

VIJAY TO HOLD KEY EXECUTIVE MEETING IN THANJAVUR, SIGNALS ORGANISATIONAL PUSH



UK WILL ALLOW US TO USE BASES TO STRIKE IRANIAN MISSILE SITES, PM SAYS



T20 WC: GOOD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE AND AT THE RIGHT TIME, SAYS SURYAKUMAR ON SAMSON'S KNOCK



T20 WORLD CUP

IN BRIFS

CM REVANTH EXTENDS HOLI GREETINGS TO PEOPLE OF TELANGANA



Hyderabad (TSIT): Telangana Chief Minister Anumula Revanth Reddy extended warm greetings to the people of the state on the occasion of the colourful festival of Holi. In his message, the Chief Minister wished that the festival be celebrated with joy, enthusiasm, and harmony across Telangana. He described Holi as a vibrant rainbow of love, affection, and happiness, and a symbol of peace and brotherhood. CM Revanth Reddy appealed to citizens to celebrate the festival in a traditional manner by using natural colours and ensuring safety for all. He emphasized that Holi represents unity among people, transcending differences of caste, religion, and social backgrounds. The Chief Minister expressed hope that the festival would strengthen bonds of friendship and communal harmony throughout the state.

Rahul Urges DCC Presidents to Uphold Congress Ideals at Training Camp

Hyderabad TSIT BUREAU: Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi delivered a strong message on party ideology and grassroots strengthening at the valedictory session of the DCC Presidents' training camp held at Haritha Resorts, Vikarabad.

Addressing the gathering, Rahul Gandhi said the core principles of the Congress party are non-violence, peace, and the pursuit of truth. He emphasized that leaders must constantly work to practice and promote these ideals in public life.

He underlined that equality remains central to the Congress philosophy, stating that the party must function without discrimination based on caste, religion, class, or gender. "Congress must respect everyone equally and work for both the poor and the marginalized," he said. Calling upon leaders to shed arrogance and remain connected to the people, he remarked that the party should draw its strength from the public. "The Congress hand



symbol represents Abhaya Mudra a symbol of reassurance and protection seen across religions. That is our guiding principle," he noted.

Rahul Gandhi stressed the importance of empowering women within the party and giving them due representation and respect. He advised DCC Presidents to treat their positions as responsibilities rather than titles of attraction, assuring them that hard work and commitment would pave the way for leadership growth.

Taking a swipe at the BJP,

he alleged that divisive politics aimed at creating hatred and social divisions should be countered with unity and vigilance to protect democratic values.

DCC PRESIDENTS' COMMITMENTS
Speaking on the occasion, DCC Presidents resolved to tour at least 30 villages every month to connect with people directly. They announced the establishment of grievance cells in DCC offices to address public issues and pledged to complete booth-level to district-level committees within two months.

They further stated that the party would intensify struggles on farmers' issues, employment guarantee concerns, international trade agreements affecting livelihoods, and the problems faced by gig workers in urban areas.

The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment to strengthening the Congress party at the grassroots level and rebuilding public trust through consistent engagement and service.

No ship movement in Strait of Hormuz skyrockets oil prices

FRANKFURT (TSIT): Oil prices rose sharply on Monday, March 2, as disruptions to tanker traffic through the Strait of Hormuz chokepoint raised uncertainty about how US and Israeli attacks on Iran would affect supply to the world economy. US oil traded 7.6 per cent higher at USD 72.12 per barrel, while international standard Brent was up 8.6 per cent at USD 79.11 per barrel. Natural gas futures in Europe jumped more than 40 per cent after Qatar, a major supplier, halted production due to the conflict.

Higher oil prices raise the prospect of costlier gasoline for US drivers as well as increased prices for other goods at a time when people in many countries have been stung by inflation.

Add a key focus was the Strait at the southern end of the Persian Gulf, through which 20 per cent of the world's oil supply passes.

Tanker traffic dropped sharply amid disruption of satellite navigation systems, data and analytics firm Kpler said on X, while the UK Maritime Trade Operations Centre reported attacks on several ves-



sels in the area on either side of the strait and warned of elevated electronic interference to systems that show where ships are. A bomb-carrying drone boat struck a Marshall Islands-flagged oil tanker in the Gulf of Oman, killing one mariner, Oman said.

Iran has been threatening vessels approaching the Strait of Hormuz and is believed to have launched multiple attacks. Saudi authorities reported they intercepted Iranian drones that attacked the Ras Tanura oil refinery near Dammam and the refinery was shut down as a precaution, Saudi state television reported. Market attention has focused on whether the conflict would widen to other oil-producing countries in the region.

