

Lamborghini crash accused arrested in morning, granted bail by afternoon

KANPUR: Shivam Mishra, the main accused in the Lamborghini crash that injured several people on Kanpur's VIP Road earlier this week, was granted bail just hours after his arrest on Thursday.



MORNING-BAILED



Minnesota immigration enforcement surge is ending, Trump border tsar says

WORLD | NEWS

MS Dhoni Asked To Pay Rs 10 Lakh By Madras High Court



SPORTS | NEWS

INBRIFS

Heroin worth Rs 3.2 crore seized in Assam, two arrested

Cachar (Assam): In a major crackdown on cross-border narcotics trafficking, the Assam Rifles and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) seized heroin valued at ₹3.2 crore and arrested two alleged drug peddlers in Assam's Cachar district, officials said on Thursday.

Punjab Police foil terror plot, arrest UP man with IED and pistol

Chandigarh: In a major intelligence-driven operation, the Punjab Police's Special Operations Cell in Amritsar has dismantled another Pakistan-backed terror module, averting what officials described as a significant terror plot.

TDP issues strong warning to party's 'controversial' MLA

Amaravati: The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leadership has warned party MLA Kollikapudi Srinivasa Rao that it will not tolerate further indiscipline.

CM Revanth seeks defence land, rail funds, airport clearances in Delhi meetings

Hyderabad TSIT BUREAU: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy held a series of high-level meetings with Union Ministers in New Delhi, seeking central approvals and cooperation for key infrastructure and development projects.

Musi Rejuvenation & Gandhi Sarovar Project

The Chief Minister met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and requested the transfer of 100 acres of defence land required for the Musi Rejuvenation Project.

CM Revanth Reddy also invited the Defence Minister to attend the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Gandhi Sarovar Project planned at Babu Ghat, located at the confluence of the Isa and Musi rivers.

SEEKS CENTRE'S SUPPORT



CM Revanth Reddy proposed developing Shamshabad as a high-speed rail tri-junction connecting Hyderabad with Chennai, Bengaluru, and Pune, offering 500 acres for the project.

Railways: Krishna-Vikarabad Line & High-Speed Corridors

In a separate meeting with Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, the Chief Minister urged the Centre to fully fund the Krishna-Vikarabad railway line, stating that the State Government is ready to bear land acquisition costs.

international standards. He said land acquisition has been completed and requested approval for cargo, maintenance, and overhaul facilities.

Airports: Mammoor & Adilabad

The Chief Minister also met Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammoohan Naidu and pressed for early execution of the Mammoor Airport project in Warangal with

India approves 114 Rafale jets, defence projects worth Rs 3.6 lakh cr

New Delhi (TSIT) The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) today approved a major acquisition — the purchase of 114 Rafale jets, an additional six US-made Boeing P8-I surveillance planes for the Navy, Scalp missiles, and the new-technology High Altitude Pseudo Satellite (HAPS).

The Rafale purchase will now go to Cabinet Committee on Security, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which is expected to give a final nod.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) had moved a formal proposal in September last year to MoD seeking 114 more Rafale fighter jets as part of its multi-pronged plan to add more aircraft.



INDIA AND FRANCE ARE LOOKING TO SEAL THE DEAL FOR THE JETS WHEN MODI AND FRENCH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MACRON MEET IN INDIA FROM FEBRUARY 17-19

India examining US proposal to join Gaza Peace Board: MEA

New Delhi (TSIT) India is examining the invitation from the US to join President Donald Trump's proposed Board of Peace for Gaza, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said here on Thursday.

He underlined that India has consistently supported efforts aimed at promoting peace, stability and dialogue in West Asia.



dialogue in West Asia. Our Prime Minister has welcomed these initiatives that provide a pathway toward long-term and sustainable peace in the region, including Gaza.

of Peace, we are currently reviewing it," Jaiswal said.

India was invited by US President Donald Trump to be part of the Board of Peace for Gaza along with other global partners. Washington has projected the proposed body as a new international mechanism to usher in peace and stability in Gaza and potentially respond to other global conflicts.

NATIONWIDE STRIKE DISRUPTS TRANSPORT AND BANKING SERVICES

The protesting unions have demanded the rollback of the four labour codes

New Delhi (TSIT): The nationwide general strike called by a joint forum of central trade unions against the BJP-led central government's alleged "anti-worker, anti-farmer and pro-corporate policies" disrupted normal life in several states on Thursday.

The strike was organised by a joint platform of ten central trade unions, including INTUC, AITUC, HMS, CITU, AIUTUC, SEWA, AICCTU, LPF and UTUC.



demanding the rollback of the four labour codes, alleging that they dilute workers' rights, reduce job security and make it easier for employers to hire and terminate staff.

Rahul should refrain from doing politics on national security issue, says BJP

CHENNAI (TSIT): Senior BJP leader Vanathi Srinivasan on Thursday asked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to refrain from doing politics on national security issue and instead focus on constructive politics.

'Patience will pay': Shivakumar on leadership change

NEW DELHI (TSIT): Amid speculation over a leadership change in the Congress-led Karnataka government, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Thursday said 'patience will also pay'.



it. I have seen only in newspapers," he told reporters New Delhi. After meeting senior leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi as well as All India Congress Committee president Mallikarjun Kharge in Delhi, Shivakumar said the matter concerning a change of leadership was not discussed with them.

He reiterated that the party's central leadership will take a call at an appropriate time in the interest of the state.

Kharge slams caste discrimination, flags Odisha anganwadi boycott

New Delhi (TSIT): Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday strongly condemned "persistent caste-based discrimination" in India, citing a shocking case from Odisha where parents have boycotted an Anganwadi centre for three months because the helper-cook is a Dalit woman.

Kharge described how the Anganwadi, meant to support children's physical and cognitive development through nutrition and early education, has been effectively shut down due to caste prejudice.

"Anganwadi is supposed to be a place for the physical and cognitive growth of children," he said, emphasising that the ongoing boycott deprives

young students of their rightful nutrition and hampers their overall development. He expressed outrage at the parents' discriminatory attitude toward the Dalit woman worker, underscoring that children should not suffer due to adult biases.

Kharge stressed that every child has a fundamental right to receive proper nutrition under government schemes designed to combat malnutrition. The Congress leader extended his criticism to similar incidents in other states, including Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Chandigarh, where caste discrimination has led to tragic outcomes.

He referenced cases of Madhya Pradesh, where a person urinated on a tribal labour-



er, a Dalit government employee who committed suicide amid alleged workplace harassment and institutional bias in

HIGHLIGHT POINT:

Mallikarjun Kharge condemned caste-based discrimination after parents in Odisha boycotted an Anganwadi for three months because the cook is a Dalit woman, calling it a violation of constitutional rights and demanding strict action.

Gujarat. In Chandigarh, an ADGP (Additional Director General of Police) from the Dalit community died by suicide, with his note alleging sustained caste-based discrimination, mental harassment, and humiliation by superiors within the police force itself.

Kharge noted that such events reveal how caste prejudice permeates not just social spheres but also professional environments, undermining the dignity,

career progression, and personal safety of marginalised sections. Kharge pointed out that treating employees differently based on caste violates key constitutional provisions, including Articles 14 (equality before law), 15 (prohibition of discrimination), and 17 (abolition of untouchability).

He demanded that the government treat such cases with utmost seriousness, ensuring strict and timely action against perpetrators. "Whenever there is a need to act in such matters, we hear excuses from the government that Dalits have been deprived," Kharge remarked sarcastically, urging immediate intervention to uphold constitutional values and protect vulnerable communities from systemic bias.

CBIT Releases Poster for SASIGD 2026 International Conference

Hyderabad: The official poster for the 2026 International Conference on Sustainable AI for Social Impact and Global Development (SASIGD 2026) was formally released by Prof. C. V. Narasimhulu, Principal, Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT), Hyderabad. The conference is scheduled to be held on August 13-14, 2026, and is technically co-sponsored by IEEE SSIT (Society on Social Implications of Technology). It carries the IEEE Conference Record #68127. Notably, IEEE SSIT has approved a conference for the first time for an Indian organization. Addressing the gathering, Prof. Narasimhulu

emphasized the growing need for sustainable and socially responsible Artificial Intelligence to address global challenges. He stated that SASIGD 2026 aims to provide a premier platform for researchers, academicians, industry experts, and students to elaborate on innovative AI-driven solutions that create meaningful and measurable social impact. The conference invites regular research papers, special sessions and student posters in emerging areas of Sustainable AI. All accepted and presented papers will be published in IEEE Xplore. The event is being organized under the leadership of Dr. Sagar Gujunoori, General Chair, SASIGD 2026, along with the Organizing Co-Chairs, Prof. M. Venugopala Chari, Head, Department of IT, and Dr. Ramakrishna Kollikipogu, CBIT, in collaboration with

Enforcement of prohibitory orders in the vicinity of the counting centre



WARANGAL, February 12, TSIT : Counting will be conducted in Jangoan, Ghanpur, Wardhannapet, Parakal and Narsampet areas on Friday in connection with the municipal elections held on Wednesday. As per BNS SCRPC 163 within 200 meters of counting centres as part of maintenance of law and order people are prohibited from gathering in groups of more than five people. This ban will be in force from 6 am on Friday to 6 am on Saturday 14th. Warangal Police Commissioner Sunpreet warned that anyone who violates these orders will face legal action.

Protest Against 'Anti-Worker' Labour Codes

Khammam (TSIT): Leaders of various political parties, trade unions, farmers' and agricultural workers' organisations alleged that the Centre has brought in the four Labour Codes to mortgage the country's workforce to corporate interests. They demanded the immediate withdrawal of the Labour Codes along with the Electricity Amendment Bill, Seed Amendment Act and other related legislations, claiming that these measures have become a curse for the people.



As part of the nationwide general strike, a rally was taken out on Thursday from Pavilion Grounds to ZP Centre. Trade unions, bank employees' associations, workers from organised and unorganised sectors, agricultural labourers and farmers' bodies extended full support to the strike. Addressing a public meeting, CPI state secretary member Bhagam Hemantha Rao, CPM state secretary member Potineni Sudarshan Rao and Congress city president Nagandla Deepak Chowdary alleged that hard-won labour rights secured through decades of struggle since the British era were being diluted. They said 29 existing labour laws had been consolidated into four codes to favour corporate entities, undermining the rights of nearly 500 million workers. The leaders urged the Centre to reconsider its decision and warned of intensified protests if the Labour Codes were not withdrawn.

National Level Student Cultural Carnival "SANSKRITI'26" POSTER LAUNCH held at KITS WARANGAL

WARANGAL: The Student Activity Centre (SAC), Kakatiya Institute of Technology & Science, Warangal (KITSW) is organising a national level cultural carnival named as "SANSKRITI'26" during 6-7th March, 2026 told by the Principal Prof. K. Ashoka Reddy.

On Friday the "SANSKRITI'26" poster was launched by the Principal Prof. K. Ashoka Reddy in association with dean student affairs Prof. K. Sridhar, professor of MED, faculty and student representatives held at KITS Warangal campus. On this occasion the Principal Prof. K. Ashoka Reddy highlighted that the main objective of the cultural fest is to have fun and responsibility to eradicate stress. It will enhance the leadership qualities, various competencies and



inculcate happiness among the student community. He advised the student community to make it successful by enjoying various enthusiasm and an explosion of color, music, dance, fine arts and other cultural events. By maintaining a balance between enjoyment and discipline and highlighting their ability to work together in unity. The former Rajya Sabha MP, Chairman, KITSW,

Congress Leaders Lead Protest Rally Against Central Labour Reforms as Part of Nationwide Bharat Bandh

Hyderabad: Alleging that the BJP-led Central Government's labour reforms and economic policies have weakened worker protections, Congress leaders and labour unions organised a massive protest rally in the city today as part of the nationwide strike call (Bharat Bandh) given by the AICC leadership.

