bar in the French Quarter, during which he allegedly assaulted two men. According to a statement from the New Orleans Police Department shared with Variety, LaBeouf was “reportedly causing a disturbance and becoming increasingly aggressive” at a business on Royal Street. “Once removed from the building, the victim reported being struck by LaBeouf, who used his closed fists on the victim several times,” the department said. After briefly leaving, LaBeouf returned and acted “even more aggressive,” Police added. “Multiple people attempted to hold him down — he was eventually let up in hopes that he would leave — but he reportedly again struck the same victim with closed fists to the victim’s upper body.” The statement noted that LaBeouf allegedly assaulted another individual by “punching him in the nose.” LaBeouf is facing two charges of simple battery. He was released from jail in New Orleans on Tuesday, and a pretrial hearing is scheduled for March 19. LaBeouf has had a history of erratic behavior and prior legal issues, including a lawsuit filed against him by musician FKA Twigs, who accused him of sexual battery, assault and infliction of emotional distress. The lawsuit was settled in July of last year. In an earlier incident, LaBeouf was ordered by a court to attend rehab after his 2017 arrest in Georgia on charges of public intoxication and disorderly conduct. In 2025, LaBeouf appeared in Leo Lewis O’Neil’s documentary “Slauson Rec,” which followed the actor as he leads an experimental theater company. The film, which screened at the Cannes Film Festival, shows LaBeouf berating actors and crew members, instigating a fistfight and engaging in other aggressive behavior.



Alia Bhatt among presenters at 79th BAFTA Film Awards

Bollywood star Alia Bhatt is set to present an award at the 79th edition of the BAFTA Awards, the British Academy announced on Tuesday. The awards ceremony, officially called the EE BAFTA Film Awards, aims to celebrate excellence in international cinema. It is set to take place on February 22 at London’s Royal Festival Hall. The 32-year-old actor is part of a star-studded lineup of guest presenters which also includes Alicia Vikander, Bryan Cranston, Cillian Murphy, Delroy Lindo, Emily Watson, Ethan Hawke, Gillian Anderson, Glenn Close, Hannah Waddingham, Monica Bellucci, Rege-Jean Page, Riz

Ahmed, and Stellan Skarsgard. Besides Bhatt, filmmaker Lakshmi Priya Devi, whose Manipuri-language film “Boong” has been nominated in the best children’s and family film category, will also attend the ceremony. “Boong”, which narrates the story of a young boy named Boong (Gugun Kipgen), from the valley of Manipur, who plans

to surprise his mother with a gift, is backed by actor-producer Farhan Akhtar and Ritesh Sidhwani through their banner Excel Entertainment. In the category, the film will compete against Disney hits “Lilo & Stitch” and “Zootopia 2” as well as animated science fantasy film “Arco”. She will be one of the presenters at the 2026

British Academy Film Awards (BAFTAs), one of the most respected honours in international cinema, as reported by news agency ANI. In addition to Bhatt, the highly anticipated awards gala has also announced renowned A-listers as presenters, including Bryan Cranston, Cillian Murphy, Ethan Hawke, Kate Hudson and Michael B. Jordan, among many others. For those unaware, the Hearts of Stone actress has also made special appearances at several international events, strengthening her position as a prominent Indian voice in global cinema. The BAFTAs 2026 will bring together an exceptional mix of presenters and nominees from across the world.