There are pipelines that circumvent the Strait, but they

don't have enough capacity to move all the oil that passes the strait. Saudi Arabia, Iraq and the United Arab Emirates all depend on tankers to get the bulk of their oil to global markets. Analysts say completely blocking the Strait would hurt Iran too since all of its 1.6 million barrels per day passes through the Strait, most of which goes to China, where refineries are less concerned about US sanctions that prevent Iran from selling its oil elsewhere.

The Strait is also a key route for liquefied natural gas. European futures contract for April delivery shot up to 45.46 euros (USD 53.26) on the ICE commodities exchange.

The jump came after QatarEnergy said Monday it would stop its production of liquefied natural gas as the US-Israeli military campaign on Iran rages. The state-owned firm blamed the war for the decision. Qatar is a major gas supplier for Europe, which relies on shipments of liquefied gas, or LNG, to replace supplies of Russian pipeline gas lost due to the invasion of Ukraine.

Emirates, Etihad resume limited flights from Dubai airport

New Delhi, March 2 : UAE-based airlines Emirates and Etihad Airways announced on Monday that they will start operating a limited number of flights from the evening, after Dubai Airports confirmed a partial resumption of operations after the airport was closed due to the outbreak of hostilities between the US-Israel alliance and Iran. Emirates said it will prioritise customers with earlier bookings as it restarts services in phases. The airline will contact passengers who have been rebooked onto these limited flights directly. "Please do not go to the airport unless you have been notified," it said in a statement. The Dubai-based airline said that all other flights remain suspended until further notice. It said it continues to monitor the situation and will adjust its operational schedule accordingly.

Sripada Rao Brought Dignity to the Speaker's Institution Karnataka Speaker UT Khader

Hyderabad TSIT BUREAU: Karnataka Legislative Assembly Speaker U. T. Khader paid rich tributes to former united Andhra Pradesh Speaker Duddilla Sripada Rao, describing him as a "towering figure of values who brought distinction to the institution of the Speaker." He was speaking as the Chief Guest at the 89th birth anniversary celebrations of Sripada Rao held at Shilpakala Vedika in Hitech City under the aegis of the Telangana Language and Culture Department.

Khader said Sripada Rao demonstrated that a position is not a crown of authority but a responsibility. "From a Sarpanch to Speaker, his political journey is deeply inspirational. He strongly believed that without accountability, democracy turns into mere authority rather than service," he remarked. He noted that as



Speaker, Sripada Rao ensured equal opportunity to both ruling and opposition members, thereby upholding parliamentary values. He also recalled that Sripada Rao supported the democratic principle of the 'recall' mechanism for elected representatives who fail to perform. "In a time when ethics and parliamentary standards are being questioned, leaders like Sripada Rao remain guiding lights. He showed not only how a leader should live, but how one continues to live in the hearts of the people even after death,"

Khader said. Highlighting his courage beyond legislative duties, he said Sripada Rao stood firmly within the constitutional framework to protect innocent people during times of social unrest. State IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, son of Sripada Rao, said the values of standing by the common man and supporting those in distress were the greatest legacy left by his father. "He breathed his last among the people he served.

Every step he took was for public welfare," he said, pledging to carry forward his father's ideals with commitment and integrity.

Several prominent leaders, including Legislative Council Chairman Gutta Sukender Reddy, Vice Chairman Banda Prakash, Ministers Ponnampalapati Prabhakar and Aduri Laxman Kumar, MLAs and MLCs, attended the event and paid homage to the late leader.

The programme concluded with a collective call to uphold ethical politics and preserve the parliamentary standards set by Sripada Rao.

Three US jets downed in Kuwait, friendly fire: CENTCOM

Washington, March 2 : Three U.S. F-15E Strike Eagles flying in support of Operation Epic Fury were shot down over Kuwait in what American military officials described as an apparent friendly fire incident, with all six aircrew safely recovered.

The incident occurred at 11:03 p.m. ET on March 1, according to a statement issued by CENTCOM. "At 11:03 p.m. ET, March 1, three U.S. F-15E Strike Eagles flying in support of Operation Epic Fury went down over Kuwait due to an apparent friendly fire incident," the release said.

The aircraft were operating during active combat conditions. During active combat involving attacks from Iranian aircraft, ballistic missiles, and drones, the U.S. Air Force jets were mistakenly shot down by Kuwaiti air defences.



The U.S. military confirmed that all crew members survived the incident. All six aircrew were safely recovered and are in stable condition, according to the release.

It added that "Kuwait has acknowledged this incident, and we are grateful for the efforts of the Kuwaiti defence forces and their support in this ongoing operation."