Protesters stated that the new labour codes have reduced job security, diluted statutory safeguards, and increased employer flexibility in hiring and termination, thereby adversely impacting the rights and interests of workers across sectors. The rally commenced from the VST Union Office at Baghlingampally and proceeded to Dharna Chowk, drawing large participation from labour unions, worker associations, and Congress party cadres. Demonstrators



raised slogans demanding withdrawal or reconsideration of the labour codes and called for stronger legal protections for workers. TPCC President & MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud, Khairatabad DCC President Motha Rohit Mudhiraj, Secunderabad DCC President Deepak John, and Jubilee Hills MLA Maganti Gopinath Naveen Yadav took part in the protest along with

senior leaders and representatives of various labour and worker unions. Addressing the gathering, Congress leaders said the party stands firmly with workers and unorganised labour, and will continue to raise its voice against policies that they say undermine social security and workplace protections. They affirmed that the movement would continue until adequate safeguards for workers are

Srijana Assumes Charge as Cyberabad Municipal Commissioner Citizens Express New Hopes

Hyderabad: Senior IAS officer Srijana has officially taken charge as the new Cyberabad Municipal Commissioner, ushering in a wave of optimism among residents, civic groups, and administrative staff. Her appointment is being widely welcomed, with many expressing confidence that her leadership will accelerate urban development and improve civic services across the Cyberabad region. After assuming office, Commissioner Srijana held an initial review meeting with senior officials and department heads. She emphasized transparent governance, time-bound service delivery, sanitation improvement, infrastructure strengthening, and technology-driven administration as immediate priorities. She stated that



citizen grievance redressal, better coordination between departments, and field-level monitoring would be key focus areas. Special attention will also be given to road maintenance, drainage systems, town planning regulation, and public health measures. Local residents and stakeholders said they are hope-

Strict action if model code is violated during municipal counting, warns Sangareddy SP



Sangareddy, February 12 (TSIT) District Superintendent of Police Paritosh Pankaj has announced tight security arrangements for the municipal election counting in Sangareddy, set to begin at 8:00 AM on

PREGNANCY KITS DISTRIBUTED TO NEW MOTHERS IN HANAMKONDA WITH US-BASED DONOR'S SUPPORT



Hanamkonda : Pregnancy care kits were distributed to expecting and lactating mothers in Hanamkonda through the Heart and Hand Seva Organization, with support from Goli Naimisha Reddy based in the United States. Each kit, valued at approximately 2,500, includes nutrition supplements for mother and child, baby clothes, a baby carrier, and a mosquito net. Organisers said the initiative aims to support maternal and infant health by ensuring that mothers from underprivileged backgrounds receive essential post-pregnancy care materi-

als. The distribution was held in coordination with medical and social service representatives. Mission Hospital Chief Dr Vijayalakshmi, Goli Saraswati, Dr Vasavi, Kethidi Deepak Reddy, MD Nehal, Siraboyina Satish, and other volunteers participated in the event.

14-FOOT JALALINGA TO BE INSTALLED FOR MAHA SHIVARATRI IN SANGAREDDY

Sangareddy, February 12 (TSIT) On the occasion of Maha Shivaratri, a grand Jalalinga Mahotsavam will be organized under the auspices of Pasalwadi Vidyapeetham, announced Brahmashri Dr. Maheshwara Sharma Siddhanti, Founder of Sri Jyotivastu Vidyapeetham, Pasalwadi village in Sangareddy mandal. Speaking to the media at the Vidyapeetham Ashram on Thursday, he said that a 14-foot Jalalinga will be installed on February 15. From 6:00 AM on February 15 to 6:00 AM on February 16, devotees visiting the ashram will be given the opportunity to perform Abhishekam to the Jalalinga continuously for 24 hours.

3 cases filed against Karimnagar MLA Gangula Kamalakar for election code violation

Karimnagar, February 12, TSIT : Police have registered three cases against Karimnagar MLA Gangula Kamalakar and several others for alleged violation of election rules in Kisan Nagar, following a cash seizure and allegations of obstruction of duty. During checks conducted on Thursday based on a tip-off about cash being distributed to lure voters, police caught two persons red-handed. Kurra Tirupati (45) was found with Rs 44,500 in cash, and a case (Cr. No. 52/2026) was registered against him and seven others, including the MLA. Another person, Lokini Jampaiah (35), was caught with Rs 47,000. While police were taking him into custody, the MLA report-

edly intervened, obstructed officials, and had the suspect forcibly and unofficially released. The individual later held a dharna at the spot, disrupting law and order.

A second case (Cr. No. 53/2026) was registered against Kamalakar and eight others, including Peruka Manjula and Bejnum Madhu. A third case (Cr. No. 54/2026) was filed against Edla Ashok and Kurra Tirupati for holding a press meet after the incident and appealing for votes, in violation of election rules.

Karimnagar Three Town Inspector Gurram Thirumal confirmed the cases. Commissioner of Police Goush Alam warned of strict action against those disturbing peace and order during the election process.

Yasmeen Bhasha Drives New Momentum in Horticulture and Oilseed Development Initiatives

Hyderabad: Telangana's horticulture and oilseed sectors are witnessing renewed administrative focus and field-level momentum under the leadership of Yasmeen Bhasha, Director of Horticulture and Managing Director of Oilseed with the cooperation of Senior Officials and Minister Through a series of review meetings, field inspections, and coordination drives, she is strengthening programme delivery aimed at boosting farmer incomes and improving crop value chains. In recent departmental reviews, she emphasized expansion of horticulture cultivation, promotion of high-value crops, micro-irrigation support, and improved nursery standards. District officials were directed to ensure timely supply of quality planting material, strengthen extension services, and provide on-ground technical guidance to farmers adopting fruit, vegetable, and plantation crops.

TAMILNAD MERCANTILE BANK LTD.

Rikabgunj Branch, D.No.21-1-525 to 527, Ground floor, Opp Lane to High Court Gate No.4, Rikabgunj, Hyderabad-500002. (P:040-24573494,24570402) (M:)+91 9177701971. Email:hyderabad_rikabgunj@tmbank.in, CIN: L65110TN1921PLC001908

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES THROUGH E-AUCTION

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited, Rikabgunj Branch, (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 05-03-2026 for recovery of Rs. 2,91,15,214.69/- (Rupees Two Crore Ninety One Lakhs Fifteen Thousand Two Hundred Fourteen and Sixty Nine Paise Only) as on 31-01-2026 due to Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited, Rikabgunj Branch Secured Creditor from Borrower / Mortgagee / Guarantors: 1) M/s Vedamsa Agro Products Private Limited, rep. by its directors 1) Mr. Kapil Reddy Laxmpoor, 2) Mr. Bilakanti Subbaiah S/o Nagisetty, 3) Mr. Gangam Venkata Anil Kumar Reddy S/o Narsa Reddy and 4) Mrs. Gangam Venkata Jyothi Reddy W/o Anil Kumar Reddy. The Reserve Price will be Rs. 4,53,84,000/- (Rupees Four Crore Fifty Three Lakhs Eighty Four Thousand Only) and earnest money deposit will be Rs. 45,38,400/- (Rupees Forty Five Lakhs Thirty Eight Thousand Four Hundred Only). E - Auction website: https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net

Upset Price	Rs. 4,53,84,000/- (Rupees Four Crore Fifty Three Lakhs Eighty Four Thousand Only)
Date and time of e-auction	05-03-2026 between 10.00 AM to 4:00 PM with auto time extension of 5 minutes each, till sale is concluded
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 45,38,400/- (Rupees Forty Five Lakhs Thirty Eight Thousand Four Hundred Only)
Last date for submission of bid form with EMD	Bid form along with Demand Draft in favour of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd, Rikabgunj Branch should be submitted on or before 03-03-2026 within 06:00 pm.
Place of Submission of BID form and EMD	Authorized Officer, TAMILNAD MERCANTILE BANK LTD., Rikabgunj Branch, D.No.21-1-525 to 527, Ground floor, Opp Lane to High Court Gate No.4, Rikabgunj, Hyderabad-500002. (P: 040-24573494, 24570402) (M:)+91 9177701971.
Bid Multiplier	Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only)

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
All parts and parcels of the residential land to an extent of 1268.83 Sq. yards (As per registration deed an extent 1391.50 Sq. Yards, Road Affected area for future road widening an extent of 122.67 Sq Yards) and house building constructed there at to an extent of 2075.34 Sq. Feet (As per the Plan Approval) and 2422 (As per the actual measurement) dated at bearing Municipal House No. 1-1-1-6/3 (Old) 1-1-1-25 (new) in Sy. No. 1639 and 1641 situated Eedogon locality, Near X Road, Bainsa Road, Nirmal Town and District standing in the name of the Mr. Gangam Venkata Anil Kumar Reddy S/o Narsa Reddy. Boundaries: North: Land belongs to Akula Ramulu. South: Grave Yard and Eidgah, East: Siddapur Road, West: Land belongs to Vanjar Sayanna.

Note 1) The sale notice is also uploaded/published on website (www.tmb.bank.in). For terms and conditions of the auction, visit our website www.tmb.bank.in / Rikabgunj Branch.
2) Bid form for participating in the e-auction is available in the website https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net
3) Bidders shall hold a valid Digital Signature Certificate issued by competent authority and valid email ID (e-mail ID is absolutely necessary for the intending bidder) with regard to other relevant information and allotment of ID & password. For participating in the e-auction Contact: 9722774828, 079 35022145/149/182. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in secured creditors website (www.tmb.bank.in).
Date : 11-02-2026
Place : Rikabgunj
Sd/- Authorized Officer,
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd., Rikabgunj Branch.

Manappuram Home Finance Ltd

MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LTD
FORMERLY MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE PVT LTD
CIN : U6522K12010PP039178, 8/596 A, Padmarajapeta Building, Near Sreerama Swami Temple, Cherappuzha, Thrissur, Kerala 686522

DEMAND NOTICE
Whereas the Authorized Officer of Manappuram Home Finance Ltd, having our registered office at 8/596 A, Padmarajapeta Building, Near Sreerama Swami Temple, Cherappuzha, Thrissur, Kerala 686522 and branches at various places in India (hereinafter referred to as "MANAPPURAM") is a Company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 and a Financial Institution within the meaning of sub-clause (iv) of clause (m) of sub-section (1) of Section 2 of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as the "Act") read with Notification No. S.O. 3486 (E) dated 15th December, 2015 issued by the Govt. of India, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi, enter into a carryover business of advancing loans for construction and for purchase of dwelling units and whereas the Borrower / Co-Borrowers as mentioned in Column No. 2 of the below mentioned chart obtained loan from MANAPPURAM whereas MANAPPURAM being the secured creditor under the SARFAESI Act, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 2 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notice calling upon the Borrower(s) / Co-Borrowers as mentioned herein below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with further interest thereon within 60 days from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served upon some of them for various reasons. That in addition thereto for the purposes of information of the said borrowers enumerated below, the said borrowers are being informed by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/AN/ Branch	Description of Secured Asset in respect of which interest has been created	NPA Date	Date of Notice sent & Outstanding Amount
1	D LAKSHMI DEVI, DERANGULA RAJANNA, MML0909020165, KADAPPA	S.No.218-4-D.No.2-99A, Asst. No. 1283, Tadimari Revenue Village & Mandal, Sri Satya Sai Dist, ANDHRA PRADESH Pin:515631 Total extent of site is 49.5 Sq. Yards. EAST-Road, WEST-Property of G Srinivasulu, SOUTH-Property of G Lakshanna, NORTH-Road	30-12-2025	16-01-2026 & Rs.44216/-

Notice, is therefore given to the Borrower / Co-Borrowers, as mentioned herein above, calling upon them to make payment of the total outstanding amount as shown herein above, against the respective Borrower / Co-Borrower, within 60 days of publication of this notice. Failure to make payment of the total outstanding amount together with further interest by the respective Borrower / Co-Borrower, MANAPPURAM shall be constrained to take u/s 13(4) for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described above, steps are also being taken for service of notice in other manners as prescribed under the Act and the rules made thereunder. You are put to notice that the said mortgage can be redeemed upon payment of the entire amount due together with costs, charges and expenses incurred by MANAPPURAM at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction or private treaty for transfer by way of sale, as detailed in Section 13(3) of the SARFAESI Act. Take note that in terms of S-13 (13) of the SARFAESI Act, you are hereby restrained from transferring and/or dealing with the Secured Properties in any manner by way of sale, lease or in any other manner.

Place: Andhra Pradesh, Date: 13-02-2026 Sd/- Authorized Officer, Manappuram Home Finance Ltd

Bank Walkathon Rally at Mathuranagar

Karimnagar, February 12, TSIT : Reserve Bank of India is observing Financial Literacy Week from 9th to 13th February with the theme 'Your first step in securing your bank account'. As part of this, on the orders of RBI and District Collector Pamela Satpathy, a walkathon was organized in Madhuranagar village. Mutyala Gnana Suprabhat General Manager, RBI flagged off the walkathon speaking on the occasion, every bank account holder is advised to keep their KYC details updated. He explained the importance of timely KYC submission and required documents and the benefits of updating them to bank accounts. People are informed that name, address and date of birth should be same in Aadhaar, PAN and bank accounts.

DCB Bank Limited, Jyothi Majestic, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, Telangana 500 034

DCB BANK DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13 (2) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

You the below mentioned borrower(s), co-borrower(s) have availed loan facility(ies) from DCB Bank Limited by mortgaging your immovable properties (securities). Consequent to your defaults your loans were classified as non-performing assets. DCB Bank Limited For the recovery of the outstanding dues, issued demand notice under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the Act), the contents of which are being published herewith as per Section 13(2) of the Act read with rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 as and by way of service upon you. Details of the borrowers, co-borrowers, properties mortgaged, outstanding dues, demand notice sent under Section 13(2) and amount claimed there under are given as under:

Sr. No.	Name And Address Of The Borrower, Co-borrower/guarantor, Loan Account No., Loan Amount	Secured Property Address	1) Demand notice date 2) Outstanding dues 3) NPA Date
1	1. MR. ROUTHU SANKARA RAO, 2. MS. ROUTHU GOURISWARI. All Address At: 60-23-11, GVMC High School Janatha Colony Malkapuram Visakhapatnam 530011 Loan Account Number: DRBLV1500472453 Loan Amount Sanctioned: Rs.10,00,000/-	All That Piece And Parcel Of Property Having Land Baring 60-23-11 Measuring 66.66 Sq. Mtrs. Area Eastern Part Of Land Measuring 33.33 Sq. Mtrs. Or 27.86 Sq. Mtrs. Survey No 10/1 Situated At Village Malkapuram, D. Gajuwaka Saburi Yilaka Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation Tehsil & District Visakhapatnam Which is Bounded Under East House Of Katcha Simhachalam, West: Joint Wall, North: House Of Surapatti Kannayya, South: Municipal Road. (The Secured Assets)	1)28-01-2026 2)Rs. 8,59,441.48/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Fifty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Forty One and Forty Eight Paise Only) as on 28th January 2026 3)NPA Date -27-01-2026

You the borrower/s and co-borrowers/guarantors are therefore called upon to make payment of the above mentioned demanded amount with further interest as mentioned hereinabove in full within 60 days of this notice failing which the undersigned shall be constrained to take action under the act to enforce the above-mentioned securities. Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (6) of section 13 of the act by virtue of which you are at liberty to redeem the secured asset within the period stipulated in the aforesaid provision. Please note that as per section 13(13) of the said act, you are restrained from transferring the above-referred securities by way of sale, lease or otherwise without our consent.

