

OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

12-03-2026

Total pilgrims: 68,754

Tonnes: 25,569

Hundi-kankulu: 3,68CR

Waiting Compartments: Out side line at Krishna Teja guest house.

Approx. Darshan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens) - 18-24 H



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SHORT TAKES

ED ATTACHES PROPERTIES WORTH RS 35 CRORE IN BANK FRAUD CASE

**New Delhi (TSIT):** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached two immovable properties valued at Rs 35.05 crore in connection with an alleged bank fraud case involving BNR Infra and Leasing and Elite Infra Projects Pvt Ltd.According to the ED's Hyderabad Zonal Office, the attachment was carried out under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002. The seized assets include a land parcel and a residential flat linked to Beerreddy Narasimha Reddy and Anil Beniprasad Aggarwal.The money laundering investigation was initiated based on two FIRs registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation units in Chennai and Hyderabad.

LANKA REPATRIATES BODIES OF 84 IRANIAN SAILORS KILLED IN US STRIKE

**Colombo:** Sri Lanka has repatriated the bodies of 84 Iranian sailors killed in a US attack on the war-ship IRIS Dena on March 4. A special flight departed from Mattala International Airport on Friday. The ship was struck by a US submarine torpedo off Sri Lanka's coast. A total of 87 bodies were recovered; 32 sailors were rescued.

4 TEENAGERS KILLED IN JHARKHAND ACCIDENT

**Chatra, Mar 13 (TSIT):** Traffic in Chatra district came to a standstill for more than 16 hours after villagers blocked a highway, demanding compensation and action following a tragic accident that claimed the lives of four teenage boys. The accident occurred late Thursday evening at Chiraiyatand under the jurisdiction of Piparwar police station. A speeding Scorpio SUV allegedly collided with a motorcycle carrying four minors. Three of the boys—Vikas Kumar (15), Manjit Mahto (14), and Pratap Kumar (15)—died on the spot. The fourth, Son Kumar (15), succumbed to his injuries while being transported to the Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences.

CM Revanth seeks public support for Musi rejuvenation project

Hyderabad TSIT BUREAU:

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy appealed to citizens, intellectuals, and stakeholders to support the Musi River rejuvenation initiative, stating that the programme is aimed at protecting Hyderabad's heritage, environment, and future development.

Speaking at the “MUSI INVITES” programme in Hyderabad, the Chief Minister said that some individuals are deliberately spreading half-truths and incomplete information that are creating unnecessary anxiety among the public. He clarified that the government believes in using authority as a guardian for people's welfare, not as a tool to dominate citizens.The Chief Minister explained that human civilization historically developed around rivers and emphasized that Hyderabad cannot afford to lag behind while cities

Speaking at the “MUSI INVITES” programme in Hyderabad, the Chief Minister said that some individuals are deliberately spreading half-truths and incomplete information that are creating unnecessary anxiety among the public.

across the world are moving ahead with modern riverfront development projects. He said the government has consulted experts and intellectuals from various fields to design a comprehensive plan for Musi rejuvenation.Recalling history, he pointed out that the devastating 1908 floods of the Musi River had submerged large parts of Hyderabad. Following that disaster, the Nizam administration consulted renowned

engineer Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya and constructed the Himayat Sagar and Osman Sagar reservoirs to control floods and supply drinking water to the city. These reservoirs have protected Hyderabad and served its residents for over a century.

“Hyderabad is a city with a great legacy. We cannot allow such a historic city to deteriorate,” he said, urging critics to provide constructive suggestions rather than obstruct development.The Chief Minister noted that the Musi River, which originates in Rangareddy district, becomes heavily polluted by the time it reaches Hyderabad due to human activities. He stressed that reviving the river is essential not only for environmental restoration but also for preserving the city's history and culture.He also highlighted the historical importance of Bapu Ghat, where the ashes of

Mahatma Gandhi were immersed at the confluence of the Musi and Esi rivers. However, he lamented that the area has not been developed into a major tourist attraction due to neglect and pollution.

Revanth Reddy clarified that the Musi rejuvenation project is not intended to harm anyone or seize properties, but to create better infrastructure, employment opportunities, tourism development, and a vibrant night-time economy for Hyderabad. He also assured that families living in the Musi catchment area would be provided with proper rehabilitation, housing, schools, and employment opportunities.

The Chief Minister said that the government has complete details of displaced families and is holding discussions with civil society groups to provide housing and improved living conditions for them.

Rejecting allegations that the project is linked to real-estate interests, he stated that if government initiatives lead to tourism development and economic growth, it ultimately benefits the state and its people.He concluded by urging all sections of society to cooperate in completing the Musi rejuvenation project, saying that protecting nature and reviving the river will strengthen Telangana's growth and secure a better future for coming generations.

ISRO conducts successful sea-level hot test of CE20 cryogenic engine at 22-Tonne thrust

**Chennai (TSIT)** ISRO successfully conducted a sea-level hot test of its Cryogenic Engine (CE20) at 22-tonne thrust using the Nozzle Protection System (NPS) and a multi-element igniter on March 10, 2026, at the ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri.

Earlier, the sea level tests utilizing the nozzle protection system NPS were being carried out at a 19-tonne thrust level.

The CE20 cryogenic engine powers the upper cryogenic stage of the LVM3 launch vehicle. In order to enhance the payload capability of the LVM3 vehicle, future missions of LVM3 are planned to be operated with an uprated C32 stage with 22 tonne thrust for the CE20 engine.

Accordingly, the flight acceptance test of the CE20 engine was also conducted at the 22-tonne thrust level. The present test successfully qualified the engine's sea-level operation, with a test duration of 165 seconds at 22-tonne thrust using the NPS. The performance of both the engine and the test facility met expectations throughout the test.

Testing the CE20 engine at sea level poses considerable challenges due to its high area ratio nozzle, which has an exit pressure of approximately 50 mbar. Main concerns during testing at sea-level include flow separation inside the nozzle, which leads to severe vibrations & thermal problems at the flow separation plane, leading to possible mechanical

damage of the nozzle.

The Cryogenic engine utilized for this test has undergone a record maximum number of hot tests (20 No.s) successfully, that has enabled the demonstration of several key technologies using a single engine such as engine ignition using multi element igniter, ignition margin demonstration for Gaganyaan over a wide range of propellants tank pressure and pre-ignition chamber pressure, engine qualification for Gaganyaan at 20 tonne thrust level, demonstration & qualification of 22tonne thrust level operation, boot-strap mode starting of CE20 engine without start-up system for enabling re-start in flight, indigenous turbopumps bearings qualification, indigenous sensor qualification and Nozzle Protection System qualification for high area ratio nozzle hot test at sea level.

India's suffering is our suffering too: Iran envoy

New Delhi, March 13 : Iran's Ambassador to India, Dr. Mohammad Fathali, on Friday emphasised the strong ties between New Delhi and Tehran, saying that both countries share common interests and values and should continue supporting each other to overcome challenges.Speaking

to media persons, the envoy said that the people of India and Iran share a sense of solidarity, which strengthens bilateral cooperation.

"The suffering of the people of India is our suffering and vice versa. And for this reason, the government of India helps us. And we should help the government of India because we have common faith and common interests," he said.He added that as Iran's Ambassador in India, he believes in strengthening mutual understanding and cooperation between the two nations. Fathali also highlighted the ongoing diplomatic engagement between the two countries, noting that senior officials from Iran and India had recently held discussions to address issues of mutual concern. "

UN chief urges Hezbollah-Israel ceasefire amid severe economic toll on Lebanon

Beirut, March 13 (TSIT) : UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Friday called for a ceasefire between Hezbollah and Israel and restore Lebanon's sovereignty and stability.Following a meeting with Lebanese President Joseph Aoun in Beirut, Guterres said he was visiting "as a friend of the Lebanese people in full solidarity".

"Unfortunately, Lebanon was dragged into a war that is not a war that its people would be willing to have," Guterres was quoted as saying in a statement released by the UN Information Centre while expressing hope that his next visit would be to "a

Lebanon in peace," where the State has the sole control of the use of force and its territorial integrity is fully respected, Xinhua News Agency reported.

"This is no longer the time of armed groups. This is the time of strong states," he added.

For his part, Aoun said over 800,000 people have been displaced by the conflict, stressing the need to address their situation

and thanking the UN for its support. Aoun called for an end to Israeli attacks and voiced hope for stronger international support during what he described as a critical phase.

Meanwhile, a Lebanese economic official, citing data from professional syndicates and economic associations, said Friday that Lebanon's commercial production fell 50 per cent, with non-essential goods sales dropping 60-80 per cent. The industrial and agricultural production also contracted by about 50 percent and 40 percent respectively, affected by the shutdown of production units across the country.

Opposition MPs move to seek CEC Gyanesh Kumar's removal

**New Delhi, Mar 12 (TSIT):** Opposition parties have collected signatures from Members of Parliament to submit a notice seeking the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, alleging “partisan and discriminatory conduct in office”, according to reports.

Sources told news agency PTI that the notice is expected to be submitted in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha within the next one or two days. A senior MP familiar with the development said the process of collecting signatures has already been completed and the notice could be submitted on Thursday. Another opposition leader indicated that the submission may take place either on Thursday or Friday in both Houses.

According to sources, around 120 MPs have signed the notice

The notice reportedly lists seven charges against Gyanesh Kumar, including allegations of “partisan and discriminatory conduct in office”, “deliberate obstruction of investigation of electoral fraud”, and “mass disenfranchisement”, among other accusations

Kumar, including allegations of “partisan and discriminatory conduct in office”, “deliberate obstruction of investigation of electoral fraud”, and “mass disenfranchisement”, among other accusations.Sources said the notice has been signed by MPs belonging to parties in the INDIA bloc. Members of the Aam Aadmi Party, which is no longer formally part of the alli-

ance, have also signed the notice.If submitted, this would be the first time a notice has been moved seeking the removal of a Chief Election Commissioner.Opposition parties have repeatedly accused the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party of benefiting from the Election Commission's decisions.

The allegations have been linked in particular to the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise, which opposition leaders claim could favour the ruling party. Concerns have also been raised regarding the conduct of the exercise in West Bengal, where Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has accused the Election Commission of removing genuine voters from electoral rolls.

Govt urges consumers to avoid panic buying as petrol, diesel, LPG supply is normal

**New Delhi (TSIT):** The Centre on Friday advised consumers to avoid panic buying of petrol, diesel, and LPG as adequate stocks are available across the country. No cases of fuel dry-outs have been reported at any of the 1 lakh retail outlets by the Oil Marketing Companies. Adequate stocks of petrol and diesel are available, and supplies are being maintained regularly, a senior Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry official said.

The official underlined that India currently has a refining capacity of around 258 MMTPA and is the fourth largest refining hub in the world. The country is

self-sufficient in the production of petrol and diesel, and no imports of petrol and diesel are required to meet domestic demand. All refineries are currently operating at high levels, including some of them even above 100 per cent capacity. All Indian refineries are also currently maintaining adequate crude oil inventories, and supplies are being continuously received through diversified import sources and shipping routes.

KTR seeks probe into contracts linked to Telangana CM

**Hyderabad (TSIT):** Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K.T. Rama Rao has demanded a probe by the Central agencies into the alleged irregular allocation of government contracts to KLSR Infratech Private Limited, a company, which he says is linked to Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy as a benami entity. In a letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday, he raised serious concerns over the deteriorating law and order situation in Telangana.