Iran war: Andhra CM directs officials to ensure safe return of stranded Telugus

Amaravati (TSIT): N. Chandrababu Naidu on Monday directed officials to ensure the safe return of people from Andhra Pradesh stranded in Middle East countries affected by the ongoing conflict. Reviewing the situation at his camp office with officials of the Real Time Governance Society (RTGS) and representatives of the Andhra Pradesh Non-Resident Telugu Society (APNRTS), the Chief Minister instructed authorities to coordinate closely with the Central government and Indian embassies to facilitate the return of people from Saudi Arabia, Dubai, Qatar and Kuwait. He directed officials to immediately contact those stranded due to flight cancellations and extend necessary assistance without delay. The Chief Minister emphasised that APNRTS and RTGS must work in close coordination, continuously monitor the situation, and remain in constant touch with the Centre and Indian missions abroad. Naidu assured that the state government stands firmly with Telugu people in Gulf countries and has



initiated measures to ensure their safety. He advised stranded individuals not to panic and to stay in safe locations until flight services resume. A 24/7 helpline has been set up: Helpline: 0863-2340678 WhatsApp: 85000 27678 Email support is available at helpline@apnrts.com, support@apnrts.com and info@apnrts.com, while assistance details can be accessed through the APNRTS website. Meanwhile, State NRI Relations and Empowerment Minister Kondapalli Srinivas said the government is closely monitoring the situation arising from the conflict between Israel and Iran and taking steps to safely bring back stranded Telugus.

Middle East tensions: Modi speaks to Saudi Crown Prince, Bahrain and Jordan

New Delhi (TSIT): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday spoke to the King of Bahrain and the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia and condemned the recent attacks on the two countries in violation of their sovereignty and territorial integrity, asserting that India stands in solidarity with their people in this difficult hour.

The prime minister also spoke to King Abdullah II of Jordan and conveyed deep concern at the evolving situation in the region.

During his telephonic conversations with Bahrain King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa and the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed Bin Salman, Prime Minister Modi said that the earliest restoration of regional peace and stability is of utmost importance. I thanked him for looking after the well-being of the Indian community living there in these difficult times.

"Discussed the evolving situation in West Asia with Crown



Prince and PM of Saudi Arabia, HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman. India condemns the recent attacks on Saudi Arabia in violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity. "We agreed that the earliest restoration of regional peace and stability is of utmost importance. I thanked him for looking after the well-being of the Indian community in these difficult times," Modi said in a post on X.

In another post, he said: "Had a productive telephone conversation with the King of Bahrain, His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa.

India condemns the attacks on Bahrain and stands in solidarity with its people in this difficult hour. I thank him for the steadfast support extended to the Indian community in Bahrain."

About his phone call with the King of Jordan, Modi said: "Spoke with His Majesty King Abdullah II, the King of Jordan. Conveyed our deep concern at the evolving situation in the region"

"We reaffirm our support for peace, security and the well-being of the people of Jordan. I thanked him for taking care of the Indian community in Jordan in this difficult hour," he wrote on X.

The telephonic conversations took place in the wake of the attack on Iran by the US and Israel, in which Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was killed, and Iran's retaliation, in which it fired drones and missiles at Israel and US military installations around the Gulf, and also at the global business and aviation hubs Dubai and Doha.

Centre prepared to bring back Indians stranded in West Asia: Union Minister Pralhad Joshi

BENGALURU: (March 2) The Centre is fully prepared to bring back Indians stranded in the Gulf region and is in touch with Indian missions abroad to ensure their safety, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi said on Monday.

In a statement, Joshi said discussions have been held with senior officials of the concerned embassies to facilitate the safe return of those affected by the war situation.

"Whenever Kannadigas and other Indians face distress anywhere in the world, the Central Government has ensured their safe return. Earlier, we brought back those stranded in Ukraine. Wherever Indians are, their safety remains our first priority," he said.

Joshi said information has been received about Kannadigas facing hardship due to the severity of the Iran-Israel conflict, and urgent consultations have been held with senior ministers to take necessary measures for their protection. Reassuring anxious fami-



lies, the Minister said there was no need to panic and that the government is committed to bringing back all Indians safely. He noted that air travel in war-affected regions is currently risky and expert advice is being sought before taking further steps. Joshi said efforts are also underway to assist those stranded in Dubai, where flight operations have been affected. "No one should be anxious. Serious efforts are being made to bring them back safely," he added.

Four money lenders arrested in triple suicide case in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, March 2 : Hyderabad police have arrested four illegal money lenders, as harassment by them for repayment of loans drove three members of a family to suicide last month.

Deputy Commissioner of Police, Secunderabad Zone, Rakshitha Krishna Murthy, on Monday announced the arrests.

Kadgekar Ramraj, 54, his wife Madhavi, and younger brother Kadgekar Shashank Raj were found dead at their residence in Babu Nagar, Amberpet, on February 24.

Amberpet police had regis-

tered a case and took up an investigation. Suicide notes were recovered from the scene in which the deceased mentioned the illegal demands and harassment by illegal financiers.