Date: 13-02-2026 Place: Vishakhapatnam for DCB Bank Ltd, Authorized Officer

TDP issues strong warning to party's 'controversial' MLA

Amaravati, Feb 12 : The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leadership has warned party MLA Kolikapudi Srinivasa Rao that it will not tolerate further indiscipline. TDP state president Palla Srinivas on Thursday met Rao and issued him a clear warning on behalf of party's national president and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu.

The party has taken serious note of Tiruvuru MLA targeting other party leaders despite warnings given in the past.

According to TDP sources, Palla Srinivas told Rao in clear terms that no individual is bigger than the party.

The TDP state president told Rao that without the party, he was nothing individually. Palla Srinivas pulled up the MLA for controversial social media posts by him and his supporters targeting other leaders. The MLA was told that this behaviour was damaging the party's image in the public. Palla Srinivas explained that Chandrababu Naidu is serious over the issue and has warned that if Rao fails to mend his ways, the party will stop recognising him as an MLA. The MLA clarified that it was a mistake due to his inexperience. He assured the party state president that he would change his



behavior in future and sought guidance from senior leaders. The MLA has serious differences with some TDP leaders including party MP Kesineni Chinni. Rao had been at the centre of controversies ever since his election in 2024 from Tiruvuru constituency in NTR district. He was repeatedly warned by the party leadership. Last year he had, appeared before the disciplinary committee of the party. In January last year a woman, who was upset with the MLA's behaviour, attempted suicide. The

MLA was allegedly involved in a family dispute among the brothers in Gopalapuram village. There were allegations that he abused and attacked a woman, who is a supporter of the opposition YSR Congress Party. The woman attempted suicide by consuming poison following the incident. Chandrababu Naidu had also summoned the MLA and advised him to change his attitude. He was also summoned before the coordination committee headed by party state president.

Collector Stresses on Public Welfare, Better Healthcare Services.



Mancherial, February 12, TSIT : District Collector Kumar Deepak on Thursday directed officials of various departments to take proactive steps towards effective implementation of public welfare and development programmes in the district. During his visit to the Sub-Collector's office at Bellampalli along with Sub-Collector Manoj, the Collector reviewed the progress of ongoing development works and implementation of welfare schemes in the division. He instructed officials to identify suitable land for construction of a permanent office building. The Collector also inspected the vote counting centre set up at the Zilla Parishad High School in the town and directed officials to ensure that the counting process scheduled for February 13 is conducted smoothly and in a peaceful atmosphere without any lapses. He reviewed the arrangements made for counting staff, including drinking water and other basic facilities. Later, he inspected the ongoing construction of a government primary school at Ramnagar and asked officials to expedite the works. In a separate visit to the Primary Health Centre at Kannepalli, Mr. Deepak stressed the need to provide better medical services to patients visiting government hospitals. He instructed doctors and staff to maintain punctuality and remain available to the public. He assured that necessary medical equipment and infrastructure would be provided. The Collector also visited the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, where he reviewed the construction of the compound wall and proposed dining hall. He directed staff to ensure supply of nutritious food as per the prescribed menu under the mid-day meal scheme and to use fresh vegetables and quality provisions. He emphasised special attention towards students' health, academic performance and support for slow learners in view of the upcoming annual examinations. Officials concerned accompanied the Collector during the visits.

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Extensive Meeting Held on New EHS Scheme for Government Employees

Hyderabad: A comprehensive review meeting on the proposed new Employees Health Scheme (EHS) for Telangana State government employees was held at the Secretariat under the chairmanship of State Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao. Representatives of various employee unions participated and shared their views and suggestions on the upcoming health scheme.

On behalf of the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat Association, President Srigrini Srinivas Reddy and General Secretary Prem attended



the meeting and presented employee concerns and recommendations.

Addressing the participants, the Chief Secretary said the government is designing a new and more effective health scheme by correcting the shortcomings observed in the earlier EHS model. He noted

that issues such as limited treatment coverage and inadequate medical access under the previous system were being addressed. The new policy is being framed in response to long-pending demands from employees for comprehensive and hassle-free medical services.

DCB Bank Limited,
Jyothi Majestic, Banjara Hills,
Hyderabad, Telangana 500 034

DCB BANK

DEMAND NOTICE
UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

You the below mentioned borrower(s), co-borrower(s) have availed loan facility(ies) from DCB Bank Limited by mortgaging your immovable properties (securities). Consequently to your defaults your loans were classified as non-performing assets. DCB Bank Limited for the recovery of the outstanding dues, issued demand notice under Section 13(2) of The Securitization And Reconstruction Of Financial Asset And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the Act), the contents of which are being published herewith as per Section 13(2) of the Act read with rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 as and by way of service upon you. Details of the borrowers, co-borrowers, properties mortgaged, outstanding dues, demand notice sent under Section 13(2) and amount claimed there under are given as under:

Sr. No.	Name And Address Of The Borrower, Co-borrower/guarantor, Loan Account No., Loan Amount	Secured Property Address	1) Demand notice date 2) Outstanding dues 3) NPA Date
1	1. MR. NAGESWARAO MUVVA, 2. MR. NAGA BABU MUVVA, 3. MRS. PADMAVATI MUVVA. All Address At: R.S.No.56/8, DOOR No.1-67, ASST No.82 OLD 498, HSC No.27, Alapadu Village, Kaikaluru Mandalam, Kaikaluru, Andhra Pradesh-521340 Loan Account Number: DBLAK00410544 Loan Amount Sanctioned: Rs.5,22,623/-	All Piece And Parcel Of R.C.C. Building Bearing D.No. 1-67, With Assessment No. 82 (Old 498), Total Extent Is: Ac.0-06cts Or 290.4 Sq.Y. Of Site And Out Of Ac.0-37cts In R.S.No. 56/8 Situated At Alapadu Village, Kaikaluru Mandal, Krishna District With In The Kaikaluru Sub-Registry Bounded By: East: Site Of Jampana Srinivasa Rao, South: Site Of Juvvula Nethaji, West: Road, North: Road. (The Secured Assets)	1) 23-01-2026 2) Rs.3,23,134.91/- (Rupees Three Lakh Twenty Three Thousand One Hundred Thirty Four and Ninety One Paise Only) as on 23rd January 2026 3) NPA Date - 02-01-2026
2	1. MR. LAKSHMI VEERA NAGA SURYA SUBRHMANYA PRASAD VARADA, 2. MRS. VARADA NAGA VENKATA SESHARATNAM. All Address At: D.No.2-9 Main Road Pallamkuru East Godavari Andhra Pradesh 533212 Loan Account Number: DBLAPER00631838 Loan Amount Sanctioned: Rs.45,00,000/-	All Piece And Parcel Of Property Situated At Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema District, Previously East Godavari District, Mummidivaram Sro, Katrenikona Mandal, Pallamkuru Village, Pallamkuru Grama Panchayat, Zeroli Dry, R.S. No. 117-10 An Extent Of 404 Square Yards Site With Rcc Building Bearing Door No. 2-11 Out Of Full Ac. 0-81 Cents. Which Is Bounded By: East: Land Of Varada Veera Venkata Satya Surya Nagalakshmi West: R & B Road North: Site Of Varda Uma Gowtham Eswara Guptha. South: House Of Pandiri Paddayya. Within These Boundaries An Extent Of Ac. 8.30 Cents Equalent To 404 Sq Yards Of Site Along With G+1 Floors Rcc Building Plinth Area Ground Floor 1026 Sq.Ft And First Floor 1026 Sq.Ft.	1) 23-01-2026 2) Rs.44,87,678.37/- (Rupees Forty Four Lakh Eighty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Eight and Thirty Seven Paise Only) as on 23rd January 2026 3) NPA Date - 02-01-2026

You the borrower/s and co-borrowers/guarantors are therefore called upon to make payment of the above mentioned demanded amount with further interest as mentioned hereinabove in full within 60 days of this notice failing which the undersigned shall be constrained to take action under the act to enforce the above-mentioned securities. Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the act by virtue of which you are at liberty to redeem the secured asset within period stipulated in the aforesaid provision. Please note that as per section 13(13) of the said act, you are restrained from transferring the above-referred securities by way of sale, lease or otherwise without our consent.

Date: 13-02-2026 for DCB Bank Ltd,
Place: East Godavari, Rajamehendravaram Authorized Officer

Exam Materials Distributed to Students on Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati Jayanti



SERILINGAMPALLY : Marking Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati Jayanti, the Attepalli Charitable Trust organized an exam materials distribution programme at the local Zilla Parishad High School (ZPHS) in Miyapur on Thursday morning at 11 AM. Under the auspicious of the trust, Attepalli Ramaprabhu, along with Attepalli Laxminarayana Trust Chairman, distributed essential exam supplies—including exam pads, pens, pencils, sharpeners, scales, and other stationery items—to students from Classes 7 to 10. Speaking on the occasion, Ramaprabhu urged the students, especially those in Class 10, to study hard, excel in their examinations, and build a bright future.

JICA enables Mitsubishi Electric-IIT Hyderabad pact for research and innovation

The Japan International Cooperation Agency has facilitated a three-year partnership between Mitsubishi Electric Corporation and IIT Hyderabad to advance joint research and innovation in artificial intelligence, quantum technologies and cybersecurity.

The MoU, effective February 2026 to February 2029, will promote joint research, personnel exchange, student internships, workshops and hackathons. It aims to accelerate the societal implementation of research outcomes and nurture globally competitive R&D talent.

JICA has supported IIT through its Japan Desk, which serves as a platform for collaboration between Japanese institutions and Indian academia. This



engagement led to the formalisation of the strategic pact with Mitsubishi Electric.

JICA India Chief Representative Takeuchi Takuro said the collaboration reflects the growing depth of Japan-India cooperation in science and technology. He added that JICA is pleased to have supported an ecosystem that brings together industry and academia to address global challenges. IIT continues to expand its collaborations with Japanese universities and corporations, while Mitsubishi Electric strengthens its global co-creation efforts in foresight technologies.

NOTICE

Under the instructions of my clients 1) Sri Medasani Yeswanth S/o Venkateswara Rao, R/o D.No.9-6, Flat No.409, Sree Mitra Jewel Apartments, Rama Nagar, Tadigadapa, Penamaluru mandal, Krishna District and 2) Bode Manoj S/o Suresh, R/o D.No.3-79, Poranki, Penamaluru Mandal, Krishna District. I hereby issue this publication follows.

This is to inform to that my clients jointly purchased the schedule property of an extent of 245 Sq.yds. of site in R.S.No.293/2A1 and Plot No.53 situated at kanuru from Smt.Adusumilli Sri Vasavi, W/o Late Krishna Prasad under a Regd. Sale deed bearing Doc.No. 7752/2025, Dt.21-05-2025 registered in SRO, Patamata for a valid sale consideration.

My Client also have jointly purchased the site of an extent of 93 Sq.yds. in R.S.No.293/2A1 and Plot No.54 situated at Kanuru from Smt.Vankadaru Prabhavathi, W/o Veera Subrahmanyam under a Regd. Sale deed bearing Doc.No. 11581/2025, dt.29-07-2025 registered in SRO, Patamata for valid sale consideration. As per the above two documents, my clients have been in the joint possession and enjoyment of total extent of 338 Sq.yds (245+93) of site lying as a single and contiguous plot. Since the dates respective purchase, my clients have been in the continuous and uninterrupted possession and enjoyment of the schedule property.

My client informs that the original link document relating to Doc.No. 7752/2025 i.e., Regd. Sale deed vide Doc.No.591/1993, dt.02-02-1993 in the names of Veerapaneni Srinivasavi, W/o Srinivas was lost in the hands of my client on 09-02-2026 while he was travelling on his bike from his house at Tadigadapa for taking Photostat copies, the carry bag which was hanged to the bike containing the said document was lost. My client has tried to trace the document but all his attempts were futile.

My client hereby request the general public to return the above said original document to my clients or to their address mentioned above if found by anybody. Contra to that if anybody creates any litigation using the above said original document, it does not bind upon my clients and they are not responsible in any manner whatsoever.