In his letter, KTR alleged that during the investigation of cases related to KLSR Infratech, the state government tampered with evidence under the directions of the Chief Minister.He termed it extremely unfortunate that government officials informed the High Court that crucial evidence collected in the case had gone missing.

KTR stated that this incident reflects the alarming decline of law and order in the state and the pressure being exerted on investigative agencies. He alleged that the Chief Minister misused his authority and pressured officials to destroy evidence in order to protect his benami company. He urged the Government of India to ensure a thorough and impartial investigation into the financial irregularities, allocation of contracts, and possible money laundering linked to KLSR Infratech.He requested that central investigative agencies such as the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Enforcement Directorate (ED), and Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) conduct a comprehensive probe into the matter.



## B. Indrasen Reddy Appointed as Telangana BJP State Spokesperson

Sangareddy, March 13 (TSIT) Businessman and investor B. Indrasen Reddy (ISR), who has nearly three decades of experience in the fields of technology, solar energy, and real estate, has been appointed as the State Spokesperson of the Telangana unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Speaking on the occasion, Indrasen Reddy said that with a strong belief in nature and universal energy, he would work with honesty and a sense of equality to further



strengthen the party in Telangana.

He expressed his gratitude to Telangana BJP State President N. Ramchander Rao for entrusting him with the responsibility. He thanked the party lead-

ership for placing their confidence in him and appointing him as the State Spokesperson.

Indrasen Reddy is currently associated with several organizations including Laghu Udyog Bharati, Bharat Global Industries Forum, and Swavalambhi Bharat Abhiyan. Through these platforms, he has been actively contributing to the development of entrepreneurs, policy advocacy, and business collaboration, aiming to support the vision of a developed India.

### Prohibitory Orders Imposed at Exam Centers for Class X Annual Exams: DCP



Warangal: In view of the Class X annual examinations starting March 14, Central Zone DCP Dara Kavitha has enforced Section 163 BNSS (akin to Section 144) at all 150 exam centers across Hanmakonda, Warangal, and Janagama. The orders, effective from March 14 to April 16, prohibit gatherings of three or more people near centers and ban rallies and sit-ins. All xerox shops within a 500-meter radius must remain closed from 6 AM to 2 PM daily. A strong police presence has been deployed to ensure smooth conduct of exams.

## Ugadi Awards for Journalists; Pension Scheme Under Review: Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy

THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES, Amaravati : In a significant move towards journalist welfare, the Andhra Pradesh State Minister for Information and Public Relations, Kolusu Parthasarathy, announced that the state government will present Ugadi Puraskaram awards to journalists this year. Speaking to the media, the Minister reaffirmed the NDA government's commitment to the well-being of the journalistic community. He stated that several welfare schemes are currently being finalized and will be officially announced shortly.

The Minister revealed that a dedicated pension scheme for journalists is currently under active consideration by the government. There is a proposal to increase the health card limit for journalists to Rs.20 Lakhs, ensuring better access to premium healthcare. Support for Veterans: Veteran journalists will be provided with free bus pass facilities in the district of



their choice. The government plans to introduce accidental insurance coverage to provide financial security to media professionals. Minister Parthasarathy further mentioned that the grievances and issues faced by journalists were recently discussed in a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu.

"The government is working on a comprehensive policy to address journalist welfare, including awards, pensions, and insurance. We will share 'good news' with our journalist friends very soon," the Minister added.

## Bank of India Launches Nationwide 'Mega Samjhauta Campaign' for Loan Settlement



Hyderabad: The Asset Recovery Department of Bank of India (Hyderabad Zone) has announced the launch of a nationwide "Mega Samjhauta Campaign" aimed at helping borrowers settle their loan dues through a One-Time Settlement (OTS) mechanism.

The campaign will be conducted from March 16 to March 20, 2026, across all branches, zones and Field General Manager Offices (FGMOs) of the bank. The initiative focuses on resolving Non-Performing Asset (NPA) loan accounts and supporting borrowers facing financial difficulties. According to bank officials, many borrowers have struggled to meet repayment obligations due to genuine challenges such as business downturns, eco-

nomics stress, or medical emergencies. To address these issues, the bank has introduced special OTS schemes for both small-value and mid-size loan accounts, offering substantial concessions to eligible borrowers.

The bank described the five-day campaign as a "golden opportunity" for NPA borrowers to regularize their accounts and regain financial stability. Eligible borrowers have been encouraged to approach their nearest branch and take advantage of the settlement facility during the campaign period. Through this initiative, the bank aims to provide relief to distressed borrowers while also strengthening its asset recovery efforts across the country.

## Varun Khanna Launches 'The Hope Code' YouTube Channel to Demystify Healthcare

Hyderabad: Mr. Varun Khanna, Group Managing Director of Quality Care India Limited, has launched a YouTube channel called "The Hope Code" to encourage thoughtful dialogue on healthcare, patient trust, and medical decision-making. The platform aims to bridge the gap between the



abundance of health information and the ability to interpret it credibly. The inaugural episode will feature veteran Dr. Narottam Puri. Through conversations with experts, the channel seeks to help audiences navigate healthcare complexities with greater clarity and informed hope.

## 70th Rail Seva Puraskar Celebrations Held Under Waltair Railway Division in Visakhapatnam



Visakhapatnam: The 70th Rail Seva Puraskar Celebrations were held at the Rail Club in Visakhapatnam under the aegis of the Waltair Railway Division of Indian Railways on Friday.

Divisional Railway Manager Lalit Bohra attended the ceremony as the chief guest and inaugurated the event by lighting the traditional lamp. Speaking on the occasion, he said the Waltair

Division had secured the top position in the country by generating an additional freight revenue of Rs.1,500 crore. He added that the division achieved a historic milestone by reaching a freight loading target of 78.45 million tonnes, 24 days before the close of the financial year.

Bohra also announced that security at Visakhapatnam Railway Station has been strengthened with the deployment of the AI-based robot ASC Arjun. For the convenience of passengers, special trains operating from Visakhapatnam to Tirupati, SMVT Bengaluru and Charlapalli are being regularized.

## Pharma Anveshan 2026 State-Level Conference to be Held at Andhra University Today



Visakhapatnam: As part of the centenary celebrations of Andhra University, the state-level programme Pharma Anveshan 2026 will be organized on Saturday in collaboration with the Pharmacy Council of India.

Addressing a press conference at the AU Academic Senate Hall, Vice-Chancellor G. P. Rajasekhara said the event coincides with the 75th anniversary of the College of Pharmaceutical Sciences and the university's centenary celebrations. He noted that the programme aims to strengthen collaboration between industry and academia.

Bashubhai H. Chaudhari, Vice-President of the Pharmacy Council of India, said the initiative has been conducted for the past four years and brings together representatives from the pharmaceutical industry

and academic experts. The platform enables pharmacy students to present innovative ideas and receive guidance to transform them into practical solutions.

According to G. Girija Sankar, Principal of the College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, the programme will be held at the AU Convention Centre on Beach Road under the theme "Future Pharma Eco System—Fostering Synergy among Academia, Industry, Research, Regulatory and Practice."

The event will feature keynote lectures, panel discussions and a Pharma Ideathon, with nearly 800 students already registered. Officials including S. L. N. Prasada Reddy and M. Muralikrishna Kumar also attended the press meet where a poster for the conference was unveiled.

## Indian Bank Sanctions Rs.1,422 Crore Under Mega RAM Credit Outreach in AP & Telangana



Hyderabad, March 12: Indian Bank organized a Mega RAM (Retail, Agriculture and MSME) Credit Outreach Programme across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana on March 12, 2026, sanctioning and disbursing loans worth Rs.1,422 crore to beneficiaries through eight zones and three MCBS.

Pranesh Kumar, Field General Manager (FGM), Hyderabad, participated in the disbursement drive at Tirupati along with Selvaraj M, Zonal Manager-Tirupati, and handed over sanction letters to beneficiaries. Addressing the gathering, he emphasized the importance of customer-centric lending and encouraged greater use of digital plat-

forms such as IndSMART and IndSMART BIZ for banking and loan services.

Beneficiaries also displayed products at stalls set up during the event, showcasing enterprises developed with financial support from the bank. The outreach programme was conducted across various zones in both states in the presence of zonal managers and officials from District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) and Mission for Elimination of Poverty in

Municipal Areas (MEPMA). Senior officials including K. Srinivas (Hyderabad Zone), Swarna Prava Sundarray (Malkajgiri Zone), Sudhakara Rao PSS (Karimnagar Zone), Gowri Sankar Rao N (Amaravati Zone), Mutchina Rajesh (Vijayawada Zone), Kattula Raj Kumar (Rajahmundry Zone) and Awadhesh Kumar Purbey (Visakhapatnam Zone) also participated in distributing sanction letters to beneficiaries.

## AU Exam Results via Mana Mitra WhatsApp Services

The South India Times, Visakhapatnam : Andhra University Vice-Chancellor, Prof. G.P. Rajasekhara, stated that Andhra University students can henceforth access their examination results directly through WhatsApp. Speaking at a press conference organized today at the AU Senate Meeting Hall, he announced that arrange-



ments have been made for students to easily obtain their results via WhatsApp through the State Government's 'Mana

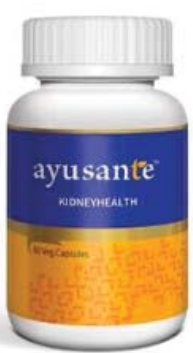
Mitra' app. A live demo of the process was showcased during the event. Furthermore, an AU student demonstrated the live process of receiving results on WhatsApp using their registered number. The event was attended by Registrar Prof. K. Ram Babu, Computer Centre Dean Prof. Ch.V.V.S. Bhaskara Reddy, and others.



Indian Bank, Vijayawada Zone conducted "MEGA RAM CREDIT OUTREACH CAMPAIGN" on 12.03.2026. Zonal Manager Shri.M.Rajesh and Deputy Zonal Manager Shri.M.Seshagiri Rao handed over the sanction tickets to various beneficiaries amounting Rs.260.00 Crores. Similar Mega Credit Campaign was conducted in all 8 Zones of Indian Bank FGMO, Hyderabad Span. Shri.Pranesh Kumar, Filed General Manager handed over Rs.1422.00 Crores to various beneficiaries.

## Ayurvedic Kidney Support Emerging as Key Part of Modern Wellness Routine

As awareness about preventive healthcare continues to grow, people are increasingly turning to holistic wellness practices that combine traditional knowledge with modern science. Ayurveda, one of the world's oldest systems of medicine, is gaining renewed attention for its natural approach to maintaining overall health, including kidney care. In this context, wellness company Vestige Marketing Pvt. Ltd. has introduced Ayusante KidneyHealth Capsules, an Ayurvedic formulation developed to support kidney function and promote urinary wellness. Designed using Ayurvedic principles and supported by modern research, the product aims to help maintain kidney health as part of a daily wellness routine. The formulation includes herbal ingredients traditionally known for their kidney-supporting properties, such as Emblica officinalis (Amla), Crataeva nurvala (Varuna), Tribulus terrestris (Gokshura), Saxifraga ligulata (Pashanbhed), and Tinospora cordifolia (Giloy). These herbs are believed to help support kidney immunity, assist in reducing the formation of kidney stones, and ease urinary discomfort. According to the company, the product works by helping inhibit enzymes linked to stone formation, reducing crystal aggregation in the kidneys, and supporting the body's natural detoxification processes. It may also help manage urinary tract infections and other urinary concerns. With growing global interest in natural healthcare solutions, Vestige says the initiative reflects its commitment to promoting Ayurveda-based wellness solutions and expanding their reach worldwide, especially around awareness occasions such as World Kidney Day.