According to the DCP, the suicide letters and statements of family members and witnesses revealed that the deceased were facing severe financial harassment from certain money lenders from whom they had taken a loan of Rs 57 lakh for running "King's Biryani" hotels at Mallapur and Chakripuram.

The accused were collecting



high interest on a daily basis. They were demanding excessive and illegal interest and had forcibly obtained blank

cheques, promissory notes, MOUs, and original land documents. The accused had repeatedly threatened and humiliated the deceased over the phone. They had also

threatened to visit their house and insult them publicly. Call data records confirmed that on the intervening night of February 23 and 24, the accused contacted the family and threatened them with dire consequences, with a demand for repayment of loan amounts. Based on the evidence collected during the investigation, the section of law was altered to Section 108 of BNS (Abetment to Suicide).

On March 2, the accused were arrested. They have been identified as Mohd Wasi Uz Zaman alias Irfan, who has a real estate and scrap business,

P. Rajasekhara Reddy, who is into construction work, Mohd. Nawaz, a businessman, and Syed Majeed Hyder, an electrician. During interrogation, the accused admitted to lending money at high interest rates and pressuring the deceased's family members for repayment. They also confessed to forcibly collecting blank cheques, promissory notes, and property documents as collateral security. The continuous harassment, unlawful financial pressure, threats, and humiliation caused severe mental trauma to the deceased family members.

Duddilla Sripada Rao Jayanti Observed at Cyberabad Police Commissionerate



Hyderabad (TSIT): The birth anniversary (Jayanti) of former Speaker of the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Duddilla Sripada Rao, was observed with solemnity at the Cyberabad Police Commissionerate on Monday. Cyberabad Police Commissioner Dr.M. Ramesh Reddy paid floral tributes to the portrait of Sripada Rao at a commemorative event organized at the Commissionerate premises. Speaking on the occasion, CP Dr. M. Ramesh Reddy described Sripada Rao as a true embodiment of democratic values and public service. He said the late leader's commitment, simplicity, and integrity continue to inspire present and future generations. The Commissioner noted that as Speaker of the united Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Sripada Rao discharged his responsibilities with distinction and upheld the dignity of the House. He emphasized that Sripada Rao played a pivotal role in maintaining discipline, transparency, and respect for democratic principles within the Assembly. His services dedicated to public welfare remain memorable and worthy of emulation, he added. The event was attended by DCP (Admin) T. Annapurna, DCP (Crimes) Muthyam Reddy, DCP (Traffic-I) Ranjan Ratan Kumar, ADCP Traffic Madhapur Hanumantha Rao, Welfare Stars RI Anil, Estate Officer RI Himakar, representatives from the Accounts wing, ministerial staff, and a large number of police personnel.

Jagga reddy Participates in Review Meeting on NIMZ Infrastructure Development

Hyderabad (TSIT) : TPCC WORKING President Jagga reddy participated in a key review meeting convened by District Collector Praveenya to accelerate infrastructure development works in the National Investment and Manufacturing Zone (NIMZ).

The meeting, attended by officials from NIMZ, Revenue, Survey, and TGIC departments, focused on expediting the provision of roads and other essential infrastructure in lands already acquired for the project. Additional Collector Madhuri, DRO Pandu, TGIC Zonal Manager Vittal, Zaheerabad RDO Devuja, NIMZ Special Deputy Collector



Nagalakshmi, and Tahsildars were also present.

During the meeting, officials were directed to hand over the acquired lands to SRR Construction Company to initiate development works. The Collector instructed that the survey process be completed within ten days to facilitate layout develop-

ment and ensure timely execution of infrastructure projects. Boundary stones are to be installed as per the approved layout to clearly demarcate project lands.

It was noted that although compensation had been paid earlier to farmers for the acquired lands, cultivation had been temporarily permitted due

to delays in initiating development works. With infrastructure works now set to commence, officials were instructed to prevent fresh cultivation. Farmers who have already sown crops will be allowed to complete harvesting before works begin.

Emphasizing smooth execution, officials were directed to ensure that the survey is conducted peacefully without any obstruction. Strict legal action will be taken against anyone attempting to remove boundary stones placed during the survey process.

The review meeting reaffirmed the administration's commitment to fast-tracking infrastructure development in NIMZ and creating a strong industrial ecosystem in the region.

Beti Bachao Beti Padao poster unveiling

Karimnagar, March 2, TSIT: Under the auspices of Women Development and Child Welfare Department awareness programme posters unveiled by District Collector Chitra Mishra in the Collector's Chamber.

Sexual Abuse Against Women Act, Prevention of Child Marriage Act, PCPNDT Act, Child Help Line posters were unveiled in this programme. Display boards prepared to raise awareness about the Prevention of Sexual

Harassment of Women Act at workplaces were unveiled. District Welfare Officer M Saraswathi, Sakhi Center Admin Lakshmi and Women Empowerment Center Coordinator Srilata participated in the programme.