SCHEDULE

An extent of 338 Sq.yds (245+93) or 282.60 sq.mts of vacant site covered in R.S.No.293/2 sub-divided as 293/2A1 and Plot Nos.53 & 54 situated at kanuru, Penamaluru mandal, Krishna District, which is within the limits of Tadigadapa Municipality and is within the jurisdiction of SRO, Patamata being bounded by: Consolidated Boundaries: **East:** Property of Malladi Lakshmi Narayana, **South:** Bunder Road, **West:** 33ft. Wide Road, **North:** Plot No.52- Property of Cherukuri Veera Raghavendra Rao.

Address:
D.S.V. PRASADA RAO, S.K.SUBHASHINI,
Advocates,
Flat No.502, Datta Sai Towers, Allri Sita Ramaraju Road, Indira Nayak Nagar Colony, Azit Singh Nagar, Vijayawada. Cell: 9032226262

Vijayawada,
Dt.11-02-2026

DCB Bank Limited,
Jyothi Majestic, Banjara Hills,
Hyderabad, Telangana 500 034

DCB BANK

DEMAND NOTICE
UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

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Sr. No.	Name And Address Of The Borrower, Co-borrower/guarantor, Loan Account No., Loan Amount	Secured Property Address	1) Demand notice date 2) Outstanding dues 3) NPA Date
1	1. MR. GOTTUMUKKALA SRINIVASARAO, 2. MRS. GOTTUMUKKALA PADMAVATHI. All Address At: Flat No. 304, D.No. 364/D, 2nd Floor, Aaditries Fortune Iconia Apartment, Palakaluru Road, Guntur, Nallapadu, Andhra Pradesh-522005. Loan Account Number: DRHLGUN05172371 Loan Amount Sanctioned: Rs.30,00,000/-	All Piece And Parcel Of Property Having Undivided Share Of 40 1/2 Sq. Yds., Or 33 86 Sq.Mts., Along With Flat No. 304 At Second Floor In Aaditries Fortune Iconia Tower Apartment Situated At Guntur District, Nallapadu Sub-District, Within The Limits Of Pedapalaluru Grama Panchayath Area, Now Within The Limits Of Guntur Municipal Corporation Area, Pedapalaluru Village, D.No. 364/D Out Of Ac.2-04 Cts., Eastern Part Of 4888.4 Sq.Yds., I.E. An Extent Of 3288.77 Sq.Yds., In Which 602.25 Sq.Yds Left For Road And There Remains 2686.52 Sq.Yds., With Aaditries Fortune Iconia Of Apartment (Nearest Dr.No.2-283), Bounded By: Boundaries For Land East: Property Of Kilari Venkataraghavaiah, South: Property Sold By Ponnaganti Venkataswamy After Laying Plots, West: 30 Feet Wide Road; And North: Plots Laid By Janachalany Housing Pvt., Ltd., And 80 Feet Road Upto This Property To Reach Palakaluru Road. Within These Boundaries An Extent Of 2686-52 Sq.Yds., Or 2246-27 Sq.Mts., Site Boundaries For Flat, East: Common Corridor, South: Open To Sky In Between This Flat And Flat No. 303, West: Open To Sky, North: Open To Sky In Between This Flat And Flat No. 305. (The Secured Assets)	1) 23-01-2026 2) Rs.29,32,050.00/- (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakh Thirty Two Thousand Five Hundred Fifty and Five Paise Only) as on 23rd January 2026 3) NPA Date - 02-01-2026
2	1. MS. VEMULADHANA LAKSHMI, 2. MR. DODDI NAGA KUMAR, 3. M/S S R E E S A I L A K S H M I ENTERPRISES IT'S AUTHORISED SIGNATORY. All Address At: D.No 43-106-18 P N T Colony Ajith Singh Nagar Vijayawada Andhra Pradesh 520015 Loan Account Number: DRHLVIA00474959/DRBLVIA00474967 Loan Amount Sanctioned: Rs.37,00,000/-	All Piece And Parcel Of Property Bearing Flat Bearing No.101, Door No.43-106/1-58 Ground Floor, "Vijaya Durga Heights" With 931 Sq. Ft Plinth Area, 233 Sq. Ft. Common Area, 100 Sq. Ft. Parking Area, In R.S.No.59/1b, 59/1c, 59/1d, 59/1e, 59/1f, 59/1g, Plot No.6, An Undivided Joint Share Of An Extent Of 41.066 Sq. Yds Or 34.33 Sq.Mts Out Of Total Extent Of 410.66 Sq. Yds Of Residential Site Situated At Indiranayak Nagar, Vijayawada Village Portion, Vijayawada, Vijayawada Municipal Corporation, Vijayawada District Registry, Krishna District Being Bounded By: East: Open To Sky, South: Open To Sky, West: Lift, Stair Case And Common Corridor, North: Open To Sky (The Secured Assets)	1) 23-01-2026 2) Rs.37,00,000.00/- (Rupees Thirty Seven Lakh Thousand and No Paise Only) as on 23rd January 2026 3) NPA Date - 02-01-2026

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Date: 13-02-2026 for DCB Bank Ltd,
Place: Vijayawada Authorized Officer

EDITORIAL

Inside India's High-Stakes Push For Buying A Record 114 Rafales

The year was 1987, and this writer was doing his test pilots course at EPNER, the French Test Pilots School located at a quaint place called 'Istres', where all French aircraft prototypes were test-flown. In between our exhausting ground subjects (equations in the aerodynamics class whose length filled the span of the blackboard!) and flying instructions (all teaching in French!), we would, after every odd month, get a respite. All flying would stop, and the entire airbase would be out on the tarmac to see 'vol Rafale', that is, Rafale flying! And the Rafale technology demonstrator (which it was then) would turn, loop and twist with its afterburners lit, astonishing the viewers with its tight manoeuvrability. Little did I know that one day it would fly in Indian Air Force colours.

Rafale in French means 'a gust of wind'. While in the air, it is as elusive as a 'gust' to the adversary, its story of induction in the IAF has actually kicked up a storm of hurricane proportions. This essay will look at the reasons and implications of the impending announcement of the acquisition of 114 Rafales during the forthcoming visit of President Emmanuel Macron; the order, supposedly worth Rs 3.25 lakh crores (!), would make it the largest acquisition ever for the Indian armed forces - as well as the largest order worldwide for M/S Dassault, the manufacturer of Rafale. The year was 1987, and this writer was doing his test pilots course at EPNER, the French Test Pilots School located at a quaint place called 'Istres', where all French aircraft prototypes were test-flown. In between our exhausting ground subjects (equations in the aerodynamics class whose length filled the span of the blackboard!) and flying instructions (all teaching in French!), we would, after every odd month, get a respite. All flying would stop, and the entire airbase would be out on the tarmac to see 'vol Rafale', that is, Rafale flying! And the Rafale technology demonstrator (which it was then) would turn, loop and twist with its afterburners lit, astonishing the viewers with its tight manoeuvrability. Little did I know that one day it would fly in Indian Air Force colours.

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The evaluation process for the Medium Multi Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA) project for 126 aircraft started in 2008 - special security was put in place for the evaluation process, and that there was not a single 'leak' speaks of the high integrity of the evaluation. The team, over a period of almost two years, evaluated six leading aircraft in all types of the Indian environment and shortlisted the Eurofighter and Rafale. The government (not the IAF, as any acquisition is a government decision) decided to go for the Rafale in 2012; thereafter, the project went into prolonged slumber, a victim of inaction as the MMRCA project had become a political 'touch me not.' The real effect was on the IAF's operational capability as its squadron strength gradually dwindled. All Air Chiefs after 2010 kept emphasising the imperative need to urgently acquire a new aircraft, but what finally came in 2016 was a truncated contract for the purchase of 36 Rafales to equip two Squadrons. This gave breathing time, alright, but as MiG-21 squadrons continue to be phased out, the situation has become critical, with IAF strength reducing to 29 Squadrons. The media has been agog with news of a new IAF project for 114 Multi Role Fighter Aircraft - and foreign companies have made their pitch again through media articles and participation in the AeroIndia shows at Bengaluru. In the interim, India's neighbours were up to their tricks and the Rafale was seen in action recently in Op Sindoor.

UNFORTUNATE GRANDEUR OF MOURNING CEREMONIES

- Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

A civilized society is defined not by its celebrations but by its mourning. The way a society embraces grief, the dignity and sensitivity with which it expresses it—this is the measure of its human maturity. Unfortunately, today our society seems to fall short of this standard. Mourning ceremonies, once a natural medium for sharing grief and offering support to the bereaved family, are gradually becoming platforms for pomp, display, and social competition. Today, in many parts of the country, when flipping through the pages of major newspapers, it's common to see ten, twenty, or even fifty condolence messages published on a single day for a single person. And not simple ones, but colorful, in bold font, sometimes occupying entire pages. Condolence messages are no longer information, but rather advertisements. Once, a six- or seven-line black-and-white condolence message was enough to announce the passing of a certain person and the condolence gathering being held at a certain location. Relatives and acquaintances would arrive without any fanfare. At that time, expressions of grief were characterized by simplicity, silence, and intimacy. Over time, this simplicity has been lost. Today, the size, color, location, and cost of a condolence message—everything has become a symbol of social status. It's unfortunate that we've turned even the ultimate truth of death into a status symbol. Now, we're focused on which family sent the largest condolence message, which sent it in color, and whose message appeared on the front page. The format of condolence meetings has also become a reflection of this trend. The practice of expressing condolences in a simple living room or courtyard is fading away. They have been replaced by grand pavilions, elaborately decorated pandals, white curtains, carpets, and lavish decorations. Often, condolence meetings are held in large banquet halls or wedding gardens, where the atmosphere feels more like a social gathering than a mourning one. A large, decorated portrait of the deceased is placed on



a stage, surrounded by garlands and decorative lighting. The bereaved family members also arrive fully dressed. Their attire, their body language, and their behavior do not convey any deep sorrow. It's not that they are not grieving, but the natural simplicity of grief, the silent pain, is drowned out by this grandeur. The number of people present at a condolence meeting has now become a measure of prestige, not sympathy. The number of people, the number of vehicles, the number of leaders, the number of officials—all of these are counted and discussed. Even after the condolence meeting is over, the assessment continues: "So and so didn't come" or "So and so important person also attended." As if the condolence meeting is not a tribute to the deceased, but an occasion for displaying social power. This trend isn't limited to the so-called upper class. Even lower- and middle-class families are now joining the fray. They know that such an event is beyond their financial means, yet social pressure prevents them from backing out. As a result, a condolence meeting, which should be an opportunity for mental solace, turns into a financial burden. Many

families find it difficult to bear this burden, but are forced to do so out of fear of what people will say. Food and beverages have become an important element of this grand event. Tea, coffee, mineral water, snacks, and sometimes even meals are provided. Attention is paid to the quality and variety of these arrangements. This scenario is completely contrary to the original spirit behind the condolence meeting. The purpose of a condolence meeting is not to feed people, but to share in the grief of the bereaved family. Even those attending mourning ceremonies are often left confused. The atmosphere makes it impossible to truly feel like they're attending a mourning service. New customs have been created, while old, simple, and dignified ones are gradually disappearing. Another worrying aspect is that even deeply personal sentiments like memorials and death anniversaries are now becoming a means of public display. Remembering a loved one is a personal experience. Their memory should live on in the mind, among family, and with simplicity. So why is there a need to spend year after year in large newspaper advertisements to inform the entire

society that you still remember your loved one? Does the value of remembrance lie in its publicity? This is not just a question of tradition, but also of sensitivity. When private grief becomes a public display, its soul is lost. Grief, which should be an occasion for introspection and humility, becomes a tool for ego and display. It's time for society to seriously address this trend. We must understand that death doesn't dictate one's social status. It makes everyone equal. Therefore, expressions of grief should be equal, simple, and dignified. The purpose of a condolence meeting is to pay tribute to the deceased and comfort the living, not to display one's power to society. The media, social leadership, and society itself must collectively exercise self-restraint in this regard. Newspapers should also consider whether promoting condolence messages as advertisements is further fueling this trend. Social standing should be determined not by the size of condolence messages, but by human compassion. Ultimately, the most beautiful form of mourning is one with fewer words, less ostentation, and more compassion.

THE JF-17 'HYPE': HOW PAK IS PUSHING A JET THAT'S MORE NOISE THAN SUBSTANCE

The recently concluded Singapore Air Show featured a display of diverse regional air power. Islamabad brought to the show its JF-17 'Thunder' Block III, a Sino-Pakistani multirole fighter jet. Jointly developed by the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex (PAC) and the Chengdu Aircraft Corporation (CAC) of China, the JF-17 has undergone multiple changes, from its Block I version debuting in the early 2000s, to the Block III iteration of today getting inducted into the Pakistani Air Force (PAF) by 2022. Block III can be classified as a 4.5-generation multirole combatant that mitigates to a great extent, Pakistan's dependence on the West, as well as Russia. Simultaneously, it enhances military collaboration between Islamabad and Beijing, considering that the JF-17, together with J-10CEs and PL-15Es, forms an interoperable air defence ecosystem of Chinese-origin equipment for deployment by the PAF.