Hyderabad, March 13: Industry experts stated that while Artificial Intelligence (AI) may displace nearly 85 million jobs worldwide by 2030, it is also expected to create about 97 million new roles across various sectors. The observations were made during Industry Conclave 3.0 organized by the Career Guidance Centre at GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, on the theme "Engineering the Future: Innovation in Core Sectors." The conclave brought together industry leaders and academicians for three panel discussions focusing on emerging trends in core engineering sectors. Experts emphasized that although the job market will evolve with AI-driven technologies, students must equip themselves with relevant skills to stay competitive.

Speakers advised aspiring engineers to gain practical exposure through internships, industry visits, and hands-on learning while continuously upgrading their knowledge. They also highlighted the importance of adaptability, collaboration with indus-

## AI to Create More Jobs Despite Displacement, Say Experts at GITAM Deemed to be University Conclave



try, and maintaining a positive attitude, noting that attitude accounts for nearly 75 percent of success in recruitment. Chief guests Preet Yadav, Head - India Innovation Ecosystem at NXP

Semiconductors, and Suman Gorla, Delivery Lead at Stellantis, delivered keynote addresses stressing the role of innovation and strong industry-academia collaboration. The event concluded with panelists appreciating the advanced laboratories and infrastructure at the university's School of Core Engineering.

| Protium                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | PROTIUM FINANCE LIMITED<br>(Erstwhile Growth Source Financial Technologies Limited) |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Registered & Corporate Office Address: 7th Floor, Block B2, Phase - I Nirlon Knowledge Park, Pahnad Village, Off. Western Express Highway, Gama Industrial Estate, Goregaon(E), Mumbai - 400063, Maharashtra.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                     |
| POSSESSION NOTICE- ( U/S 13(4) & As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                     |
| WHEREAS, the undersigned, being the Authorized Officer of Protium Finance Limited (erstwhile Growth Source Financial Technologies Ltd.) (hereinafter referred to as "Protium Finance Limited"), under the provisions of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) (the "SARFESI Act"), and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 2nd Jan 2026, calling upon the Borrowers Shree Chaluvarayyaswamy Provision Store Area Nut Through its Proprietor Manjunatha S/o Siddagowda, And The Co-Borrowers: 1. Manjunatha S/o Siddagowda, 2. Chaitra W/o Manjunatha, in respect of the Loan Account Bearing No. G5076EEL2309810, to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice, being INR 28,53,260.49/- (Twenty Eight Lakh Sixty Three Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Rupees and Forty Nine Paise Only) as on 2nd Jan 2026, within 60 (sixty) days from the date of receipt of the said notice. |                                                                                     |
| The borrowers having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described hereinafter, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, on this 12th March 2026. The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property, and any dealings with the property shall be subject to the charge of Protium Finance Limited for an amount of INR 28,53,260.49/- (Twenty Eight Lakh Sixty Three Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Rupees and Forty Nine Paise Only) as on 2nd Jan 2026 together with further interest thereon, and all costs, charges, and expenses incurred.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                     |
| The borrowers' attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available to redeem the secured assets.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                     |
| DESCRIPTION OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY<br>All The Piece And Parcel Of The Property is Situated At Basavapattana Grama Panchayath, Anjaneya Hosahalli Village, Ramnathapuram Hobli, Arkalgud Taluk, Hassan District, Bearing Property No.151600301200220025, Property No. (As Per Grama Panchayath) Katha No.115, Measuring East West: 17.55 Mtrs North-South: 13.00 Mtrs Total Site Measuring 227.63 Sq.Mtrs, Total Building Measuring 268.00 Sq.Mtrs Bounded As, East By: Basavapattana And Belavadi Road West By: Land Belongs To Mangowda South By: Land Belongs To Lokesh North By: House Belongs To Prathima Shankar Together With All Other Rights, Buildings, Improvements, And Easements Appurtenant Thereto.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                     |
| Date: 12th March 2026<br>Place: Hassan, Karnataka                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Sd/-, For Protium Finance Limited<br>Authorised Officer                             |



## Improved law and order could boost Dakshina Kannada GDP by 2%, says Priyank Kharge

Bengaluru, Mar 13: Minister for information technology and bio-technology Priyank Kharge stated on Wednesday that if the law and order situation in the coastal region improves, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Dakshina Kannada (DK) district could see an increase of approximately 2% within the next two years. The minister was responding to a query raised by Mangaluru MLA Vedavyas Kamath regarding investments by IT companies in the coastal belt. Highlighting the economic dis-



parity between regions, the minister noted that while Bengaluru contributes nearly 39.9% to the state's GDP, Dakshina Kannada's contribution stands at just 5.4%.

He emphasized that creating a conducive environment for investment is essential to bridging this significant gap and boosting the district's economic output. Providing data on the state's industrial growth, the minister informed that 2,129 startups and companies were established in Karnataka over the last three years, generating approximately 2.5 lac jobs. During this period, the government signed five agreements in the IT sector, 13 in the technology sector, and entered into partnerships with

475 startup firms. Furthermore, the government has executed tripartite agreements with 60 innovators, bilateral agreements with four women entrepreneurs' groups, and cooperation agreements with 27 startups. According to reports from the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), the state's software exports have shown consistent growth. Exports stood at Rs 3.55 lac crore in 2022-23, rising to Rs 4.09 lac crore in 2023-24, and reaching Rs 4.58 lac crore in 2024-25.

### 50 Divisions, 150 Sub-Divisions Created for Administrative Efficiency: Maheshwar Rao

Bengaluru: In a move aimed at improving administrative efficiency, Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao has issued a circular announcing the creation of 50 divisions and 150 sub-divisions under the jurisdiction of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA). The decision follows the reorganization of 369 wards under the provisions of the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2024, which came into force on May 15, 2025. After the enactment of the law, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) was dissolved and replaced by the Greater Bengaluru Authority. Under the new administrative structure, five city corporations have been formed — Bengaluru Central City Corporation, Bengaluru East City Corporation, Bengaluru West City Corporation, Bengaluru North City Corporation and Bengaluru South City Corporation. A Ward Delimitation Commission was also constituted to reorganize wards under these corporations. Officials said the newly formed 50 divisions and 150 sub-divisions will support the functioning of the Revenue, Works and Health Departments across the 369 wards within the GBA limits. The restructuring is expected to streamline administration and improve service delivery across the newly

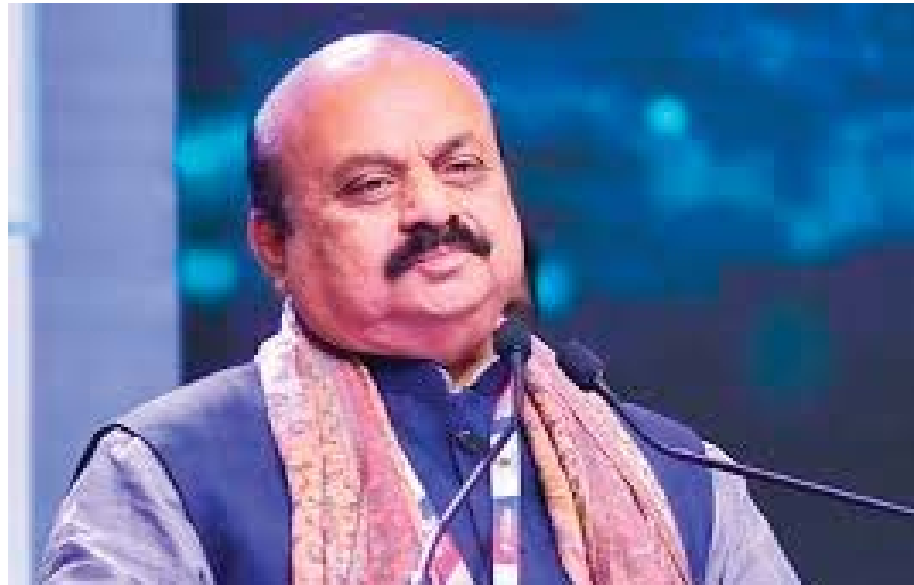
## "I Haven't Brought Odisha MLAs to Bengaluru," Says D. K. Shivakumar



Bengaluru: Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar on Friday clarified that he had not brought the Congress MLAs from Odisha to Bengaluru and said they had arrived on their own. Speaking to reporters at his residence in S a d a s h i v a n a g a r, Shivakumar said he was informed by the Odisha PCC President about the MLAs' visit. "I don't know why they have come. The PCC President called me and said they are coming to Bengaluru. Since they

wanted a comfortable place to stay, we arranged it," he said. Responding to questions about whether the move was linked to the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections in India and concerns over cross-voting, he said he would follow whatever the party directs. "I do what the party asks me to do. Such arrangements are not new and happen in many states," he added. Shivakumar also dismissed speculation that the visit was aimed at preventing any alleged "Operation Lotus," saying he was unaware of such claims. He noted that he had been involved in similar arrangements since the tenure of former Maharashtra Chief Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh and during elections involving senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel.

## Statewide Agitation if Internal Reservation Not Implemented: Basavaraj Bommai



Bengaluru: Former Karnataka Chief Minister and MP Basavaraj Bommai on Friday warned that a statewide agitation would be launched if the state government fails to implement internal reservation for the Scheduled Caste community

as recommended in the report of Justice H. N. Nagamohan Das and in line with directions of the Supreme Court of India. Addressing a press conference at the Bharatiya Janata Party state office in Bengaluru, Bommai alleged that the gov-

ernment led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has delayed implementation of internal reservation despite having the necessary legal framework in place. He said there is no need for a special cabinet meeting and that the government should immediately implement the recommendations of the Nagamohan Das Committee. Bommai also accused the government of being indifferent to the concerns of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities and alleged that funds meant for their welfare had been diverted. He claimed that large allocations meant for these communities were used for other purposes. The BJP leader said protests would be held across districts if the government fails to act promptly. He urged the government to implement internal reservation immediately in accordance with the committee report and the Supreme Court's guidance. MPs and BJP leaders including Govind Karjol, B. Sriramulu, Raju Gowda and Shivanagouda Nayak were present at the press conference.

## Dr. Manmohan Singh University: Five Ranks for MES College of Arts, Commerce and Science

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <br>M.Sc. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Rank 86.81%                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <br>B.A. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rank 95.49% | <br>B.Com. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rank 96.41% | <br>B.Com. 8 <sup>th</sup> Rank 96.19% | <br>B.Com. 9 <sup>th</sup> Rank 96.14% |
| <b>Bengaluru : Students of MES College of Arts, Commerce and Science, affiliated with Dr. Manmohan Singh University, Bengaluru City, have attracted attention by achieving excellent results.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                             |
| Shilpa G. S. secured 2nd Rank in M.Sc. with 86.81%, Nisarga P. secured 3rd Rank in B.A. with 95.49%, Harini M. secured 3rd Rank in B.Com. with 96.41%, H. C. Chaitra secured 8th Rank with 96.19%, Manish R. secured 9th                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                             |
| Rank in B.Com. with 96.14%. This was informed by Dr. S. C. Sharma, Chairman of the Governing Council. He stated that in the undergraduate and post-graduate examination results, students of the college have secured several university ranks across different departments this time, which is a matter of pride for the institution. The students' achievements are the result of their continuous hard work, punctuality, and disciplined study. |                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                             |

## Table Resolution to Roll Back Guarantee Schemes in Assembly: D. K. Shivakumar Challenges BJP

Bengaluru: Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar on Friday challenged the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to formally table a resolution in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly demanding the rollback of the state government's guarantee schemes.