GRANDLY SRIPADA RAO JAYANTHI CELEBRATIONS



Karimnagar, March 2, TSIT : Duddilla Sripada Rao, the former Speaker of the Joint Andhra Pradesh State Legislative Assembly, was officially celebrated under the auspices of the district administration. District Collector Chitra Mishra for the Sripada Rao statue at the Karimnagar bus stand square. Suda Chairman Komatireddy Narendar Reddy, Additional Collectors Ashwini Tanaji Wakade, Lakshmi Kiran, Municipal Commissioner Prapul Desai and District Library Corporation Chairman Sattu Mallesham laid floral wreaths and paid tributes. Later, several officials including District Collector, Additional Collectors and Municipal Commissioner paid tributes to the portrait of Sripada Rao installed in the Collectorate Auditorium.

LULU GROUP ORGANIZES GRAND IFTAR



HYDERABAD: Marking the holy month of Ramadan, Lulu Hypermarket organized a special Iftar gathering under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative. The event was held on Monday evening at Masjid-e-Quba in Tolichowki, where Iftar boxes were distributed to Muslims observing the fast. Speaking on the occasion, Muhammed Shareef, Regional Manager, Lulu Group, stated that Ramadan is not only a month of fasting but also a time to practice values such as compassion, patience, and generosity. He emphasized that Lulu Group consistently undertakes community welfare initiatives as part of its commitment to social responsibility. "Serving society is everyone's responsibility, and we will continue to organize such meaningful initiatives in the future," Vishal Kumar, Deputy General Manager, Lulu Hypermarket, informed that 700 Iftar boxes were prepared and distributed, containing all essential items required for breaking the fast. The event witnessed the participation of Lulu Group staff, mosque elders, committee members, and members of the local community.

KITS WARANGAL ORGANIZED "SWAMI VIVEKANANDA'S BIRTH DAY CELEBRATIONS VALEDICTORY CEREMONY

WARANGAL, March 2, TSIT : The Literary & Extramural Club, Student Activity Center (SAC), Kakatiya Institute of Technology & Science Warangal organized "Swami Vivekananda's Birth Day Celebrations Valedictory Ceremony", told by the principal Prof. K. Ashoka Reddy. It was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Sowmithri Lakshmana Charya held at New Seminar hall, KITS Warangal campus. It was sponsored by the proud alumni of KITSW, K. Chandrasekhar Reddy, G.Venkat Reddy, K. Ram Reddy, AKSSV Ramana, and I. Ganesh Sai.

The Former Rajya Sabha MP, KITSW Chairman, Capt. V. Lakshmanan Rao & Treasurer P. Narayana Reddy & Husnabad constituency Former MLA & KITSW Additional secretary, Vodithala Sateesh Kumar have congratulated and appreciated the SVBC club, Literary club and SAC team for organizing to enhance their skills and to acquire self-motivation. Self motivation is key to success.

On this occasion the chief guest Sowmithri Lakshmana Charya inspired students by conveying that the way of life is more important than Religion. He also



expressed that the life lessons mentioned by Swami Vivekananda are still an integral part of youth's development. Believing in Self, Having Spiritual knowledge, Self discipline, Patriotism are the desirable qualities for young students of our country, he added.

He concluded that the students and youth must be actively involved in building Character and upgrading the competencies through skills for the development of the nation.

The Presidential remarks were given by the Principal, Prof. K. Ashoka Reddy. Swamiji ideology is very essential to present soci-

ety, especially youth, for further development of India. He always focussed on young minds to bring change and inculcating skills regarding positive attitude. It is upto the commitment of our students, he added.

He concluded that Take up an Idea, dream of it, think of it and achieve it. That is the way of success. According to the Dean Student affairs Prof. K. Sridhar, This is a platform to overcome the fear of public speaking because it supports students personal growth and it triggers self-confidence. It also educates the students for developing leadership qualities, she added.

World Wildlife Day Celebrated at Mahavir Harina Vanasthali National Park



Hyderabad (TSIT): World Wildlife Day was celebrated in a grand manner at Mahavir Harina Vanasthali National Park in Hyderabad. The programme was organized by the Telangana Forest Department to raise awareness among the public, particularly students, about wildlife conservation, biodiversity protection, and maintaining ecological balance. As part of the event, drawing and essay writing competitions were conducted for students from various schools.