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Where It Started

In its early stages, PAF's fighter jet programme was driven by a need to reduce dependence on the West for fighter jets and replace its ageing fleet of Nanchang A-5C bombers, Chengdu F-7P/PG interceptors, and Dassault Mirage III/5 multirole aircraft. In the 1980s, Islamabad and the American company Grumman launched a Sabre II project, to collaboratively upgrade the PAF's Chengdu F-7 fleet. However, the project was abandoned following the imposition of sanctions on China in 1989, and on Pakistan following its 1998 nuclear tests. And so, in 1995, Pakistan and China signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly develop what was then known as the 'Super 7'.

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Advertisement - Scroll to continue

Prototype production commenced in September 2002, with the first jet rolling out in May 2003. Its maiden flight took place in late August 2003 at Chengdu, and by March 2004, the flight test programme had completed 20 missions. It then became the 'Joint Fighter-17 (JF-17) to reflect the collaborative nature of the programme. The '17', interestingly, came from an attempt to depict the JF-17 as a successor to the US's F-16.

How Muslim Voters In Bengal Will Shape The 2026 Assembly Poll Outcome

On December 6, 2025, the 33rd anniversary of the demolition of Babri Masjid, a suspended Trinamool Congress MLA named Humayun Kabir laid the foundation stone of a mosque modelled on the iconic structure in Murshidabad district. It was an act calculated for maximum political resonance, and it worked. Within weeks, the West Bengal Police had attached properties worth Rs 10 crore linked to Kabir's family in a narcotics case, the Trinamool had expelled him, and a new political outfit - the Janata Unnayan Party (JUP) - had been born. The 2026 assembly election battle for Bengal's Muslim vote has officially begun. The Demographic Arithmetic To understand why this matters, start with the numbers. Muslims constitute approximately 27% of West Bengal's population as per the 2011 census - a figure the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) now claims may be closer to 30% or higher given illegal immigration from Bangladesh over the intervening decade. Three districts - Malda, Murshidabad, and Uttar Dinajpur - have Muslim-majority populations of 50% or above. Two more, South 24 Parganas and Birbhum, hover above 35%. Spread across these geographies are 89 assembly seats where the Muslim population exceeds 30%, and 112 seats where it exceeds 25%. In the 2021 assembly elections, the Trinamool Congress won 87 of those 89 seats - a near-perfect sweep. Of the 112 Muslim-influenced seats, Trinamool captured 106, leaving the BJP with just five. The BJP's strike rate in constituencies with more than 30% Muslim population was nearly zero, with the party managing to win just one seat. These seats, in effect, acted as a structural wall the party simply could not breach. The Vote Consolidation Story According to Axis My India exit poll data from 2021, approximately 75% of Muslim voters backed the Trinamool. By the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, that figure had risen to 83%. Data from The Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) suggests that concerns around the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, the National Register of Citizens



(NRC) debate, and a broader sense of political vulnerability drove Muslim voters closer to Mamata Banerjee's fold rather than away from it. Will the current SIR exercise further consolidate this segment? This consolidation has a mirror image on the other side. In constituencies with a Muslim population of up to 10%, the BJP managed a 42% strike rate in 2021 (winning 33 of the 77 seats) - its only truly competitive zone. As the Muslim share of a constituency's population rose, the BJP's performance fell in almost perfect inverse proportion, dropping to 25% in seats with 20-30% Muslim population, 8% in 40-50% Muslim population seats, and 0% beyond that threshold. The Structural Math of Victory Herein lies the paradox at the heart of Bengal's politics. A simple majority in the 294-seat assembly requires 148 seats. With 106 of the 112 Muslim-influenced seats already in its column, the Trinamool needs to win just 42 more from the remaining 182 Hindu-majority constituencies. In 2021, it won 109 of those seats - a 60% strike rate - giving it the comfortable 215-seat majority it achieved. The BJP, by contrast, won 72 Hindu-majority seats (40% strike rate) but was effectively locked out of the Muslim heartland. For the BJP to win Bengal, it cannot simply consolidate Hindu votes in Hindu-majority seats - it has already done that in its competitive zones. What it needs to do is either dramatically expand its Hindu-majority

seat tally or, more dauntingly, find a way to crack the Muslim fortress. Neither prospect looks easy. Enter Humayun Kabir. That is the context in which Humayun Kabir's Babri Masjid gambit must be understood. The Bharatpur MLA, who has a complicated political history - he contested the 2019 Lok Sabha elections on a BJP ticket before returning to Trinamool orbit - now claims he is building an alternative pole of Muslim political representation. His Janata Unnayan Party has announced plans to contest 182 assembly seats in 2026. The Trinamool's response has been instructive. Rather than attempting dialogue or accommodation, the party suspended Kabir and publicly distanced itself from the mosque project. Police action against his family followed swiftly. Kabir, predictably, called it political victimisation. The BJP, meanwhile, is playing both sides - describing Kabir as the Trinamool's 'B-team' even as the latter accuses him of having been the BJP's man all along. The mutual accusations suggest neither party fully controls the narrative. Dissatisfaction In The Trinamool Fortress VoteVibe's tracking data from late 2025 introduces an element of caution into any confident forecast for the Trinamool Congress. While 54% of Muslim respondents still want Mamata Banerjee as Chief Minister - a commanding majority - 26% rate her government's performance as poor or very poor.

Enabling Safer, Smarter Banking with TVS Electronics Solutions

Chennai: TVS Electronics (TVSE), a leading player offering integrated end-to-end electronic solutions, highlights its comprehensive 'Make in India' hardware portfolio for BFSI sector, ensuring trusted, safe and fast transactions. As transaction volumes rise, digital adoption accelerates, and customer expectations continue to grow, financial institutions face increasing pressure to maintain speed, accuracy, security, and uninterrupted operations. TVSE addresses these demands by delivering reliable, scalable solutions that reduce operational risk, streamline daily workflows, and support consistent service delivery across branch networks and digital touchpoints. In an industry where precision and trust are essential, TVS Electronics solutions simplify the workload for staff and provide customers with a smoother and more secure experience. TVS Electronics offers a dedicated range of products to help BFSI's operate seamlessly without compromising on speed, security and accuracy.



Business Officer, Products & Solutions Group, TVS Electronics, "Banking today demands systems that are secure, resilient, fast, accurate and always available. From counterfeit detection to secure printing, from asset tracking to always on IT support, TVSE strengthens every layer of BFSI operations. At TVS Electronics, we focus on strengthening the operational backbone of financial institutions with technology that enables reliable service delivery across branches, digital platforms, and customer touchpoints, while allowing banks to scale with confidence."

PRODUCTS AND SOLUTIONS FROM TVSE

Securing Transactions Through Biometric Authentication

As digital transactions scale, authentication becomes fundamental to trust and compliance. Ensuring that transactions are carried out by the right account holder or operator is critical. TVS Electronics' fingerprint reader solutions integrate seamlessly into banking and payment workflows, enabling accurate biometric authentication integrated on products.

Smarter and Safer Cash Handling & Digital Payment Momentum

TVSE's cash management

systems help staff process cash with confidence. Modern note counting machines use multiple layers of detection such as optical checks, magnetic sensors, infrared validation, and pattern analysis to identify counterfeit notes instantly. Features like fitness sorting and serial number reading improve traceability while maintaining a rapid workflow. Today, UPI and RuPay have moved payments beyond conventional modes, setting new expectations around speed, transparency, and convenience. TVS Electronics provides modern POS terminals, sound boxes and all-in-one payment devices built to handle high transaction volumes securely and reliably.

For banks and merchants alike, this translates into faster settlements and smoother day-to-day operations.

Secure and Reliable Document Printing
Passbooks, cheques, account statements, and branch receipts remain essential. TVSE's specialty printers are engineered for this work. They ensure clean, compliant printing of sensitive documents that must be handled with care and precision.

Extending Banking Through Self-Service Kiosks

As customer expectations evolve, banks are increasingly adopting self-service and unattended solutions to improve availability while reducing operational strain. TVS Electronics addresses this shift through its large-panel computing devices under the kiosk portfolio. Designed for continuous operation, these kiosks support services such as account enquiries, form submissions, bill payments, and service requests. This enables greater reach, better availability, and a smoother customer experience without expanding physical branch infrastructure.

According to Mr. C. Balaji, Vice President - Chief

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF BFSI RANGE OF

GENERAL MILLS INDIA OPENS A NEW MANUFACTURING PLANT IN NASHIK



INDIA (February 12, 2026) — General Mills India, part of General Mills Inc., a U.S.-based Fortune 500 food company, today announced the inauguration of a new manufacturing facility in Nashik, Maharashtra. The new, state-of-the-art plant marks a significant expansion of the company's manufacturing footprint in India and reinforces its long-term commitment to serving the fast-growing food and bakery sector in India. General Mills invested approximately INR 100 crore to build this plant, and it serves as the company's second manufacturing facility in Nashik. The facility has been built using advanced manufacturing technologies and global qual-

ity standards, with a strong focus on food safety, high quality, and responsible resource use. The new plant at Nashik will also ensure a more efficient supply chain, reducing lead times and enhancing the availability of Pillsbury products across the country. This improved accessibility will empower thousands of bakeries in India to leverage Pillsbury's consistent quality, thereby contributing to their own growth and the overall development of the bakery sector. Beyond manufacturing scale, the plant is expected to deliver meaningful economic impact in the region. It has already created numerous direct and indirect employment opportunities across

manufacturing, logistics, and support services, providing a boost to local livelihoods and skill development in the Nashik region of Maharashtra. Furthermore, the increased demand for raw materials and ancillary services will stimulate growth for local suppliers and businesses. "We're extremely proud to increase the availability of Pillsbury products across the country with the opening of our new plant in Nashik," said Balki Radhakrishnan, Vice President and Managing Director of Global Emerging Markets at General Mills. "Since 1999, our Pillsbury brand has been offering delicious, quality and convenient baking mixes in India.

THINK Gas Swiftly Restores City Gas Supply After Pipeline Damage

Anantapur 2026: A city gas pipeline laid by THINK Gas (formerly AG&P Pratham) was damaged during un-intimated JCB excavation work carried out by the Anantapur Municipal Corporation Water Pipeline Department while rectifying a damaged water pipeline near Ram Nagar Comfort Apartment, Anantapur. The THINK Gas emergency response team acted promptly by isolating the affected section and restoring the gas supply within a short time, ensuring public safety and minimizing inconvenience to residents. THINK Gas has established a robust pipeline infrastructure in Anantapur district to supply Piped Natural Gas (PNG) for households and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for transport users. Despite the presence of visible route markers, cautionary signage, and emergency contact boards along the pipeline route, the contractor involved in

the excavation failed to notify THINK Gas before starting work and did not submit any post-incident report. As per government regulations, any third-party planning to carry out excavation work must inform the City Municipal authorities or the City Gas Distribution company through the 'Dial Before You Dig' contact number. The incident occurred without prior intimation to the company, prompting THINK Gas to file an official complaint against the party responsible. As per the current legal provisions under IPC Sections 285 and 336, such unauthorized damage constitutes an offense punishable by imprisonment of up to 3 years and a fine of up to ₹25 crores. THINK Gas urges all contractors, agencies, and individuals to comply with this safety requirement. The toll-free number to contact THINK Gas before any digging activity is 1800 2022 999.

Made in India – The story of Desh Bandhu Gupta, Lupin and Indian Pharma Book Launched in Mumbai

Mumbai, February 12, 2026: Made in India, written by Sundeeep Khanna and Manish Sabharwal, traces three remarkable journeys: the rise of India's pharma industry, the birth and evolution of Lupin and the extraordinary life of its founder, Desh Bandhu Gupta. Together, the three journeys illuminate how a country once completely dependent on imported medicines became the world's pharmacy. The book shares how an individual's life, shaped early by adversity, growing up without privilege or patronage, unpredictably nurtured hunger and drive, to navigate an unforgiving state, blend national health priorities and global standards, to build a multibillion-dollar enterprise whose medicines reach patients in over 120 countries. Made in India shows the distance travelled by a village boy from Rajasthan, who went on to become a teacher, professor and pharmaceutical employee, before founding a company worth \$10 billion. It is the story of how an unlikely entrepreneur, given his role



models, fought the system and left teaching and pharma jobs, going on to build a successful company, giving wings to a world-class industry and became a business icon for a nation. Written with candor by TeamLease Services co-founder Manish Sabharwal and journalist Sundeeep Khanna, the book confronts failures, financial crises, and the personal toll of leadership, alongside achievement and success, in the building of one of the world's biggest generics firms. This is a riveting portrait of entrepreneurship without mythmaking - of how institutions are built slowly, tested severely and rebuilt with resolve. Made in India weaves vivid anec-

dotes tracing Desh Bandhu Gupta's transformation from a humble professor to a pharma titan, finding his true calling in tending to the unmet needs of people. It issues a powerful call to future leaders, showcasing his journey of visionary entrepreneurship: rising from setbacks with raw grit and unshakeable conviction. Made in India also spotlights Desh Bandhu Gupta's wife Manju Gupta's pivotal role amid the trials and triumphs of building Lupin. Together, the couple also built community service and rural support programs, even as Lupin and India became a reliable global supplier of pharmaceuticals. India has today become

the world's pharmacy: Nearly half of the 400 billion pills Americans consume every year are made in India, as are 60 per cent of the world's vaccines. Of the 700 US Food and Drug Administration-approved factories that sell medicines in the US, a third are located in India. The co-creators of Indian pharma - Dr. Yusuf Hamied (Cipla), Anji Reddy (Dr. Reddy's), Parvinder Singh (Ranbaxy), Dilip Shanghvi (Sun), Ramanbhai Patel (Zydus-Cadila), Habil Khorakiwala (Wockhardt) and DBG (Lupin) - matter more to India than their companies' revenues, exports or profits because they saw something no one else did.