During the budget discussion in the Assembly, BJP MLA Suresh Gowda urged the government to discontinue the schemes. Responding to the suggestion, Shivakumar said it should not remain an individual opinion but be formally adopted as the party's stand. "If the BJP wants the guarantees to be rolled back, let the party pass an official resolution and table it in the



House during the budget session," he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister also recalled that senior BJP leader and former Chief Minister B. S. Yediyurappa had earlier supported the promise of providing the full quantity of grains under welfare schemes. He stated that the present government implemented its guaran-

tee programmes within six months of coming to power. Taking a dig at the opposition, Shivakumar remarked that some BJP leaders repeatedly mention his name during debates because they have little to say about the budget. He added that public discussions should focus on policy decisions rather than personal remarks.

## Online Process Enables Faster e-Khata Issuance Without Office Visits: Munish Moudgil

Bengaluru: Special Commissioner (Revenue & IT) of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Munish Moudgil, said that the simplified online system for e-Khata issuance has made the process faster and more transparent, eliminating the need for citizens to visit government offices. He was addressing an orientation programme on e-Khata services for Local Private Entrepreneurs (LPEs) held at Town Hall Bengaluru. He advised entrepreneurs to ensure error-free online

submission of applications and guide citizens in using the digital platform effectively. Moudgil clarified that citizens need not visit offices or approach officials directly for Khata-related issues and cautioned them against middlemen, as the entire process is now online. He said nearly 99 percent of e-Khata applications are currently processed within four to five days. If an application remains unattended for five working days, the system will automatically trigger approval.

**Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd.**  
Corporate Office : Unit No. 19-NE, 19th Floor, The Ruby, Senapati Bapat Marg, Near Ruparel College, Dadar (West), Mumbai, Maharashtra- 400 028

**POSSESSION NOTICE** (As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd. (MHIL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest(Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd. for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets

| Sr. No. | Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Loan Account No./Branch | Brief details of secured assets                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Date of Demand Notice & Outstanding Dues (Rs.)                                                  | Possession Taken Date |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1.      | K R Naveen Kumar/ C M Kamala/ TUM-NHL-000180/ Tumakuru           | House Bearing Municipal Katha No. 1654/617 Measuring East-west: 24 Feet and North-south: 34 Feet Situated At Siddhartha Colony Kasaba Hobli Kunigal Taluk Tumkur District Under The Limit of Kunigal Town Municipality and Boundaries As Under:- To East- Site of Venkatesh, To West:- House of Gangaraju, To North:- Municipal Road, To South:- Remaining Vacant Site | 22-Dec-25/ Rs. 17,13,126/- Rupees Seventeen Lakh Thirteen Thousand One Hundred Twenty Six Only. | 09-Mar-2026           |

Date: March 14, 2026, Place: Tumkur

Sd/- Authorized Officer, Muthoot Homefin (India) Limited

**ICI Home Finance**  
Corporate Office: ICI Home Finance Company Limited ICI HFC Tower, (Anandhi) - Kurlo Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400059, India  
Branch Office : Shop No. 1316/C, 2nd floor, 9th Cross, 9th Main, Opp To Tirumalagiri Venkateshwara Temple, J P Nagar, 2nd Phase Above Central Bank, Bangalore - 560078

**Notice for sale of immovable assets through Private Treaty**

Sole Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets through Private Treaty under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 8(B) r/w Rule 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

ICI Home Finance Company Limited (ICI HFC) conducted several e-Auctions for the sale of the mortgaged property mentioned below, however, all such e-Auctions failed. Now, an interested buyer has approached ICI HFC with an offer to purchase the said property for an amount of Rs. 20,00,000/-. 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 Possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of ICI Home Finance Company Ltd., will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", by way of Private Treaty as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

| Sr. No. | Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Legal Heirs. Loan Account No.                  | Details of the Secured Asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any                                                                                    | Amount Outstanding             | Reserve Price/ Earnest Money Deposit | Date and Time of Property Inspection | Date & Time of Auction              | One Day Auction Date           | Sarfoesi Stage      |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| (A)     | (B)                                                                                           | (C)                                                                                                                                                | (D)                            | (E)                                  | (F)                                  | (G)                                 | (H)                            | (I)                 |
| 1.      | Lokesh C (Borrower) Chandrakala S (Co-Borrower) Loan No. LHBYVW00001418283/ LHBYVW00001418398 | Flat No.4, 4th Floor, Sai Brindavan 2, 19th Main Road, Muneshwara Block Avalahalli Village Uttarahalli Hobli Sy No. 5, Bangalore Karnataka- 560050 | Rs. 34,26,393/- March 11, 2026 | Rs. 20,00,000/- To 03:00 PM          | March 23, 2026 11:00 AM To 03:00 PM  | March 30, 2026 11:00 AM To 12:00 PM | March 27, 2026 before 04:00 PM | Physical Possession |

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link- <https://BidDeal.in/>) of our auction agency ValueTrust Capital Services Private Limited. The Prospective Bidders(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) RTGS/ Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICI Home Finance Company Limited, Branch Office Address Mentioned on top of the article or before March 27, 2026 before 04:00 PM. The Prospective Bidder(s) must also submit a signed copy of the Registration Form & Bid Terms and Conditions form at ICI Home Finance Company Limited, Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article or before March 27, 2026 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit Demand Draft (DD) should be from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in favor of "ICI Home Finance Company Ltd.- Auction" payable at the branch office address mentioned on top of the article.

The general public is requested to submit their bids higher than the amount being offered by the interested buyer mentioned above. It is hereby informed that in case no bids higher than the amount being offered by the aforementioned interested buyer is received by ICI HFC, the mortgaged property shall be sold to the said interested buyer as per Rule 8(B) r/w Rule 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the sale or submission of bids, kindly contact ICI Home Finance Company Limited on 9920807300.

The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit <https://www.icihfc.com>

Date : March 14, 2026 Place : Bangalore

Authorized Officer, "ICI Home Finance Company Limited" CIN Number:- U65922MH1999PLC120106

**Bandhan Bank**  
Regional Office: Netaji Marg, Nr. Mithakhali Six Roads, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-6. Phone: +91-79-26421671-75

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**

NOTICE is hereby given under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorized Officer issued demand notice to the borrower(s) on the date mentioned against the account stated hereinafter calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice. The borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular the borrower(s) that the undersigned has taken the symbolic possession of the property described herein below under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the date mentioned against the account. The borrower(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank for the amounts, interest, costs and charges thereon. The borrowers' /mortgagors' attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

| Name of borrower(s), Guarantor & Loan Account No. | Description of the property mortgaged (Secured Asset)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Date of Demand Notice | Date of Symbolic Possession Notice | O/s Amount as on date of Demand Notice |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Krishnamurthy K G Mrs H Kamalamma 90001231940373  | All That Place And Parcel Of Free Hold Land And Here Determents And Premises Residential At Bearing Property No.32,E-Property No.151000400300600037, Measuring East-West-7.9248 Meters And North-South-10.9728 Meters, Property Situated At Malkapura Village,Arehalli Village Panchayat,Holakeri Taluk,Chitradurga District. Owned By Kamalamma And Same Bounded As Under: On Or Towards North: House Of Boramma Yashodhara On Or Towards East: House Of Manjamma C/O Manjappa On Or Towards West: Vacant Site Of Katappa S/O Boraiah On Or Towards South: Road | November 18, 2025     | March 09, 2026                     | Rs.11,95,331.72                        |

Place: Chitradurga Date: March 14, 2026

Authorised Officer Bandhan Bank Limited

**PROTIUM FINANCE LIMITED**  
(Formerly known as Growth Source Financial Technologies Ltd.) Registered & Corporate Office Address:- 7th Floor, Block B2, Phase-I, 24 Kowloon Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong. (Formerly known as Growth Source Financial Technologies Ltd.) Registered & Corporate Office Address:- 7th Floor, Block B2, Phase-I, 24 Kowloon Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong. (Formerly known as Growth Source Financial Technologies Ltd.) Registered & Corporate Office Address:- 7th Floor, Block B2, Phase-I, 24 Kowloon Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

**PUBLIC NOTICE (Under Rule 3 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)**

**SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF NOTICE U/s 13 (2) OF SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002**

Notice is hereby given to the Borrowers as mentioned below that since they have defaulted in repayment of the Credit facility availed by them from Protium Finance Limited (Formerly known as Growth Source Financial Technologies Ltd. and before that known as Non-Performing Assets in the books of NBFC as per RBI guidelines thereto. Thereafter, NBFC has issued demand notices to below mentioned respective borrower under section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFESI Act) on the last known addresses of the said borrowers thereby calling upon and demanding from them to pay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notices' within 60 days from the date of the respective Notices', as per details given below, together with further interest at the contractual rate on the below mentioned amount and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. as stated in the said demand notices. However, the service is also being done by us by way of this publication as per Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (SARFESI Rules).