The themes included "Importance of Wildlife," "Our Responsibility Protecting Nature," and "Biodiversity and Future Generations." Students creatively expressed their ideas, reflecting their awareness and concern for nature and environmental protection. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Vinay Kumar, attended the programme as the chief guest and addressed the gathering. He emphasized that wildlife plays a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance and warned that declining biodiversity poses serious risks to human life. He stated that protecting forests and conserving wildlife is not just the responsibility of the government but a duty of every citizen. He encouraged students to become ambassadors of nature and spread awareness in society. Prizes and certificates were distributed to students who excelled in the competitions. After the event, officials briefed students about the conservation methods adopted in the park for protecting deer and other wildlife species. Awareness was also created about preserving natural habitats, reducing plastic usage, and promoting tree plantation. The programme was attended by senior forest officials including CCF Kshitija, Wildlife OSD Shankaran, Rangareddy District DFO Rohit, Wildlife DCF Anjaneyulu, Sai Prakash, representatives of NGOs, staff members, teachers, and a large number of students. On the occasion, a collective call was given for society to work together to ensure the protection and conservation of wildlife for future generations.

Sripada Rao Jayanti Celebrations Held at DGP Office

Hyderabad: The birth anniversary of former Speaker of the combined Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, late Duddilla Sripada Rao, was observed officially and with due solemnity at the office of the Director General of Police (DGP) on Monday.

As the State Government declared the occasion as an official event, special arrangements were made at the Police Headquarters to mark the celebrations. On the occasion, Additional Director General of Police (Law & Order) Mahesh M. Bhagwat attended as the chief guest and paid floral tributes to the portrait of Sripada Rao, offering respectful homage.

Speaking on the occasion, senior officials



recalled the late leader's contributions to legislative traditions and public service, describing him as a distinguished statesman who upheld democratic values.

The programme was attended by Multi Zone-1 Inspector General of Police S. Chandrashekar

Reddy, AIG M. Ramana Kumar, along with several senior police officers and staff of the DGP's office.

The ceremony concluded with officials paying their respects and reaffirming their commitment to public service in the spirit of the late leader's legacy.

Telangana Mahila Congress Demands Resignation of Hardeep Singh Puri

Hyderabad: Telangana State Mahila Congress President Mogili Sunitha Rao on Monday demanded the immediate resignation of Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, alleging serious concerns that warrant clarification.

The demand was raised during a programme held in Secunderabad Cantonment under the leadership of District President Pustakala Kavitha. Sunitha Rao attended the event as the chief

guest and participated in a signature collection campaign organized to press for the Minister's resignation.

Addressing the gathering, Sunitha Rao alleged that the Union Minister had links with controversial international figures and called for a transparent inquiry into the matter. She criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi for continuing support to the Minister and said the issue must be addressed in the interest of accountability and justice.



Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy Extends Holi Greetings

Hyderabad: Telangana Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy extended warm greetings to the people of the State on the occasion of Holi.

In his message Minister expressed hope that the festival of colours would fill the lives of all citizens with new light, happiness and prosperity. He said Holi symbolizes harmony, brotherhood and mutual affection in society and strengthens the spirit of unity among people. Describing Holi as a celebration that reflects India's rich cultural traditions, he urged people to celebrate responsibly by avoiding chemical-based colours and opting for natural, eco-friendly alternatives to protect the environment. The Minister further stated that Holi, which signifies the triumph of good over evil, should bring joy, peace and prosperity to every household.



Middle East conflict: 109 from Karnataka stranded in UAE & Bahrain, says CM Siddaramaiah

Bengaluru, Mar 2: As the geopolitical conflict in the Middle East continues to escalate, chief minister Siddaramaiah confirmed on Monday, March 2, that 109 people from the state are currently stranded in the UAE and Bahrain. The disruptions follow the closure of airspace and widespread flight cancellations in the region.

According to the latest data, approximately 100 Kannadigas are stuck in the UAE, primarily in Dubai, while 9 others are stranded in Bahrain. The chief minister emphasized that the safety of every citizen abroad is the government's "highest priority" and that teams are in constant contact to verify details and extend necessary assistance.

Legislators and tourists among stranded include JD(S) MLC S.L. Bhojgowda, who is currently staying at a hotel in Dubai. Other stranded legislators



include MLAs Na Ra Bharath Reddy, S R Srinivas, and A C Srinivas. District-wise figures indicate that Ballari has the highest number of stranded individuals at 32, followed by Bengaluru with 25. Other affected residents hail from Davangere, Chikkamagaluru, Kodagu, and Udupi, among other districts. A group of 150 students from

Chikkaballapur, who were on vacation in Dubai, are also reportedly among those awaiting travel clearance. Government seeks central intervention

Chief minister Siddaramaiah stated that the Karnataka Chief Secretary has written to the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Civil Aviation seeking urgent intervention for

the safe repatriation of the stranded citizens. The state has also requested airlines to provide flexibility in ticket rescheduling and ensure adequate return flights once operations resume.