SECURE YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE WITH ICICI PRU SMARTKID 360

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has launched ICICI Pru SmartKid 360, a long-term saving product which allows customers to plan for their child's future financial needs, with guaranteed benefits. ICICI Pru SmartKid 360, gives MoneyBack or pre-decided payouts as per the child's future milestones such as school or higher education or early adulthood goals. Notably, customers can choose a fixed amount or increasing amount as payouts. Commenting on the launch, Vikas Gupta, Chief Product Officer, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, said, "ICICI Pru SmartKid 360 has been designed to cater to the parents need to financially secure their child's future. In addition to the MoneyBack benefits, the product provides a guaranteed maturity benefit in the form of a lump-sum payout, at the end of the policy tenure, which can support the child's transition into adulthood. A key feature of the product is the inbuilt waiver of

ICICI Pru SmartKid 360, gives MoneyBack or pre-decided payouts as per the child's future milestones such as school or higher education or early adulthood goals.

premium and continuity of benefits, which safeguards the child's future in the event of the life assured's unfortunate demise. Under this feature, all future premiums are waived, life cover amount is paid out to the nominee and other chosen policy benefits continue which can ensure the child's goals are not disrupted. In addition to the core benefits, ICICI Pru SmartKid 360 offers optional features such as Family Income Benefit, which provides regular income, supporting the family in case of the life assured's untimely demise."

Tata Motors Launches 17 Next-Generation Trucks, sets New Standards for Safety, Profitability & Progress



New Delhi 2026: Introduces Azura Series — Excellence Reimagined for the ILMCV segment Launches Tata Trucks.ev—India's widest electric truck range, based on I-MOEV Architecture — Intelligent Modular Vehicle Architecture Brings world-class safety to Indian roads — trucks built to meet stringent European safety standards Boosts customer profitabil-

ity with industry best payload, fuel efficiency and Fleet Edge digital services In a landmark move set to transform the Indian trucking landscape, Tata Motors, India's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer and mobility solutions provider, today launched its next-generation portfolio of 17 trucks, spanning 7 to 55 tonnes, setting new benchmarks in safety, profits and progress. This comprehen-

sive launch introduces the all-new Azura series, the cutting-edge Tata Trucks.ev range, and significant upgrades to the established Prima, Signa, and Ultra platforms. Engineered to conform to stringent global safety standards (ECE R29 03), these trucks maximise earning potential, reduce total cost of ownership and enhance vehicle uptime to deliver greater success to transporters.

CNH India Leads the Mechanization Movement with World-Class Crop Solutions

Pune, February 12, 2026 : CNH, a global leader in agriculture and construction equipment, celebrated its advanced, Made-in-Pune farm mechanisation products at the company's state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Pune. The Pune plant houses CNH's strong R&D, engineering and manufacturing capabilities that design, develop and produce world-class harvesting and crop solution equipment in India for both domestic and global markets. The 280,000 square metre facility manufactures combine harvesters, sugarcane harvesters, small square balers, tractors, headers, cabs and implements. Equipped with advanced fabrication, automated paint systems, structured assembly lines and rigorous testing protocols, the plant supports mechanisation in multiple crops, across the country while also exporting part of its production overseas. Narinder Mittal, President & Managing Director, CNH India region



said, "The CNH Pune plant is a cornerstone of our manufacturing footprint in India and a symbol of our commitment to pioneering the mechanization movement in the country. As India moves further towards becoming a developed economy, agricultural mechanization will play a critical role in driving productivity, efficiency and sustainability across the farming ecosystem Our technology

leadership in sugarcane harvesters, combine harvesters and balers is demonstrated through machines that are technologically advanced, fuel-efficient, reliable and engineered specifically for Indian soil and farming conditions and we are proud to design and produce these solutions for Indian farmers." In 2023, CNH introduced India's first TREM-V emission stage compliant sugar-

cane harvester from this facility. CNH holds over 50% market share in both the sugarcane harvester and small square baler segments in India, and is the market leader in the cab combine harvester segment. Beyond advanced machinery, the company focuses on building skills and capabilities on the ground, creating a holistic 360-degree approach to transforming Indian agriculture.

Skill Development Training for young people, Agriculture Extension Education including Drone and Digital Technology usage, sustainable sugarcane cultivation and crop residue management programs are currently running in Maharashtra state. The Pune facility has also been recognized for its sustainability and safety practices. It is IGBC (Indian Green Building Council) certified, has received industrial safety awards for meritorious performance in 2022 and 2023, and follows energy and water conservation practices aligned to the Company's 2030 sustainability roadmap. Community initiatives in nearby villages include school infrastructure support and mobile healthcare services. With mechanisation levels still below 5% in sugarcane harvesting, under 30% in grain harvesting and merely 2% in crop residue management, the opportunity for growth in India remains significant.

RUSSIA ORDERS BLOCK ON WHATSAPP IN MESSAGING APP CRACKDOWN

Russia has ordered a block on WhatsApp, as the Kremlin continues to tighten restrictions on messaging apps. Meta-owned WhatsApp said the move aimed to push more than 100 million of its app users in Russia to a "state-owned surveillance app". Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told the BBC that the decision had been made "due to [Meta's] unwillingness to comply with the norms and the letter of Russian law". He has said Meta could resume operations if it "complies with [the law] and enters into dialogue". Asked whether authorities were trying to force Russians to use the state-developed Max app, Peskov said the "national messenger [is an] available alternative" for Russians. Russian internet regulator Roskomnadzor said this week it was further curbing access to messaging app Telegram as well, citing a lack of security. Telegram is highly popular in Russia and



said to be widely used by its forces in Ukraine. Pro-war bloggers have complained that the move was hampering communications on the ground. Even before the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Russian authorities had begun work on creating a domestic alternative to the global internet. Those moves have gathered pace during the war, along with a push

towards state-backed platform called Max. Critics have alleged Max could be used for surveillance by the Russian authorities, though state media have denied that. Max is now being promoted widely inside Russia, through TV advertisements and billboards, by local officials and by the media. Russia has argued that both WhatsApp and Telegram

have refused to store Russian users' data in the country as required by law. Authorities in Moscow also allege that WhatsApp is one of the main services used to defraud and extort money from Russians - a reason they cite for people to migrate to the Max app. WhatsApp said it was doing everything it could to keep people connected. "Trying to

isolate over 100 million users from private and secure communication is a backwards step and can only lead to less safety for people in Russia," it said in a statement. State-run news agency Tass reported earlier this year that WhatsApp was expected to be permanently blocked in the country in 2026. "Such harsh measures" are "absolutely justified" since Russia has designated Meta as an extremist organisation, Andrei Svintsov, a Russian official, was quoted as saying. WhatsApp was previously Russia's most popular messaging service, but since Meta was labelled as extremist in 2022, its apps such as Instagram and Facebook have been blocked in Russia and are only accessible through virtual private networks (VPNs). Russians are not banned from using its products. Digital rights project Na Svyazi (In Touch) has reported that Russia has increasingly been removing websites from the state-run

internet address directory, which is controlled by Roskomnadzor. It said that 13 popular resources were now missing from the National System of Domain Names (NSD), including YouTube, Facebook, WhatsApp web, Instagram, the BBC and Deutsche Welle. Once an entry is removed, the site does not open without a virtual private network (VPN). Moscow has made extensive efforts to push Russians to its state-developed Max app, which critics say lacks end-to-end encryption and could therefore be penetrated by authorities. The app has been likened to China's WeChat - a so-called "super app" that combines messaging and government services. Since 2025, the authorities have mandated that the Max app be pre-installed on all new devices sold in the country. There have been reports of public sector employees, teachers and students being increasingly required to use the platform.

Minnesota immigration enforcement surge is ending, Trump border tsar says



US border tsar Tom Homan said the immigration enforcement surge in Minnesota will end, telling reporters that President Donald Trump has approved his request to conclude the operation. "I will also remain in Minnesota a little longer to oversee the drawdown, to ensure its success," Homan said during the news conference on Thursday morning. Homan said Minnesota has become "less of a sanctuary state" since local officials have cooperated

more with federal immigration officers. The recent surge of more than 2,000 immigration officers to the state inspired nationwide protests after two US citizens were killed by federal agents last month. Officials in Minnesota have been able to "greatly reduce the number of targets" for immigration enforcement, Homan said, adding that Operation Metro Surge was a "great success". He mentioned the arrest of a number of undocumented immigrants, whom he referred to as "illegal aliens", including men he said were convicted of rape and other sexual misconduct. Homan said that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has always had a presence in Minnesota and will continue to have one. "A small footprint of personnel will remain for a period of time to close out and transition full command and control back to the field office," he said.

TWO US NAVY SHIPS COLLIDE NEAR SOUTH AMERICA



A US Navy warship collided into a Navy supply vessel during a refuel operation, the US military's Southern Command confirmed to the BBC. Two people reported minor injuries during Wednesday's replenishment-at-sea operation, Southern Command said, and are in stable condition. The vessels - a guided missile destroyer and fast combat support ship - have both continued sailing safely from the site of the incident near South America. Southern Command did not say what caused the collision and said the incident was currently under investigation. The exact location of the crash between the Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS Truxtun and the Supply-class fast combat support ship USNS Supply was not immediately clear. The USNS Supply ship has been operating in

the Caribbean, according to the Wall Street Journal, which is part of Southern Command's area of responsibility. Southern Command is also responsible for parts of the South Atlantic and the South Pacific. US President Donald Trump has ordered a military buildup in the Caribbean the last few months as part of the administration's stated aim to target drug trafficking. Two people died on Thursday after the US military struck an alleged drug boat in the eastern Pacific, adding to a tally of at least 38 lethal alleged drug boat strikes in the region since Trump has re-entered office. The US has also used its military presence in the region to enforce sanctions against Venezuelan oil, after arresting the country's president Nicolas Maduro in a middle-of-the-night raid in January.

Four takeaways from Pam Bondi's fiery Epstein testimony



US Attorney General Pam Bondi defended the justice department's handling of the files on the late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein and faced a barrage of angry questions on other issues during a fiery congressional hearing on Wednesday. Her testimony before the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee descended at times into a shouting match, with Bondi at one

point calling a Democrat a "washed-up loser". After another heated exchange, one lawmaker stormed out. Here are some of the key exchanges from the four-hour hearing. The hearing followed the release by the justice department earlier this year of millions more files from its investigations into the well-connected paedophile Jeffrey Epstein. Several of Epstein's victims were seated behind Bondi at the hearing, and lawmakers frequently referred to them. In her opening statement, Bondi called Epstein a "monster" and told the victims she was sorry for the abuse they endured. But lawmakers directed a litany of complaints at Bondi about how the justice department has handled its release of the files.

KIM JONG UN CHOOSES TEEN DAUGHTER AS HEIR, SAYS SEOUL



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has selected his daughter as his heir, South Korea's spy agency told lawmakers on Thursday. Kim Ju Ae - who is believed to be 13 - has in recent months been pictured beside her father in high-profile events like a visit to Beijing in September, her first known trip abroad. The National Intelligence Service (NIS) said it took a "range of circumstances" into account including her increasingly prominent public presence at official events" in making this assessment. The NIS also said it would keep close tabs on whether she will attend the North's party congress later this month - its largest political event that is held once every five years. The party Congress

is where Pyongyang is expected to give more details about priorities like foreign policy, war planning and nuclear ambitions for the next five years. On Thursday lawmaker Lee Seong-kwon told reporters that Ju Ae, who was previously described by the NIS as being "trained" to be a successor, was now at the stage of "successor designation". "As Kim Ju Ae has

shown her presence at various events, including the founding anniversary of the Korean People's Army and her visit to the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, and signs have been detected of her voicing her opinion on certain state policies, the NIS believes she has now entered the stage of being designated as successor," Lee said. Ju Ae is the only known child of

Kim Jong Un and his wife, Ri Sol Ju. The NIS believes Kim Jong Un has an older son, but this son has never been acknowledged nor shown on North Korean media. News of Ju Ae's existence first emerged through an unlikely source: the American basketball player Dennis Rodman, who revealed to The Guardian newspaper back in 2013 that he "held baby Ju Ae" during a trip to the secretive state. Ju Ae made her first appearance on state television in 2022. She was shown inspecting North Korea's latest intercontinental ballistic missile while holding her father's hand. She has since made frequent appearances on state media, softening her father's image of a ruthless dictator.