| S. N.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Loan Account No./Name and address of Borrower and Co-Borrower/s                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Date of (13/2) Notice                                                                                                                        | DATE OF PAID |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Total outstanding dues (INR) as on below date                                                                                                |              |
| 1.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Loan A/c No.: 6S003LAP2424722 (Borrower) 1. Lakshmi Deshpande Enterprises Through Its Proprietor Premakumar K M W/o Mayyagiah Prakash (Co-Borrower) 1. Mayyagiah Prakash S/o Mayyagiah, 2. Premakumar K M W/o Mayyagiah Prakash, Address: Number 28B Ground Floor, Layout/Paragi Palya Bangalore Karnataka- 560102 (Borrower 1.) No 138 24th Main Road HSR Layout Rajkumar Road Agara Bangalore Karnataka 560102 (Co-Borrower 1.) 68 1st Main Road 13th Cross S Kengeri Upanagar Bengaluru Karnataka 560060 (Borrower 1. & Co-Borrower 1., 2.) | 06.03.2026                                                                                                                                   | 05.03.2026   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Rs. 91,11,917.41/- (Ninety Three Lakh Thousand Nine Hundred Seventeen Rupees and Forty One Paise Only) as on 6th Mar 2026                    |              |
| Description of the said property: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing site no.68, V/P Katha no.178 situated at Vajraghalli village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, presently comes under the administrative jurisdiction of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, measuring east to west 30 feet and north to south 50 feet in all measuring 1500 square feet, consisting of house and bounded on the East: By : Site no.67; North by : Road; South by : Site no.50.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                              |              |
| 2.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Loan A/c No.: 6S020EEL2424037 (Borrower) 1. Lakshmi Provision Store Through Its Proprietor Krishna Murthy S/o Narasimhappa, (Co-Borrower) 1. Lakshammamma G W/o Krishnamurthy, 2. Krishna Murthy S/o Narasimhappa, Address: Number 24 20th Cross Kaveri Road 24th Main Road 2nd Stage HSR Layout/Paragi Palya Bangalore Karnataka- 560102 (Borrower 1.) No 138 24th Main Road HSR Layout Rajkumar Road Agara Bangalore Karnataka 560102 (Co-Borrower 1.) 563160 (Co-Borrower 2.)                                                               | 04.03.2026                                                                                                                                   | 02.03.2026   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Rs. 33,43,458.84/- (Thirty Three Lakh Forty Three Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Eight Rupees and Eighty Four Paise Only) as on 6th Mar 2026    |              |
| Description of the said property: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing site no.58, V/P Katha no.257/58, E-Katha no.151900802100100488, situated at Chikkahirupathi village, Lakshmi Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar district, presently comes under the limits of Chikkahirupathi Village Panchayat, measuring east to west 9.144 meter and north to south 12.192 meter, in all measuring 111.42 square meter, along with building constructed thereon and bounded on: East by : Site no.25 belongs to V. Narasimhanudun; West by : 20 feet road; North by : Site no.57 belongs to Padmanaba; South by : Site no.59 belongs to Krishnamurthy.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                              |              |
| 3.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Loan A/c No.: 6S076LAP2484725 (Borrower) 1. Chinmay Deshpande Enterprises Through Its Proprietor Udaya Shankar M H S/o M Ningajiah (Co-Borrower) 1. Udaya Shankar M H S/o M Ningajiah, 2. H N Girijamha W/o M Ningajiah, 3. Kusuma H V W/o Udaya Shankar M N Address: 104/A Manasa Farm House Ward No.17 Veerabhadrapura Singama Badavane Holenarasipura Hassan Karnataka 573211 (Borrower 1. & Co-Borrower 1., 2., 3.)                                                                                                                        | 06.03.2026                                                                                                                                   | 05.03.2026   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Rs. 38,05,367.93/- (Thirty Eight Lakh Five Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Seven Rupees and Ninety Three Paise Only) as on 6th Mar 2026         |              |
| Description of the said property: All the piece and parcel of the vacant site property bearing assessment no.4686/A/08, property PID no.25-508-100, measuring east-west 15.240030 meters, north-south 12.288037, total measuring 278.7090 square meters, formed in converted sy no.8, situated at Singamma Devastana Badavane, Holenarasipura town, Hassan district, within the limits of Holenarasipura Municipal Council and bounded as under: East by : Purasabha road; West by : Remaining open land; North by : Remaining open land; South by : Remaining open land.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                              |              |
| 4.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Loan A/c No.: 6S076EEL2467957 (Borrower) 1. A S Shrikumar Its Proprietor Mohammed Shafi S/o Mohammed Ismail, (Co-Borrower) 1. Mohammed Mubarak S/o Mohammed Shafi, 2. Shafeenaz W/o Mohammed Shafi, 3. Mohammed Shafi S/o Mohammed Ismail, Address: No. 35/2 Ward No. 12 Tigray Nagar, Ramanasarapuram Bengaluru Karnataka 562159 (Borrower 1. & Co-Borrower 1., 2., 3.)                                                                                                                                                                       | 04.03.2026                                                                                                                                   | 02.03.2026   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Rs. 27,72,073.87/- (Twenty Seven Lakh Seventy Two Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Eight Rupees and Eighty Seven Paise Only) as on 4th Mar 2026 |              |
| Description of the said property: All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing decided no.382/A/624/A/35/2, property 12-2-13-15, old property no.35/2 measuring east to west 8.839218 mtr and north to south 12.192024 mtr total measuring 107.767480 sq mtr, situated at 2nd Stage, Anekemere Kottipura, Ramanasarapuram town, Ramanasarapuram and bounded on: East by : Property belongs to Ghaffar Sahab; West by : Property belongs to Ghaffar Sahab; North by : Property belongs to Shukur; South by : Road.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                              |              |
| We hereby call upon the borrower stated herein to pay us within 60 days from the date of this notice, the outstanding amount of more particularly stated in respective Demand Notices issued, together with further interest thereon plus cost, charges, expenses, etc. thereto falling which we shall be at liberty to Sale proceed against the above Secured Asset(s)/Immovable Property (ies) under Section 13(4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules not limited to taking possession and selling the secured asset entirely at the risk of the said borrower(s)/co borrower (s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Placess, note that as per section 13(13) of the SARFESI Act, all of you are prohibited from transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise, the aforesaid secured assets without prior written consent of the Bank. Any contravention of the said section by you shall invoke the penal provisions as laid down under section 29 of the SARFESI Act and/or any other legal provision in this regard. Please note that as per sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, if the dues of Protium Finance Limited (Formerly known as Growth Source Financial Technologies Ltd. together with all costs, charges and expenses including Protium Finance Limited (Formerly known as Growth Source Financial Technologies Ltd.) are tendered to Protium Finance Limited (Formerly known as Growth Source Financial Technologies Ltd. at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured asset shall not be sold or transferred by Protium Finance Limited (Formerly known as Growth Source Financial Technologies Ltd. and no further step shall be taken by Protium Finance Limited (Formerly known as Growth Source Financial Technologies Ltd. for transfer or sale of that secured asset. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                              |              |
| Date: 14.03.2026, Place : Karnataka                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Sd/-, For Protium Finance Limited, Authorised Officer                                                                                        |              |



# EDITORIAL

## What Happens If Saudi Arabia Really 'Asks' Pakistan To Go To War?

When Pakistan signed the Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement (SMDA) with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in September last, its military-controlled regime never imagined that this agreement would soon become so onerous. Pakistani generals and politicians had convinced themselves and their public that Saudis would shower Pakistan with money and, in return, Pakistan would guarantee Saudi security while expanding its own political and diplomatic influence all over the Middle East. The way the Pakistanis sold this deal was that it was a recognition of their military prowess and that it was primarily directed against Israel, which had carried out an airstrike in Doha just days before Pakistan and Saudis signed the SMDA. There was some talk of Pakistan giving Saudi Arabia security assistance against the Houthis and other para-state and state actors.

### An Unexpected Turn

The Pakistanis, however, never imagined that their 'rent-for-hire' security services would be requisitioned against Iran. This was because Saudi Arabia and Iran were steadily improving their relations and putting their bitter rivalry, even enmity, aside. But Pakistan's too-clever-by-half calculations have caught them in a bind between the US-Israeli Operation Epic Fury (and Lion's Roar) on one side, and on the other, Iran's Operation Fatah Khyber. With Iran targeting Saudi Arabia among other Arab Gulf states that are allies of the US, Pakistan fears being called upon to fulfil its SMDA obligations towards Saudi Arabia, something it is reluctant to do because of its larger and long-term repercussions for Pakistan's own stability and security. Since the beginning of the conflict, questions have been raised about what role Pakistan would play on the side of the Saudis, especially since Iran was lobbing missiles and drones at targets in the country. The Pakistanis claimed that it was their clear warning to Iran not to force their hand, which, ultimately, made Iran spare Saudi Arabia to some extent. Pakistan's Foreign Minister postured that Iran was so scared of Pakistan jumping into the fray to support the Saudis that while it launched multiple attacks on other Gulf countries - Kuwait, UAE, Oman, Bahrain and Qatar - it avoided targeting the Saudis. This was sold as a sort of satisfactory military and diplomatic solution for both Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

### No Time For More War

At a time when Pakistan is battling two full-blown insurgencies in Balochistan and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, waging an undeclared war against the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, contending with widespread civil disturbances with sectarian overtones after the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamanei, and trying to keep the political opposition at bay and manage a broken, bankrupt economy, the last thing Pakistan wanted would be to get embroiled in a wider Middle Eastern war, and that too along with Israel and the US against another Muslim country. The fact that the Arab states, including Saudi Arabia, are reluctant to declare war or even retaliate against Iran - they have all only tried to defend themselves against the Iranian missile and drone attacks - has created some space for Pakistan. After all, if Saudi Arabia was not ready to declare war on Iran, how could it expect Pakistan to do so on its behalf? The Saudi reluctance was, in part, a function of their vulnerabilities to Iran targeting their critical assets - refineries, oil fields, infrastructure. Pakistan, in their view, was better-placed to open a second front on Iran's rear. But Pakistani analysts argued that the SMDA pact was for Saudi Arabia's defence and not for attacking another country.

## Amazon Centres To Banks, What Iran's 'Target List' Of Tech Firms Reveals

On March 11, the 12th day of the war between the United States, Israel, and Iran, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) released a list. Distributed via Telegram by the IRGC-affiliated Tasnim News Agency, it named Google, Microsoft, Amazon, Nvidia, IBM, Oracle, and Palantir - together with their specific regional offices, data centres, and research facilities, as legitimate targets. The IRGC-linked Khatam al-Anbiya Headquarters, Iran's unified military command, framed the announcement in language that should concern every government and technology executive on earth: "As the scope of the regional war expands to infrastructure war, the scope of Iran's legitimate targets expands." The declaration was not rhetoric. It came 10 days after Iranian drone strikes had already hit three Amazon Web Services facilities across the Gulf - two data centres in the United Arab Emirates struck directly, a third in Bahrain damaged by a near-by explosion. AWS confirmed structural damage, disrupted power systems, and fire suppression activity that caused additional water damage. Two of three availability zones in the UAE region went offline. Emirates NBD, First Abu Dhabi Bank, Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, the payments firm Hubpay, and the ride-sharing platform Careem all reported significant service disruptions. Iran stated explicitly that the facilities were targeted because AWS hosts United States military workloads. The Uptime Institute described it as the first confirmed kinetic strike on a hyperscale cloud provider in history. The March 11 targeting list was precise: Google's Dubai office, its Qatar cloud centre, Nvidia's largest R&D facility in Haifa, IBM's AI research centre in Be'er Sheva, Palantir's Abu Dhabi collaboration hub and Tel Aviv office, Oracle's Jerusalem and Abu Dhabi offices, and additional Amazon facilities in Tel Aviv and Haifa. Iran justified each target on the grounds that these companies supply technology with direct military applications to the United States and Israeli armed forces, a charge that

is, in several cases, a documented fact. All six companies named have Pentagon contracts. NVIDIA, IBM, Microsoft, Google, Oracle, and Palantir all have documented ties to Israeli government and military programmes. The list is not arbitrary. It is strategic. The destruction of economic infrastructure has proceeded in parallel. Iranian drones struck near Dubai International Airport on 11 March, wounding four people. The world's busiest airport continued operating, but the insurance, diplomatic, and logistical consequences were severe. Iran has effectively closed the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of global daily oil supply passes. At least fourteen vessels have been struck since the war began; seven mariners have been killed. A Thai cargo ship, the Mayuree Naree, was set ablaze in the strait, with three crew members still missing after twenty were rescued by the Omani navy. The United States destroyed 16 Iranian minelayers near the Strait, but Brent crude has already risen 20% since February 28, pushing up fuel prices and rattling financial markets worldwide. The cyberspace dimension has been equally destructive. Israel launched what analysts described as the largest cyberattack in history against Iran on February 28, reducing internet connectivity to between 1% and 4% of normal. Tasnim itself was briefly hacked to display anti-government messages. Iran's retaliatory cyber operations targeted Gulf states, Jordan, Cyprus, and the United States, with over 600 attack claims logged within days. The GPS and automatic identification systems of more than 1,100 vessels were disrupted by coordinated electronic warfare. A cyberattack targeted Israeli railways, broadcasting evacuation warnings inside stations. The boundaries between kinetic, electronic, and cyber warfare have ceased to exist as meaningful distinctions. This transformation has exposed the fundamental inadequacy of existing international law. The Geneva Conventions, last substantially updated in 1977, were designed for a world of standing armies and physical

battlefields. They offer no meaningful guidance on dual-use digital infrastructure, AI in lethal decision-making, or accountability for autonomous and semi-autonomous strikes. The ICRC has repeatedly and urgently called for new legal instruments. A UN Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons has deliberated since 2014. There remains no binding treaty, no enforcement mechanism, no shared red lines. The legal architecture of war has not kept pace with its technological architecture by a margin of decades. The legal vacuum has direct consequences extending far beyond the battlefield. Standard insurance policies do not cover losses incurred through military action, meaning the AWS strikes - and any prospective strikes on Google, Nvidia, Microsoft, Oracle, IBM, and Palantir facilities - will be borne entirely by the companies themselves. The Gulf states have attracted hundreds of billions in Western technology investment premised on stability. OpenAI's ten-square-mile Stargate AI campus in the UAE, backed by Oracle, Nvidia, and Cisco, now sits in a region where Iran has demonstrated both the will and capability to strike commercial technology infrastructure at will. Microsoft's reported fifteen-billion-dollar UAE investment faces an equally uncertain horizon. Infrastructure warfare is not a regional problem. Its consequences are global. There is a further, underappreciated dimension that international debate has barely begun to address: the epistemic failure built into AI-assisted targeting. Systems trained on historical conflict data encode biases about who constitutes a combatant. Deployed at machine speed in densely populated environments, misidentification is not an edge case, it is a structural feature. The United States military is already investigating how a Tomahawk missile struck an Iranian girls school in error. The principle of distinction, that combatants must be differentiated from civilians, was designed for a human-paced battlefield. Algorithmic war does not pause for deliberation.