The State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC) and all District Emergency Operations Centres (DEOCs) remain activated 24x7 to monitor the situation. A dedicated helpline has been operationalized to assist affected families.

The chief minister urged those stranded to remain calm and strictly follow advisories issued by local authorities and Indian embassies. He advised affected persons to register with the nearest embassy or consulate through official helpline numbers. Earlier, Siddaramaiah condemned the ongoing military strikes in the region, calling for peace and expressing hope that flight operations would be cleared soon to ensure everyone's safe return.

Over 3,400 cancer cases detected in five years; Dakshina Kannada tops Karnataka list

Mangaluru, Mar 2: Dakshina Kannada (DK), Hassan and Kalaburagi have recorded the highest number of cancer detections in Karnataka over the last five years, accounting for a disproportionate share of diagnoses despite large-scale screening across the state and zero reports from several other districts, according to Lok Sabha data.

Between 2020-21 and 2024-25, Dakshina Kannada reported a total of 3,432 cases of oral, cervical and breast cancer. Kalaburagi followed closely with 3,397 cases, while Hassan recorded 2,436 cases during the same period. The data from Dakshina Kannada reveals a sharp year-on-year increase. In 2022-23, 18 cases were detected out of 16,41,913 people screened, which rose to 67 cases from 41,088 screenings in 2023-24. In 2024-25, the number of detections surged to 3,328 from 70,033 screenings. In Kalaburagi, 1,112 cases were detected in 2021-22 and 2,073 in 2022-



23, before declining sharply from 182 in 2023-24 to 30 in 2024-25. Hassan saw relatively low detections initially, which spiked to 2,224 in 2023-24, before dropping to 99 cases in 2024-25.

Other districts with notable cumulative detections over the five-year period include Belagavi with 849 cases, Kolar with 844, Tumakuru with 538, Haveri with 463, and Chikkamagaluru with 1,648 cases, most of which were concentrated in the first two years.

In 2024-25 alone, Dakshina Kannada recorded the highest number of

detections at 3,328 cases, followed by Kolar with 402 and Davangere with 189. Bagalkot reported 168 cases, Tumakuru 117, and Hassan 99 cases. Between 2020-21 and 2024-25, a total of 13,91,301 people were screened in Bengaluru, with 292 cancer cases detected. Despite extensive screening in several districts, very low or zero detections have been reported. Yadgir and Chamarajanagar screened approximately 50,000 and 84,000 people respectively, but reported zero cases. Vijayapura and Kodagu reported two cases each, Mandya three cases, and

Udupi and Ballari four cases each.

Over the past five years, Karnataka has significantly expanded cancer screening under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases. In many districts, over 10 lakh people are screened annually. Under the community health programme, ASHA workers conduct door-to-door awareness campaigns, encouraging at-risk individuals to visit health sub-centres or Ayushman Arogya Kendras for early screening. Suspected cases are referred to primary health centres. District-level NCD clinics and day-care cancer centres provide follow-up chemotherapy. The state currently supports 19 state cancer institutes and 20 tertiary care cancer centres, with approval granted for 16 new district cancer centres in 2025-26. However, officials note that there continues to be a shortage of specialist cancer doctors across the state.

World Leaders Must Act Before Further Disaster: MP Basavaraj Bommai

"CHINA AND RUSSIA ARE WATCHING CLOSELY"

Bengaluru: Former Chief Minister and MP Basavaraj Bommai appealed to global leaders to immediately intervene and stop the ongoing war between Israel and Iran before it leads to further catastrophe. Speaking to the media in Bengaluru on Monday, he expressed deep concern over the escalating conflict and said while Israel has launched attacks on Iran, Iran is retaliating, creating a highly alarming situation. Not only Israel but also the United States stands behind the current developments. The Middle East is a crucial region for the world's economic and cultural stability and has historically witnessed several wars. "Earlier, wars were fought over Jerusalem in the name of religion. Now conflicts are being driven by petroleum and religious issues. The United States is trying to assert control over oil resources and is not in a position to heed anyone's advice," he said.

Responding to a question about the possibility of a third



world war, the former CM said China and Russia have not yet entered the battlefield and appear to be observing the situation strategically. If they join the war, it could escalate to a much larger scale. Before such

a major disaster occurs, world leaders must act to stop the war.

When asked about Kannadigas reportedly stranded in the UAE, the MP said that under the leadership of Prime

Minister Narendra Modi, the central government has previously ensured the safe evacuation of Indians during various international crises. Necessary steps would be taken once the situation stabilizes.

Bommai pointed out that conflicts are affecting places like Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Saudi Arabia, creating widespread concern as Indians reside in large numbers across these regions. The Government of India must coordinate with all embassies to ensure food and accommodation for affected citizens.

India, which has been dependent on oil imports, could face serious economic repercussions. A decade ago, people had to stand in queues for fuel. A similar situation could arise again.