Polls close in first election since Gen Z protests ousted Bangladesh leader

Votes are being counted in Bangladesh after its first election since student-led protests ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina in 2024. More than 2,000 candidates are vying for 350 seats in parliament, though none from the banned Awami League of Hasina, who fled after 15 years in power after a brutal security crackdown in which hundreds of protesters were killed. The election pits the centre-right Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) against a coalition led by the Islamist Jamaat-e-Islami, which joined forces with a party born out of the student uprising. Results are expected on Friday and



there's widespread hope among voters of a return to democracy. For the first time since 2008, the outcome of an election in Bangladesh cannot be predicted with certainty. The past few elections were widely condemned as systematically rigged in favour of Sheikh Hasina.

She has been convicted and sentenced to death in absentia for ordering the brutal crackdown against protesters 18 months ago, in which the UN says as many as 1,400 protesters were killed. Hasina is in exile in India from where she's rejected the charges against her and has ques-

tioned the legitimacy of the election. The ban on her Awami League contesting the polls casts a shadow over whether this election can be described as free and fair. But, for the first time in years, voters on the ground were telling the BBC they feel like they have a choice. More than 120 million people were eligible to vote, about four in 10 of them under 37. They were also casting their ballots in a referendum on constitutional change, which was proposed by the interim government that replaced Hasina and is aimed at fixing what it has called a completely broken political system.

Police identify 18-year-old as suspect in Tumbler Ridge shooting



An 18-year-old has been named as the suspect in a shooting that killed eight people and injured dozens more in British Columbia, Canada. Police said Jesse Van Rootselaar was found dead at the scene from a self-inflicted gunshot injury. The motive for the attack is not yet known. Six people were killed and at least 25 others were injured at Tumbler Ridge Secondary School. Two others - the suspect's mother, 39, and stepbrother, 11 - were found dead at a nearby home. Hundreds of mourners gathered to exchange comfort and moments of silence in Tumbler Ridge's main square and outside the British Columbia legislature in Victoria on Wednesday night. "Schools should be safe," said Tumbler Ridge vigil attendee Gigi Rejano said, according to the AFP news agency, while others cried nearby and pictures of victims were laid near a tree. In Victoria, speaker of the legislature Raj Chouhan said, "We can only pray together, hold hands together and send our love to all those people", according to a local journalist. The shooting at the nearby home

occurred first, then the suspect went to the school, McDonald said. The victims at the school were a 39-year-old female educator, three female students, all aged 12, and two male students, one aged 12 and the other 13. Authorities do not believe there are other suspects involved in the shootings. Police said they had attended the suspect's family home on multiple occasions over the past several years, with some calls related to mental health concerns. Authorities said Van Rootselaar was born a biological male but identified as a woman. "I can say that Jesse was born as a biological male who approximately six years ago began to transition to female," Dwayne McDonald, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) deputy commissioner, said. Van Rootselaar was known to police, and "we've begun the process of reaching out to" the public health care system to "understand what interactions may have taken place," British Columbia Premier David Eby told a news conference outside the Tumbler Ridge town hall late on Wednesday evening.

PORT CITY IN RUINS AS STORM RIPS THROUGH MADAGASCAR AND ON TOWARDS MOZAMBIQUE

At least 35 people have died after a powerful cyclone struck Madagascar, says the disaster authority in the Indian Ocean island. Cyclone Gezani made landfall on Tuesday, hitting the island's main port, Toamasina. Madagascar's disaster management office said there was "total chaos" - reporting that houses collapsed in the impact zone, where the bodies were found. Neighbourhoods were plunged into darkness as power lines snapped, while trees were uprooted and roofs ripped off. As many as 250,000 people are "affected or displaced", Environment Minister Max Fontaine Andonirina told BBC Newsday on Thursday.

Huge challenges include "disruptions to food-supply chains, to the fuel transport, to the medical access, because most of the major roads are cut", he added. One resident described to the BBC how she and her family covered inside as wind and rain lashed their home for six hours straight, before the windows smashed and water poured in. "We are trying to do our best... It's dangerous and I don't know if there will be enough people to help us, even though the authorities are trying," the woman, who gave her name as Denise, told BBC Newsday. "It's real and its worse" than it looks in videos being shared online, she added. Gezani is



the second cyclone to hit Madagascar this year. It comes 10 days after tropical cyclone Fytia killed 14 and displaced over 31,000 people, according to the UN's humanitarian office. The

island's rulers are now pleading for international help. "What happened is a disaster, nearly 75% of the city of Toamasina was destroyed," the country's military leader Colonel

Michael Randrianirina, who seized power in October, told the AFP news agency. "The current situation exceeds Madagascar's capabilities alone," he added. The cyclone's landfall is likely to have been one of the most intense recorded around the city in the satellite era, according to the CMRS cyclone forecaster on France's Reunion island, AFP reports. The National Office for Risk and Disaster Management said many were killed when houses collapsed. Cyclone Gezani hit Toamasina - the country's second-largest city - with winds reaching 250 km/hour (155 mph). "It's total chaos, 90% of house

roofs have been blown off, entirely or in part," the head of disaster management at the Action Against Hunger aid agency, Rija Randrianarisoa, told AFP. All acknowledge that a huge amount of work needs to be done. "It takes many, many years" to restore infrastructure and recover, Environment Minister Andonirina told the BBC, adding that parts of Madagascar ravaged by cyclones in the past three years still "have not been rebuilt as it was before". Cyclone season in the Indian Ocean around Madagascar normally lasts from November to April and sees around a dozen storms each year, AFP reports.

Flipkart Turns Heads By Sponsoring Namibia In T20 World Cup

E-commerce giant Flipkart left many surprised as it announced the decision to sponsor the Namibia National Cricket Team for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026. The partnership, which sees the Flipkart logo featured prominently on the shoulders of the Namibian jersey, raised many questions on social media, especially as the brand doesn't have any presence in the country. However, a viral response from the brand came in the form of an advertisement in which it revealed the clever strategy behind the move. The conversation started when Flipkart's official X (formerly Twitter) account shared a post featuring the Namibia jersey. Netizens quickly began questioning why an Indian e-commerce platform, traditionally associated with the massive Indian market, would choose to sponsor an associate nation like Namibia instead of a team that had



chances of going farther in the tournament. In a witty response that quickly went viral, Flipkart leaned into its brand identity of accessibility and "value for money." The brand's messaging suggested that while everyone "delivers" for the

big giants, Flipkart takes pride in delivering for everyone, everywhere - a cheeky way of aligning its decision to sponsor the Namibia team with its mission to reach every corner of the Indian market. The Explanation Beyond the

viral banter, marketing experts point to several savvy reasons for this unconventional partnership: In the advertisement, Flipkart explained that by being the primary sponsor for Namibia, Flipkart gains undisputed brand real

estate on the jersey, ensuring its logo is clearly visible during every match the team plays. Also, Namibia has been placed in Group A, meaning they will play high-profile matches against India and Pakistan in stadiums like Delhi's Arun Jaitley Stadium. This guarantees Flipkart massive domestic TV and digital viewership at a fraction of the cost of sponsoring the Indian team. Namibia has earned a reputation for being a "giant killer" in recent ICC events. By associating with a rising associate nation, Flipkart positions itself as a brand that supports growth and grit, creating a positive emotional connection with fans. As Namibia takes the field in Delhi and Chennai this February, the Flipkart logo will be a constant reminder of how a well-timed, unconventional sponsorship can generate more conversation than a traditional big-money deal.

MS Dhoni Asked To Pay Rs 10 Lakh By Madras High Court

The Madras High Court has directed cricketer MS Dhoni to pay Rs 10 lakh towards the translation of content related to the defamation suit he filed against retired IPS officer G. Sampathkumar, seeking Rs 100 crore in damages for allegedly linking him to the 2013 IPL betting scam. Justice RN Manjula issued the directive while passing further interim orders on February 11 on Dhoni's suit. In her order, the judge said that, pursuant to the order dated October 28, 2025, the court's interpreter had taken up the task of transcribing and translating the contents of the CDs involved in the case. However, the order had been passed on the condition that the necessary charges be paid. The judge noted that, according to the interpreter, this was a humongous task requiring significant time and effort at least one interpreter and a typist would need nearly three to four months to complete the work. Since the full-time involvement of an



interpreter and a typist was required, along with additional costs for preparing copies, the charges for transcription and translation were fixed at Rs 10 lakh, payable by the plaintiff (Dhoni). The judge observed that, under normal circumstances in a civil suit, it is the plaintiff who must undertake such work and file the documents along with the plaint. As the engagement of the official interpreter was necessitated by extraneous circumstances, as stated in the ear-

lier order dated October 28, 2025, it was obligatory for the plaintiff to bear the cost of the work done, the judge said. Directing the interpreter to complete the transcription and translation of the contents of the CDs before the third week of March 2026, the judge said the amount of Rs 10 lakh must be paid by the plaintiff into the Chief Justice's Relief Fund, Madras High Court, on or before March 12, 2026. The matter was then posted for further hearing on March 12.

Who Is Crishan Kalugamage? The Pizza Chef Behind Italy's First-Ever T20 World Cup Win

Leg-spinner Crishan Kalugamage starred in Italy's first-ever win at the T20 World Cup. The 32-year-old returned figures of 3/18, setting up a 10-wicket win against Nepal in the Azzurri's maiden campaign. Chasing 124, brothers Justin and Anthony Mosca got Italy off to a flyer, racing to 16 runs in the first two overs. Ultimately, it was Kalugamage who was named Player of the Match at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai for his clinical opening spell. Who is Crishan Kalugamage? Born in Sri Lanka, Kalugamage moved to Italy with his parents as a teenager. He almost gave up hope of fulfilling his passion for cricket, unaware that Italy is



home to one of Europe's oldest cricket clubs, the Roma Cricket Club. A pizzaiolo by profession, Kalugamage's work often clashed with his sporting dreams. Despite working full-time at a pizzeria in Lucca, in the Tuscany region, he would carve out time from his grueling schedule to hone his leg-spinning skills. Growing up

in the Negombo region of Sri Lanka, he idolized the likes of Aravinda de Silva and Sanath Jayasuriya. He played at U-13 and U-15 levels in school before moving to Europe with his family. A passionate Inter Milan supporter, he is a big fan of Argentine forward Lautaro Martinez, who also wears the captain's armband for

the Nerazzurri. Having lived in Italy for over a decade, Kalugamage is fluent in Italian, acting as a vital communicator for the side. After the clash against Nepal, he expressed gratitude to his family and his countrymen, saying it was a "massive moment" for him. "Thank you so much to all the crowd and all my teammates, and I'm really happy about the win. I always, always, always want to help the team win the match and do my best for my nation, Italy. So I'm happy. I also worked hard with my coaching staff, and I'm really happy with my line and length; I took three wickets. So a massive moment for me after so many sacrifices.

Delhi Cricket Body Clarifies After Video Of Cold Drink Getting Refilled Raises Question Marks On Hygiene

Among the venues hosting T20 World Cup matches, the Arun Jaitley Cricket Stadium is a prominent one. Among other fixtures, it is also hosting the India vs Namibia T20 World Cup Group A match. Ahead of that game, a video from the stadium went viral. In the video, a vendor can be seen pouring unsold cold drinks from disposable glasses back into bottles. The video sparked concerns about the hygiene of soft drinks sold at the venue. The Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) has now rejected claims of adulteration and poor hygiene. In a statement issued on Thursday, the DDCA denied the allegations made in the video. The association claimed that the drink was poured back into



the bottles as per agreed commercial arrangements and operational standards, and that the bottles were later disposed of "responsibly in line with established environmental and operational guidelines." In its statement, the DDCA said, "We have come across a video circulating on social media, particularly on X

(formerly Twitter), alleging that a vendor was seen pouring cold drinks back into bottles during a recent match." The video went viral following Tuesday's match between the Netherlands and Namibia. The DDCA clarified that the operation shown in the video was carried out by the authorised concessionaire

for the stadium in accordance with event guidelines. "In this regard, it is clarified that the pouring was undertaken by the authorised concessionaire for the stadium, in line with the event guidelines. The concessionaire was serving Coca-Cola products in accordance with the agreed commercial arrangements and operational standards," the statement said. The DDCA also claimed that strict hygiene protocols were followed. "We follow strict hygiene protocols at the venue. In the instance shown in the video, the vendor, while segregating wet and dry waste, poured the unused beverage back into the bottle before disposal as part of the waste collection process.