## Edit

### MOJTABA'S FIRST MESSAGE MAKES IT CLEAR:

## IRAN WON'T GIVE AN EASY 'EXIT' TO DONALD TRUMP

The appointment of Mojtaba Khamenei as Iran's new Supreme Leader was effectively Iran's slap in the face to US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who had insisted that Iran's next leader should somehow meet their approval. Delusional? Without a doubt. The message from Iran was loud and clear: Iran's leadership will be decided in Tehran, not in Washington or Tel Aviv. For weeks, rhetoric from Washington suggested that the US believed it could reshape Iran's political future through force. President Trump had even mused publicly about influencing who might succeed Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was assassinated by US-Israeli forces in the first wave of attacks on Iran. That illusion collapsed the moment Iran's clerical establishment closed ranks and elevated Mojtaba Khamenei to the most powerful position in the Islamic Republic. In effect, the message from Tehran was, 'You do not decide Iran's leadership. We do.' The sudden emergence of Mojtaba Khamenei from relative obscurity has profound geopolitical implications, not just in the Middle East but across the world. His appointment marks a hardening moment for Iran and perhaps for the wider Middle East.

### The First Signal From Tehran

There are reports that the new Supreme Leader was injured in the attacks that killed his father, along with several members of his family, including his wife, mother and sister. He has yet to make a public appearance. That absence prompted Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to mock him publicly (at a press conference yesterday) and even hint at possible action against him, similar to what happened to his father. But on Thursday, Iranian state television broadcast a statement attributed to Mojtaba Khamenei. It was read out by a presenter rather than delivered by him personally. Whether this was due to security concerns or injuries sustained during the attacks remains unclear.



But the message itself left little room for doubt. Iran, he said, would avenge the blood of its martyrs. And the country would continue to use the "lever" of blocking the Strait of Hormuz. That single phrase immediately captured the attention of governments and markets around the world. Roughly a fifth of the world's oil supply passes through the narrow waterway that is the Strait of Hormuz. By invoking the possibility of closing it, Mojtaba Khamenei was delivering a stark strategic reminder: Iran may be under attack, but it still holds powerful levers capable of imposing immense economic costs on its adversaries.

### The Long Memory of War

Mojtaba Khamenei belongs to a generation shaped by conflict and siege. Born in 1969, he grew up in the aftermath of Iran's 1979 revolution and came of age during the brutal Iran-Iraq war. That war remains etched deeply in Iran's collective political psyche. The conflict lasted eight years and claimed hundreds of thousands of lives. It was also fought with the open support of Western powers for Saddam Hussein's Iraq. For Iran's leadership, the lesson from that period was clear: in moments of existential crisis, the

country must rely primarily on its own resilience. This historical memory explains much of Iran's worldview today. Iranian leaders often interpret external pressure not as limited tactical manoeuvring but as part of a broader attempt to dismantle the Islamic Republic. The assassination of Ali Khamenei has reinforced that perception dramatically. If the US and Israel believed the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader would weaken the regime or open the door to internal collapse, the early signs suggest they were highly mistaken and perhaps poorly advised by their intel-heavy advisers. Instead, it has strengthened the narrative of resistance - even 'martyrdom' - that has sustained the Islamic Republic for decades. The Hardening Of Tehran's Stance

### The elevation of Mojtaba

Khamenei suggests that Iran's leadership is preparing for a long-term confrontation, a fight to the end, if you like. Unlike reformist figures who occasionally emerged in Iran's political system, Mojtaba is widely viewed as closely aligned with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, perhaps the most important organisation in Iran today. The Revolutionary Guard has long advocated a strategy of resistance and

deterrence against external pressure. It emphasises asymmetric warfare, proxy alliances and economic leverage. Mojtaba's first statement already reflects this thinking. The reference to the Strait of Hormuz signals that Iran intends to remind the world of the strategic costs of continued attacks. Broadly speaking, the new Supreme Leader is unlikely to grant Trump the easy exit that some of his policymakers are quietly hoping for. In Iran's political culture, the assassination of a supreme leader demands a response, a do-or-die response. Backing down quickly would risk undermining Mojtaba's legitimacy at home and weakening his authority among the headline institutions that underpin the regime. For that reason, Iran under his leadership is most likely to pursue a calibrated strategy of retaliation - not necessarily a direct conventional war with its adversaries, but a series of actions designed to impose pressure and demonstrate resilience. Therefore, under him, the so-called axis of resistance, such as the Houthis, Hezbollah and Hamas, will continue to get Iran's material and personnel support

### The End of Illusions

The appointment of Mojtaba Khamenei, therefore, marks more than a succession within Iran's political hierarchy. It symbolises the beginning of a potentially more dangerous phase in the confrontation between Tehran, Washington and Tel Aviv. We all know that external force rarely produces the political outcomes that its architects imagine. Instead, it often strengthens the very forces it sought to weaken. In Tehran today, the rise of Mojtaba Khamenei embodies precisely that dynamic. A leader - a hardliner - thrust into power by crisis, hardened by war, and now determined to demonstrate that Iran will not bend under pressure. The only way out would have been to surrender or go for a ceasefire. But under Mojtaba Khamenei, this is unthinkable. Instead, Iran is likely to make its retaliation harder and more painful.

## Iran-Israel War, And What India Can Learn From The 'KC-135' Crash



The crash of a US Air Force KC-135 tanker aircraft over Iraq marks a grim new milestone in the escalating war with Iran. It appears to have been a catastrophic mid-air collision during one of several hundred refuelling missions that are taking place daily in Gulf airspace in support of the war. Images of the surviving aircraft, its tail section virtually shorn off, tell a story of a high-altitude nightmare. While the Pentagon is adamant this wasn't the result of enemy or friendly fire, the incident highlights the inherent, hair-raising risks of air-to-air refuelling. It is a testament to the crews involved that this complex dance in the sky has become a routine, indispensable pillar of modern air power. But there is a separate, deep, difficult takeaway from the crash

for India. The US was immediate and upfront in acknowledging the loss and the circumstances - just as it was in acknowledging the loss of three F-15 Strike Eagle jets in a bizarre friendly-fire incident earlier this month over Kuwait. < The United States military is far from traditionally transparent. It practically invented information warfare and mindgames. But even with a temperamental President at the helm who obsesses with loss statistics as a taunt, America's full-frontal transparency on battlefield losses reflects the behaviour of a confident, self-assured military power. They understand that high-tempo operations carry the risk of losing both hardware and humans. They budget for it. They account for it. And they

feel no embarrassment in noting it. Contrast that with the silence following Operation Sindoor. Months later, the alleged loss of aircraft on both sides remains mired largely in gossip and claims. No formal statements, other than quips in speeches. No clear acknowledgements or numbers. And this when India cannot be compared to Pakistan in terms of credibility or stature. As a student of war, this is troubling. India is a nation that has fought wars for eighty years. Transparency doesn't just establish honesty; it denies the adversary the space to peddle the exaggerated claims we frequently see from Pakistan or China, where military losses erode state power. By being upfront about aircraft losses, the United States has denied Iran the

opportunity to fake numbers, restricting Iranian information attacks to 'how' the aircraft were shot down, an ambiguity that melts into a larger fog of war. In the current war, two weeks in, the US is nowhere near meeting its objectives. Its outcomes are all over the place. On the contrary, in Operation Sindoor, India achieved its specific goals in just 88 hours. If there was ever a moment to shed the hesitation of owning losses of aircraft or equipment, if any, and show the world the maturity of our warfighting calculus, it was then. The US has shown this fortnight that it can get many things horribly wrong in combat and be bogged down in a poorly planned war operation. But in terms of messaging by the military, there is a ready playbook for India to learn from.







# Iran's supreme leader 'likely disfigured', Hegseth says as strikes hit Tehran's ability to build more weapons

US President Donald Trump has been speaking to Fox News, in an interview that aired on Friday. Here are the key lines: On when the war with Iran might end: When asked when he will know the war is over, Trump replies: "When I feel it, okay? I feel it in my bones" On Iran's new supreme leader: "I think he's damaged, but I think he's probably alive in some form," Trump says of Mojtaba Khamenei, who is yet to be seen in public On the Strait of Hormuz: The US would escort oil tankers through the Strait "if we need to", but "hopefully things are going to go very well. We'll see what happens", Trump says On damaging Iran: He says over the next week "we're going to be hitting them very hard". He adds: "We've already damaged them so badly it would take years for them to ever rebuild" On Gulf allies: Trump says the "unity is tremendous", and he has spoken to most of them today. They're "doing a very



good job in protecting themselves", he adds With world leaders - including Zelensky and Macron - warning that the US's easing of sanctions on Russian oil "does not help peace", the BBC has been speaking to experts warning that Russia stands to make huge financial gains. For Russia The move is "a serious bailout" for Putin's regime, says Benjamin Hilgenstock, head of macro-economic research and strategy at the Kyiv School of

Economics. He estimates that Russian oil exports could be boosted by around \$10bn (£7.5bn), with half of this being paid in tax straight into the government's coffers. If the crisis in Iran continues for longer than a month or two, it could put Russia's economy "back in quite a comfortable situation", says Hilgenstock. For the wider world On a global scale, the move will "only scratch the surface" of the supply disruption in the

Persian Gulf, says Warren Patterson, head of commodities strategy at Dutch bank ING. "There is only one solution for the oil market and that is getting oil flowing through the Strait of Hormuz," he says. Patterson says that India and other Asian countries - that have been most affected by the Strait's closure - are most likely to buy up the newly-available Russian oil. During a visit to France, Ukrainian President

Volodymyr Zelensky says the US decision to ease sanctions on Russian oil "does not help peace". Speaking at a news conference alongside French President Emmanuel Macron, he says it could provide Russia with about \$10bn (£7.4bn) to fund its full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Macron says Russia is "mistaken" if it believes the US-Israel war with Iran would "offer it a respite". He also says that the G7 reaffirmed during a meeting on Wednesday that rising oil costs "must in no way lead us to reconsider our sanctions policy toward Russia". The Lebanese president says he has not received a response to his proposal for direct negotiation with Israel amid its war with Hezbollah. "I expressed my readiness to negotiate, but until now we have not received a response from the other side," says Joseph Aoun in a statement after meeting with UN Secretary General António Guterres in Beirut. Aoun also criticises

"Israeli aggressions" and says they "must be halted". He has previously called Hezbollah an "armed faction" that gives "no weight to Lebanon's interests or to the lives of its people". Israel argues that Beirut has not taken meaningful steps toward disarming Hezbollah, viewing it as the responsibility of the Lebanese government under a previous ceasefire agreement. 've been speaking to people in the Lebanese capital Beirut after the Israeli military dropped leaflets over the city today, calling on civilians to act against Hezbollah. Alaa Shikhani says he thought it was an air strike when he heard the bang of leaflets being released overhead. He looked up and saw them in the sky, blowing to other parts of the city. State media says an Israeli aircraft was flying at a low altitude before dropping the leaflets over a number of areas, including the Hamra neighbourhood of west Beirut.