HEARN 'EXPECTS' JOSHUA TO FIGHT BUT NO 'GUARANTEES'



Matchroom promoter Eddie Hearn "expects" British heavyweight Anthony Joshua to fight again following the death of two close friends - but admits there are no "guarantees". The 36-year-old sustained minor injuries in the road traffic accident in Nigeria on 29 December that killed Sina Ghami and Latif 'Latz' Ayodele. The two-time world champion returned to training in January, posting a video on social media of him working out with the message "mental strength therapy". Hearn, who has promoted Joshua since he turned professional after winning gold at the 2012 Olympics, believes he will step back inside the ropes this year. "I don't think there are any guarantees he fights again, but at the same time I expect him to, because it is something that he loves," Hearn said in an interview with First Round TV. "And it is something he can carry those guys with him through as well and it is something he wants to do. "From a boxing sense, physically it wasn't easy what he went

through either. People probably don't realise the extent of that. "He has been training, but he is not ready yet and won't be for a while to return to boxing training." Joshua has largely remained out of the spotlight since the fatal incident at the end of 2025, but made a rare public appearance when sitting cage-side at the PFL's event in Dubai on Saturday. He last fought on 19 December when he stopped YouTuber-turned-boxer Jake Paul in the sixth round. After that victory, which improved his record to 29 wins and four defeats, Joshua said he was ready to face long-term rival Tyson Fury next. Fury ended his latest spell of retirement in January when announcing he would be returning to fight Arslanbek Makhmudov in the UK on 11 April. "Before this terrible incident we were geared up to fight in March and then fight Tyson Fury," Hearn said. "Obviously, that is not happening now and I don't know if it will ever happen right now.



Aston Martin 'look four seconds off top teams'

India's Likely Playing XI vs Namibia, T20 World Cup: Gautam Gambhir Set For Team Selection Headache

The Indian cricket team finds itself navigating a potential crisis as they finalise their preparations for the upcoming T20 World Cup 2026 Group A fixture against Namibia. While India secured a victory in their previous outing against the United States of America, the performance was far from clinical, leaving the squad with more questions than answers. With a high-stakes encounter against arch-rivals Pakistan looming on the horizon, the team management had hoped for a seamless lead-up; instead, they have been met with a medical room at full capacity. The primary concern involves the explosive opening pair of Abhishek Sharma and Ishan Kishan. Sharma, whose aggressive intent has been a hallmark of India's recent strategy, was hospitalised following a severe stomach ailment. Although



he was discharged on Wednesday, the physical toll makes a quick return highly improbable. In his absence, Sanju Samson is the frontrunner to reclaim an opening berth. However, the selection headaches were compounded when Ishan Kishan sustained an injury during a net session, potentially forcing a tactical rethink that could see Suryakumar Yadav or Tilak Varma promoted to the top. Beyond the opening slot, several other changes are

expected as India looks to sharpen its "A-game" before the Pakistan clash. Head coach Gautam Gambhir has his task cut out, especially in the wake of the injury and illness issues. After missing the opener against the USA due to a high fever, India's pace spearhead is expected to return to the XI. To accommodate him, the management may have to make a tough call on Mohammed Siraj, despite Siraj's impactful three-wicket haul in the previous match. With the

match being held at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in Delhi-a venue often conducive to spin-there is growing clamour for Kuldeep Yadav's inclusion. If the pitch appears particularly dry, he could replace one of the seamers or even Varun Chakaravarty to provide a different wrist-spin dimension. Having recovered from a side strain, Washington Sundar is now available. His ability to bowl in the Powerplay and provide lower-order batting depth makes him a strong candidate to replace Rinku Singh if the team opts for an extra bowling cushion against the Namibian middle order. India's likely XI vs Namibia, T20 World Cup: Sanju Samson, Ishan Kishan, Suryakumar Yadav, Shivam Dube, Hardik Pandya, Rinku Singh, Axar Patel, Varun Chakaravarty, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh.

'Shocking' or correct - why Ukraine skeleton slider was banned



The biggest controversy of the Milan-Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics came to a head on Thursday morning, as Ukraine's Vladyslav Heraskevych was banned from competing. Heraskevych, who was his country's flagbearer at the opening ceremony, wished to compete in the men's skeleton while wearing a special helmet featuring artwork depicting Ukrainian athletes killed during the Russian invasion. But the International Olympic Committee (IOC) said this contravened the Olympic charter - the rules and bylaws for the organisation of the Games - and informed him on Tuesday that he would not be allowed to compete in the helmet. After two days of discussions in which Heraskevych refused to back down, it was confirmed on Thursday morning that he had been disqualified. Heraskevych wore the helmet in all his training runs before the competition began and carried it through media mixed zones and in multiple interviews. But IOC rules dictated that he

would not be allowed to wear it during official competition. They cited rule 40.2 of the Olympic Charter, external, which states: "All competitors, team officials or other team personnel in the Olympic Games shall enjoy freedom of expression in keeping with the Olympic values and the fundamental principles of Olympism, and in accordance with the guidelines determined by the IOC Executive Board." These are the athlete expression guidelines, external, determined in 2023 and which have been codified into Olympic law. This states that: "The focus at the Olympic Games must remain on athletes' performances, sport and the harmony that the games seek to advance. "It is a fundamental principle that sport at the Olympic Games is neutral and must be separate from political, religious and any other type of interference. Specifically, the focus on the field of play during competitions and official ceremonies must be on celebrating athletes' performances."

“FUNKY WILL GIVE YOU TWO HOURS OF BREEZY LAUGHTER,” SAY THE TEAM AT THE PRE-RELEASE PRESS MEET



Funky marks the coming together of Mass Ka Das Vishwak Sen, who has carved a unique identity with diverse films, and director K.V. Anudeep, known for his comedy entertainers. The film is presented by Srihara Studios and produced by Suryadevara Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya under the banners of Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas. Bheems Ceciroleo has composed the music, and Kayadu Lohar plays the female lead.

Releasing a day ahead of Valentine's Day on February 13, Funky has created strong anticipation among audiences. The teaser, trailer, and songs have already received an excellent response, raising expectations further. As the film gears up to bring a

wave of laughter to theatres in just a few hours, the team recently held a pre-release press meet. They expressed confidence that Funky, a complete family entertainer, will offer a wholesome dose of fun and emerge as a big success.

■ SPEAKING AT THE PRESS MEET, VISHWAK SEN SAID:
“First, I have to talk about Bheems garu. He has given wonderful music to our film. Usually, people say songs in my films are good. But in my last two films, the songs didn't meet expectations. Now, for Funky, Bheems garu has delivered all good songs. I believe the songs will receive even more love after the film's release. Funky is releasing tomorrow (February 13). Come watch it with your friends and family and enjoy it.

The film will entertain you so much that you won't even realize how two hours have passed.”

■ KAYADU LOHAR SAID:
“By now, you all already have an idea of how Funky is going to be. We are very excited to show this film to you. I thank producer Naga Vamsi garu for giving me this opportunity. It was a pleasure working with director Anudeep garu. Among all the directors I've worked with so far, Anudeep garu has a very unique style. Vishwak Sen is an amazing actor with great talent. He is very cool. Reaching this level without any background is not an ordinary achievement. Funky is my first full-fledged comedy film in my career. I hope you all like it. Please watch and enjoy it with your family on

February 13.”

■ DIRECTOR K.V. ANUDEEP SAID:
“First of all, thanks to our media friends for supporting us. I thank Vishwak Sen for agreeing to do this film right after hearing the story. Even though Kayaadu Lohar doesn't know Telugu, she would quickly learn and deliver any dialogues written on the spot. I am grateful to Naga Vamsi garu for giving me this opportunity. Bheems has given excellent music. Editor Naveen Nooli has made the film even better with his work. Thanks to cinematographer Suresh garu, co-writer Jagan, and everyone who worked on this film. Funky releases on February 13. It's a good family entertainer, and I hope you all watch and enjoy it with your family.”

“Hey Bhagavan” will make audiences laugh: MEGA SUPREME HERO SAI DURGA TEJ AT THE ‘NOT A TRAILER’ LAUNCH EVENT

The successful duo Bunny Vaas and Vamsi Nandipati, who recently delivered blockbuster films like Little Hearts, Raju Weds Rambai, and Eesha, are now bringing a full-length out-and-out entertainer titled Hey Bhagavan to audiences under the banners of Nandipati Entertainments and Bunny Vaas Works. The film stars Suhas, Shivani Nagaram, senior actor Naresh, and anchor Sravanti in key roles. The film is directed by Gopi Achara and produced by B. Narendra Reddy under the Trishul Visionary Studios banner. The movie is set for release on February 20. As part of promotions, a trailer launch event titled Not a Trailer was held in Hyderabad on Thursday. Mega Supreme Hero Sai Durga Tej attended as the chief guest and released the trailer. Speaking on the occasion, Sai Durga Tej said, “The movie trailer is very good. This film will make audiences laugh. Suhas works very hard. He is proving his talent not only in Telugu films but also in Tamil movies. Hey Bhagavan will entertain everyone. I hope this film brings huge success to the entire team.” Another guest, director Ram Abbaraju, said, “This film is coming with a very unique point and will entertain everyone. I believe Hey Bhagavan will become another hit in Suhas' career. I hope this film brings a good name to the entire team.”



Bunny Vaas said, “First credit should go to Vamsi Nandipati, who has been involved with both the story and the team from the beginning. I recently watched the first copy and laughed a lot. If I laugh so much at a film that is not mine, it definitely won't go wrong. Sai Durga Tej has always been at the forefront of encouraging small films. Suhas is growing step by step with great effort. I hope this film also becomes a success. All the best to the team.” Vamsi Nandipati said, “Some stories cannot be shown through trailers. This story must be experienced in the theatres. That is why we are conducting this event titled Not a Trailer. At the pre-release event, we will give ₹20,000 prize money to the top five people who guess the story correctly. We are confi-

dent this will be a hit on February 20. Thanks to Sai Durga Tej and Ram Abbaraju for supporting us. The censor process was completed yesterday and they said they enjoyed it a lot. This will be a big hit in Suhas' career. I believe he will create a record as a hero who crosses one million in North America.” Hero Suhas said, “This is an out-and-out comedy entertainer. Audiences will enjoy it thoroughly. I am happy to work with Naresh sir. His acting in the climax will be next level. Tej anna always supports me and sends his wishes for every film of mine. He also encouraged me and convinced my parents when I wanted to enter the industry. Last February, we scored a hit with Ambajipeta. I am confident this film will also be a hit.”

Shivani Nagaram said, “Special thanks to our special guest Sai Tej for giving us positive support. The whole team worked very hard and passionately for this film. This is like Ugadi Pachadi — it has all elements like comedy, love, and emotion. Everyone will definitely be entertained.” Actor VK Naresh said, “This is a wholesome entertainer. Reviewers who look for freshness will definitely like this film. It will feel new with father-and-son emotions.” Director Gopi Achara said, “Special thanks to Sai Durga Tej and director Ram Abbaraju for supporting us. Usually trailers touch the movie's main point. But we wanted to show the main point only in the film, so we released it as Not a Trailer. This story revolves around father-and-son emotion.

‘Sathi Leelavathi’ is a Complete Entertainer... I Request Everyone to Watch Our Film on March 6 and Make It a Big Hit: Lavanya Tripathi Konidela at Press Meet



The film ‘Sathi Leelavathi’, starring Lavanya Tripathi Konidela and Dev Mohan, is produced by Naaga Mohan under the banner of Durgadevi Pictures and presented by Anandi Art Creations. The movie is directed by Tatineni Satya. It

was announced on Wednesday that the film will be released on March 6. On this occasion, a special event was organized to announce the release date of ‘Sathi Leelavathi’. Speaking at the event...

Lavanya Tripathi Konidela said:
“When we started Sathi Leelavathi, I was pregnant. I completed the shoot in just three months. I could finish the shoot only because of the support from the director and producers. It was a pleasure

working with Saptagiri garu. All the artists in this film have performed wonderfully. Dev Mohan garu's performance will impress everyone. This is a complete entertainer. Everyone will like this movie. I request you all to watch the film on March 6 and make it a big hit.”

Director Tatineni Satya said:
“Just mention old sathi leelavathi is a cult classic there would not be any comparison between the two films ... i myself is a great fan of that old film and made the new sathi leelavathi to the new generation husband and wife conflict ...i would only pray if i get 50% of the old classic sathi leelavathi and people watch it in theatres and enjoy the entertainment with their family and people saying its a good film.”

I made Seetha Payanam for audiences of all sections. It's a film families can watch together in theatres” – Director & Producer Action King Arjun

Seetha Payanam, directed by Action King Arjun and starring Niranjan and Aishwarya Arjun as the lead pair, is produced under the Shri Ram Films International banner. With this film, Aishwarya Arjun makes her debut as a heroine. Action Prince Dhruva Sarja also plays a key role. The film releases on February 14. As part of the promotions, Arjun Sarja interacted with the media.

language, people can relate to it. It's a feel-good subject that works everywhere. That's why I decided to release it in four languages.

Did producing a film with your own daughter affect the budget planning?
When I work with my family, I have complete control over the budget. I know exactly where to spend and how much to spend. That gives me a high level of comfort.

Why did you choose Telugu to introduce your daughter?
The film industry has given me so much. Telugu audiences have always shown me immense love. So, I wanted to launch Aishwarya here first.

Was another hero initially considered? Did that change the story?

Yes. I had the story ready and we initially considered Vishwak Sen. Sometimes things don't go as planned. But we didn't change even a single scene in the script. Niranjan stepped in for that role. We have no issues with Vishwak Sen; everything is settled. Life is a circle—there are no grudges. If things align, we might work together again.

Usually, star sons are launched. You are launching your daughter. Why?
Not just sons—daughters are heirs too. We shouldn't discriminate. We should support their interests.