## French vote tests polarised electorate with right hoping to win control of Paris



France is preparing to vote in town council elections, whose results will be closely analysed for trends ahead of next year's presidential votes. A strong showing for Marine Le Pen's National Rally (RN) would be a boost for the nationalist right - even as she awaits a judicial decision on whether she can stand for head of state in 2027. More broadly the six-yearly municipal elections - which take place in two rounds over the next successive Sundays - will be a test of how far mainstream parties are prepared to go in forming alliances with the far left and far right.

Politics in France has become increasingly polarised, as in much of Europe, and traditional parties have found it harder to win elections without at least tacit support from formations on their outer flank. But this leads to accusations of pandering to extremism which in turn can cost votes in the centre. Inevitably the highest-profile contest is for the mayors of Paris, which has been under left-wing control for 25 years, but could now shift back to the right. Here as elsewhere alliances will play a vital role in between the two rounds of voting.

## CUBA SAYS IT WILL RELEASE 51 PRISONERS IN THE COMING DAYS



Cuba will release 51 prisoners in the coming days as a demonstration of "goodwill" following talks with the Vatican, Havana's government has said. It did not specify whether they included political prisoners, but it said they had all "served a significant portion of their sentences and have maintained good conduct while in prison". The release comes as Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel said that US and Cuban officials were holding talks to find solutions to the two countries' differences. He said no fuel had entered Cuba in three months. US President Donald Trump said on Monday that Cuba was in "deep trouble" as he threatened a "friendly takeover" of the Caribbean country. Cuba is experiencing several blackouts as the island struggles with fuel shortages, which have been made worse by pressure from the US. Since returning to the White House, Trump has made clear his desire to change Cuba's leadership. He has also threatened tariffs on goods imported into the US from any country that gives Cuba oil. Havana relies heavily on imported fuel for its electricity and the US has seized a number of oil shipments bound for Cuba. Venezuela

was believed to have sent around 35,000 barrels of oil a day to Cuba, providing about half the island's oil needs. But Washington's Venezuela raid - and capture of President Nicolás Maduro - in early January has disrupted the arrangement. In a national broadcast on Friday, Díaz-Canel said that not having fuel enter Cuba for the past three months has led to the gradual decline of diesel and fuel oil reserves. Given this, the country's electrical grid has become increasingly "unstable", he said. To mitigate the impact Cuba had increased production of domestic crude and gas, as well as solar generation. The US and Cuba have had strained relations since communist leader Fidel Castro overthrew a US-backed government in 1959. US sanctions and trade embargoes on Cuba have been in place since the early 1960s. Talks between the two nations were in their initial stages, Díaz-Canel, who is leading the Cuban side of negotiations, said. The Cuban president said the talks were taking place "on the basis of equality and respect for the political systems of both states, and for the sovereignty and self-determination of our governments".

## KPOP DEMON HUNTERS TO RETURN AS NETFLIX ANNOUNCES SEQUEL



Netflix has announced a sequel to KPop Demon Hunters, the streaming platform's most watched movie of all time. No release date has been set yet. The sequel marks the first project under co-directors Maggie Kang and Chris Appelhans' new and exclusive multi-year deal with Netflix. The announcement comes as critics predict that the first film will win at the Oscars on Sunday, where

it has two nominations for best animated feature and best original song. Golden has already won a Grammy for best song written for visual media - the first time a K-pop song has won at the prestigious music awards. The original film follows main characters Rumi, Mira and Zoey from the K-pop group Hunt/x as they grapple with fame and their secret lives as demon hunters.

## M. P. Ahammad, Chairman of Malabar Group, Conferred Maharashtra of the Year Award 2026 by Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis

Mumbai, March 2026: Mr. M.P. Ahammad, Chairman, Malabar Group, has been honoured with the prestigious Business Bhushan Award at the Lokmat Maharashtra of the Year Awards 2026, in recognition of his visionary leadership and pivotal role in transforming the global jewellery retail landscape and society at large. Held at the iconic Gateway of India, the awards ceremony brought together leading policymakers, industry leaders, and prominent personalities from business and entertainment. The event was attended by the Chief Minister, Sri. Devendra Fadnavis, and Deputy Chief Minister, Sri. Eknath Shinde of Maharashtra. Sri. Vijay Darda, Chairman of Lokmat alongside ministers, bureaucrats, and distinguished figures from across sectors. Presented by Lokmat Media



Group, the awards celebrate individuals whose vision, leadership, and achievements have significantly shaped industries while contributing meaningfully to society. Mr. Ahammad's recognition highlights his remarkable entrepreneurial journey and the role he has played in building Malabar Gold & to become the 5th largest global jewellery retailer and the largest jewellery retailer of Indian origin.

Expressing his gratitude on receiving the honour, Mr. M.P. Ahammad, Chairman, Malabar Group, said, "I am deeply honoured to receive the Business Bhushan award at the Lokmat Maharashtra of the Year Awards. This recognition reflects the collective dedication of the entire Malabar family and the trust our customers have placed in us over the years. Our journey is founded on the princi-

ple of collective growth of all our stakeholders guided by responsibility, integrity, and a commitment to creating lasting value for society while continuing to pursue excellence in everything we do." Maharashtra has been central to the brand's growth, with Malabar Gold & Diamonds expanding to 34 showrooms across major cities including Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, and Nashik.

## ALL SIX CREW MEMBERS KILLED AFTER US REFUELLING PLANE CRASHES IN IRAQ

All six members of a US military refuelling aircraft's crew have now been confirmed dead after it crashed in western Iraq, US Central Command (Centcom) has said. The US initially said it had located four of the deceased crew. It said neither hostile nor friendly fire were involved in the loss of the KC-135 aircraft on Thursday. The tanker had been involved in ongoing US operations against Iran and was one of two aircraft involved in the incident. The second landed safely. The Boeing-manufactured aircraft are capable of refuelling planes midair and play a major role in US military operations. They were used extensively in the first



Gulf War to extend the range of fighter jets and bombers. Centcom said the incident occurred at about 14:00 ET (19:00 GMT) on Thursday and that the circumstances of the crash were now under investigation. A search and rescue operation was then launched to locate the remaining two

crew members. The US military command unit added that the identities of the personnel who had been killed were being withheld for 24 hours so their next of kin could be notified. Gen Dan Caine, chair of the US Joint Chiefs, told a news conference on Friday that the plane

had crashed "while the crew was on a combat mission". US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth hailed the aircraft's crew members as "American heroes", stressing that their "sacrifice will only recommit us to the resolve of this mission". The KC-135 usually has a crew of at least a pilot, a co-pilot and a boom operator responsible for controlling the refuelling arm of the aircraft. Centcom earlier described the crash as happening over friendly airspace - but this is a region of Iraq where pro-Iranian militias operate. Iran's military claimed on state TV that an allied group had targeted the plane with a missile.



Bodies of 84 Iranian sailors killed in US torpedo strike to be repatriated

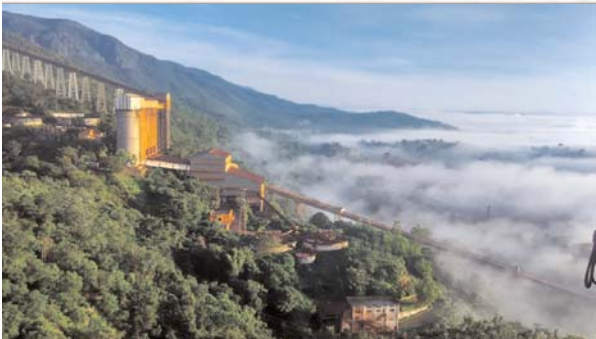
## King expressed 'concern' over Alberta separatists, say First Nations chiefs



King Charles III "expressed his concern" over the Alberta separatist movement while meeting Indigenous leaders at Buckingham Palace, according to a delegation of First Nations chiefs that travelled to London. Grand Chief Joey Pete of the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations said he and other leaders made the King aware of the "threat

the movement represented to agreements signed by First Nations and the Crown more than a century ago. He added that the King was "very interested in what we had to say" and had "committed to learning more". It comes as a grassroots separatist movement in the west Canadian province gathers signatures to force a secession referendum in October.

## NMDC Scripts History as India's First Mining Company to Reach 50 Million



**Hyderabad, 13th March 2026:** NMDC Limited, India's largest iron ore producer and a Navratna CPSE under the Ministry of Steel, has scripted history by becoming the first mining company in the country to produce 50 million tonnes (MT) of iron ore in a single financial year, a significant milestone that comes days ahead of the close of FY 2025-26. Established in 1958 to develop India's iron ore resources, NMDC produced around 10 MT in 1978. Over the decades, output has expanded fivefold to reach a historic 50 MT in FY 2025-26, reflecting the company's steady transformation into the backbone of India's iron ore supply chain. NMDC's rise to the 50-million-tonne mark also underscores a sharp acceleration in growth in recent years. Production has increased by nearly two-thirds since 2015, rising from about 30 MT to 50 MT, with nearly one-fifth of the current capacity added in the last four years alone showing the fastest expansion phase in the company's history. As India advances towards its target of expanding steelmaking capacity to 300 million tonnes by 2030, ensuring a

stable and reliable domestic supply of iron ore has become a strategic priority. Commenting on the achievement, Shri Amitava Mukherjee, Chairman and Managing Director, NMDC Limited, said: "Reaching 50 million tonnes is a notable achievement and reflects the strong progress we have made under NMDC 2.0. What once took decades to build, we have accelerated in just a few years through sharper execution, responsible mining practices, and a clear commitment to national priorities. Being India's largest iron ore producer comes with a huge responsibility, and this milestone reflects not just the strength of our operations but also the trust placed in us to support the nation's steel ecosystem." With highly mechanised operations across the mineral-rich regions of Chhattisgarh and Karnataka, NMDC remains central to ensuring the country's iron ore security. The company continues to focus on operational excellence, technological advancement, and responsible mining practices, as it looks ahead to the next phase of growth.



# IPL 2026 Schedule Announced By BCCI: RCB vs SRH On Day 1, MI vs KKR On Day 2

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Wednesday announced the schedule for the first phase of the TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026, to be played from March 28 to April 12, 2026. As three states are scheduled to undergo State Assembly elections during this period, the full schedule of the tournament will be announced once the poll dates are announced.

The 19th edition of the T20 league will commence when defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) host Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. A total of 20 matches will be played across 10 venues: Bengaluru, Mumbai, Guwahati, New Chandigarh, Lucknow, Kolkata, Chennai, Delhi, Ahmedabad and Hyderabad. During this period, the tournament will feature four double-



headers, with the afternoon matches beginning at 03:30 PM IST and the evening matches commencing at 07:30 PM IST. Following the opening encounter on Saturday, Mumbai Indians will take on Kolkata Knight Riders at the Wankhede Stadium

in Mumbai on Sunday. The first double-header of the season will take place on April 4, 2026, when Delhi Capitals face Mumbai Indians in the afternoon match at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in Delhi, followed by Gujarat Titans taking on

Rajasthan Royals at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. Rajasthan Royals will begin their home campaign in Guwahati, where they will host Chennai Super Kings and Mumbai Indians. Punjab Kings (PBKS), meanwhile, will

play their early home fixtures at the PCA Stadium in New Chandigarh.

During the season, Royal Challengers Bengaluru will play five home matches in Bengaluru and two in Raipur. Punjab Kings will play four home matches in New Chandigarh and three in Dharamshala, while Rajasthan Royals will play three home matches in Guwahati and four in Jaipur.

Note: The matches scheduled in Bengaluru are subject to clearance from the Expert Committee constituted by the Government of Karnataka. The committee will conduct a meeting and inspection of the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on March 13, 2026, during which a full-scale mock demonstration of match-day arrangements will be carried out to assess the stadium's preparedness for hosting IPL matches.

# Gulf Conflict, Ramzan Take Huge Toll On World Para Athletics Grand Prix

The escalating conflict in West Asia has dealt a major blow to the ongoing World Para Athletics Grand Prix, with participation shrinking drastically as only six foreign nations ultimately made it to Indian shores, despite nearly 30 countries having earlier confirmed their presence. Coaches associated with the Indian team said the war, coupled with the holy month of Ramzan, played a significant role in drastically reducing participation numbers, adding that that while 18 foreign nations had travelled for India's inaugural edition of the World Para Athletics Grand Prix at the same venue last year, the organisers could not replicate those numbers this time. A total of 257 athletes are competing in the Grand Prix, the second leg of the season, with India fielding a massive 219 participants across multiple track-and-field events and sport classifications. Russia has the second-largest contingent with 40 para athletes, while the remaining countries account for only a minuscule presence in comparison.



"The event has been hit hard by the ongoing conflict in the Gulf as well as Ramzan. Around seven to eight Muslim countries could not make the trip because of that (Ramzan). Several International Paralympic Committee officials were also unable to travel and had to be replaced at the last minute as they were not getting flights into India," said a coach of a renowned para athlete on condition of anonymity. "Most of the connecting

flights come via Dubai and the Gulf and with the disruptions they (athletes) had to cancel their trips," said the coach. The inaugural World Para Athletics Grand Prix in Dubai last month featured athletes from 53 nations, lending the competition a truly international flavour, but the event in India has been largely dominated by the hosts, with several clean sweeps owing to the limited participation from foreign countries.

# Pakistan Get Startling 'Shoot The Man' Message After Devastating Bangladesh Loss In 1st ODI

Pakistan are in a rebuilding phase after their T20 World Cup 2026 Super 8 exit. They chose six new faces for the ODI series against Bangladesh, but the start to that rebuilding phase was disastrous. Fast bowler Nahid Rana grabbed a maiden five-wicket haul as Bangladesh handed Pakistan a new low in white-ball cricket with a dominant eight-wicket win. Rana picked up 5-24, and captain Mehidy Hasan Miraz took 3-29 with his off-spin, as Pakistan were blown away for 114 all out in 30.4 overs. It was Pakistan's lowest-ever ODI score against Bangladesh, eclipsing the previous



mark of 161 during a 62-run loss at the 1999 World Cup. Bangladesh galloped to 115-2 in only 15.1 overs, powered by a blazing unbeaten 67 off 42 balls. Former Pakistan player Basit Ali was furious after the result. "First, shoot the man who told them to score a minimum

of 60 runs in the ten powerplay overs," he said on The Gameplan, as quoted by The Indian Express. From 41/0 in 9.5 overs, Pakistan collapsed to 92/9 in 23.5 overs. "He never played cricket on a ground. He just hands over a piece of paper. Did he not see what the condi-

tions are like here? Did he not know that even India have lost in Bangladesh?" Former Pakistan wicket-keeper Kamran Akmal also came down hard on the side.

"It felt like one team was international and the other was a club side playing a practice match before a World Cup," he said. "I called Basit and couldn't find words to describe what kind of cricket we were playing. I swear to God, batting like this doesn't even happen in club cricket. Club cricketers don't play this badly." The second and third games of the ODI series will also be played in Dhaka on Friday and Sunday.

# India's Yuki Bhambri Reaches Indian Well Quarters With Andre Goransson In Men's Doubles Category

India's top doubles player Yuki Bhambri and his partner Andre Goransson advanced to the quarterfinals of the men's doubles event at the Indian Wells Masters after registering a straight-set win over the pair of Sander Arends and Jiri Lehecka. Bhambri and Goransson produced a solid performance to defeat Arends and Lehecka 6-4 6-4 in the pre-quarterfinal clash that lasted one hour and 14 minutes. They did not face any break point in the match and broke their rivals twice. The Indo-Swedish pair maintained control through most of the match, securing a crucial break in each set to seal the contest in straight sets. Listen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com Bhambri and Goransson will



take on Alexander Erler of Austria and Andrea Vavassori from Italy in the last-eight stage of the prestigious ATP Masters 1000 tournament. India's Yuki Bhambri and his Swedish partner Andre Goransson have sailed into the semifinals of the Indian Wells Open on Thursday morning, dismantling the Austrian-

Italian pairing of Alexander Erler and Andrea Vavassori. Bhambri and Goransson registered a 6-3, 7-6(2) win over Erler and Vavassori. This is Bhambri's maiden semifinal at the ATP Masters 1000 level, having made the doubles quarter-final at the Masters 1000 level twice. His previous two quarterfinal appearances were at Indian Wells

came in 2025 (with Goransson) and Miami Masters 2025 (with Nuno Borges). Notably, the unseeded duo has yet to drop a single set in the tournament. In the Round of 16, Bhambri and Goransson defeated the pair of Sander Arends and Jiri Lehecka 6-4, 6-4 after launching their campaign with a resounding victory, defeating the duo of David Pel and Fabrice Martin in straight sets 6-1, 6-3. They will face await the winners of Khachanov/Rublev and Rinderknech/Vacherot with a place in the final at stake. Last month, Bhambri climbed to a career-high ranking of world No. 20 in the latest ATP Rankings, making him the first Indian men's doubles player to break into the Top 20 after Rohan Bopanna.

# THE REALITY IS MOST MMA DREAMS FAIL - HARDWICK

When Harry Hardwick was working at his dad's cafe in Middlesbrough to fund his dream of becoming a UFC fighter, the bright lights of Las Vegas felt a world away. "It's not a sensible idea, pursuing MMA," he says. But in September 2025, on just five days' notice Hardwick stepped in to face Brazil's Kaue Fernandes for his UFC debut - over 10 years after his first professional MMA fight. Unfortunately for Hardwick, the fight didn't go to plan - he suffered a painful first-round loss and left the octagon in a wheelchair. Now the 31-year-old has a second chance to prove himself as he faces the undefeated Marwan Rahiki on Saturday at the Meta Apex in Las Vegas.



After a full camp and back at his preferred weight class of featherweight, Hardwick is expecting a better performance this time round. A second defeat could see him cut from the UFC - but after a career filled with highs and lows, he still feels thankful to be "one of the few MMA fighters that has escaped the rat race". "I

pinch myself because I'm very fortunate to be where I am," Hardwick tells BBC Sport. "I've still got a lot I want to do, and I'm still very much looking forward, but this is mad. "The harshest reality is that most dreams fail." Hardwick is a former Cage Warriors featherweight champion and entered his UFC debut undefeated in his last nine fights, with eight wins and one draw. He's spent most of his career fighting alongside part-time jobs, including night shifts as a support worker and in his dad's local cafe. In the early days, Hardwick would often turn up to training without any sleep, and admits that at times the experience could be "miserable".

# DE BOINVILLE DENIES 'RACIAL SLURS' TOWARDS QUEALLY

Nico de Boinville has "categorically" denied using any "racial slurs" towards Irish jockey Declan Queally during the opening race on day two of the Cheltenham Festival. The English jockey was accused of "abusing" the amateur jockey before the start of the Novices' Hurdle on Wednesday, as it was held up due to a false start. Queally later told The Racing Post, external he had received "repeated racist abuse" from his rival. The Irishman, riding I'll Sort That, and De Boinville on Act Of Innocence could be seen exchanging words at the start line, but the Englishman denies any wrongdoing. De Boinville told BBC Radio Sports Extra: "It is an ongoing



investigation. "The stewards are gathering all the evidence they can from all the video footage. "From my point of view, I deny all the allegations against me. "I can categorically say there weren't any racial slurs or anything like that. Let's let it play out." Queally, 37, appeared to topple off his horse before

the race started and had to be checked over by a doctor. He was given the all clear to race, along with Ballyfad, who was kicked pre-race and assessed by a vet in a chaotic few minutes. A number of false starts to the planned rolling start meant the horses were moved to a standing start at the tape-leaving jockeys jostling for position. Queally, who finished fifth in the race, told ITV Racing before entering the weight room post-race: "Being abused by an English rider, Nico de Boinville, not very nice.

# Verstappen wishes F1 was 'more fun'

Max Verstappen says he wishes the new Formula 1 was "more fun" but is hopeful the sport is heading towards changes that will "improve everything". The four-time world champion is among many drivers who find the increased amount of energy management required for the engines this year is taking away enjoyment and some elements of their skill. "I am a bit conflicted, because I don't really enjoy to drive the car but I do enjoy working with the team," Red Bull's Verstappen said. "I don't want to leave [F1] but I also hope of course it gets better. I have had discussions with F1 and the [governing body] FIA and we are working towards

something that will hopefully improve everything." There are concerns over the unusual techniques required of drivers to ensure that the new engines, which have a 50-50 split between internal combustion and electrical power, have sufficient battery charge for optimum performance. F1's bosses initially agreed to take stock of the rules after the first three races and analyse whether changes could be made. It now seems there is a chance modifications could be made after this weekend's race in China, the second of the season after Sunday's opener in Australia. The main issue is that the overriding requirement to ensure the battery is fully charged at the most per-

formance-sensitive parts of the circuit is reducing the driving challenge, especially in the most demanding high-speed corners. Aston Martin's two-time champion Fernando Alonso said: "It is a different challenge. That's where you put the line, if these cars are more fun or less fun, and everyone will have their own opinion. "We used to 'fight for our life' in Turn 12 in Bahrain, Turn Nine and 10 in Melbourne, sector one and 130R in Suzuka, Turn Seven and Eight here in China. "There were always certain corners that in Formula 1 were challenging the limits of the physics, and the driver had to use all the skills and be brave in some of the moments as

well. "When you put new tyres and you go through the corner at a speed that you've never been before in any of the free practices, that challenge is gone in a way. "You use those corners to charge the battery, not any more to make the lap time. "Still fun? Yes, we love racing. Because I grew up on the other, and I was challenging myself in the corners, I probably prefer the other one. But I was super-lucky to race in that era and I still feel lucky that I race now, so I like both." World champion Lando Norris said the "very, very different style of driving" now needed meant "you can still make a difference as a driver by driving the power unit in the correct way, but not by

necessarily driving the car in a much better way".