Referring to incidents of violence in Pakistan and other nations, Bommai said that India has not witnessed such instability. There were incidents of firing in Pakistan. Such situations will not be allowed to occur in India.

High Court Upholds Rs.12 Crore BWSSB Demand, Dismisses Jain School's Plea

Bengaluru: In a major relief to the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), the Karnataka High Court has dismissed a writ petition filed by Jain International Residential School, upholding a demand notice exceeding 12 crore towards pro-rata water charges.

The dispute dates back to 2004 when the school, located in Kanakapura Taluk, sought bulk water supply from BWSSB after its borewell water was found unfit for consumption. The government sanctioned 9 lakh litres per day, and the institution paid 93 lakh for pipeline installation. An agreement was executed on May 6, 2004.

In 2016, following a tariff revision, BWSSB issued notices demanding 4.32 crore as pro-rata charges and 8.64 crore as additional pro-rata charges, warning of disconnection in case of non-payment. Challenging the notices, the school sought quashing of the 2016 demands and a refund of 1.01 crore allegedly collected as excess tariff prior to November 2014.

However, the High Court ruled that BWSSB has statutory authority under Section 16 of the BWSS Act to levy pro-



rata charges, and that contractual agreements cannot override statutory provisions. The Court also clarified that there is no separate tariff category for edu-

ational institutions, as water supply is classified only as 'Residential' or 'Non-residential/Commercial'.

Noting that the petitioner had described its premises as a "commercial complex," the Court dismissed the writ petition in full, while granting liberty to approach the appellate authority under Section 120 solely to contest any mathematical discrepancies in the calculation.

HMSI clocks 5.67 lakh unit sales in Feb 2026, posts 34% YoY growth

REGISTERED 34% YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH IN TOTAL SALES OVER LAST YEAR.

Bangalore : Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) reported total sales of 5,67,351 units in January 2026. This includes 5,13,190 units in domestic sales and 54,161 units in exports.

HMSI registered a 34% year-on-year (YOY) growth compared to February 2025. This performance reflects strong demand across domestic and international markets for HMSI's product portfolio. For the Year-to-Date (YTD) period of FY26 (April 2025-February 2026), HMSI recorded total sales of 58,20,556 units, comprising 52,37,169 units sold domestically and 5,83,387 units exported.

HMSI's Key Highlights of February 2026:

Road safety: Aligned with its vision of "Safety for Everyone," HMSI organised nationwide road safety campaigns across multiple locations, including Ajmer, Pune, Nashik, Narnaul, Vadodara, Hisar, Gorakhpur, Katihar, Aurangabad, Mangaluru, Chhindwara and Kochi. These initiatives promoted responsible riding



behaviour and strengthened community awareness to help create safer roads for all.

HMSI also conducted Road Safety Conventions in Gwalior, Kochi, Agra and Madurai, actively engaging principals and teachers with the objective of nurturing safe road habits among children from an early age.

Additionally, HMSI celebrated the anniversaries of its Traffic Training Parks in Chennai and Jaipur, reinforcing its ongoing commitment to rider education promoting safe riding behaviour.

Network expansion: Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India further strengthened its footprint

by opening a new authorized dealership in Tinsukia. Backed by a specially trained sales and service team, the dealership ensures personalized customer support, reinforcing HMSI's commitment to customer-centric mobility solutions.

Building a Safer Tomorrow:

At HMSI, mobility is more than a means of transport, it is a way to empower people, connect communities, and enrich lives. Every product we create is a step towards making mobility safer, cleaner, and more accessible, so that millions of Indians can chase their dreams with confidence.

Opposition Leader R. Ashok Slams Govt Over Debt, Alleges 'Unauthorized Team' Monitoring DCM

Bengaluru: R. Ashok, Leader of the Opposition in Karnataka, on Monday said the upcoming Budget Session will focus on exposing the government's "flaws and shortcomings" and fighting the state's growing economic distress.

Addressing a press conference, Ashok alleged that the Congress government has failed to



fulfil its promises and is grappling with internal divisions. He claimed irregularities in the Women and Child Welfare Department, non-release of funds

announced in previous budgets, mounting garbage problems in Bengaluru, and unresolved e-Khata issues in the Revenue Department.

Targeting Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Ashok alleged that the state has borrowed 3.5 lakh crore and warned that the total debt could reach 6 lakh crore by the end of the term, amounting to 1 lakh per citizen. He further accused the CM of forming an "unauthorized" team led by an SP to monitor Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar, calling it an "invisible SIT."

ASSETS CARE & RECONSTRUCTION ENTERPRISE LTD.

Registered Office: 14th Floor, Eros Corporate Tower, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 Tel: 91-11-43115600 Fax: 91-11-43115618
Corporate Office: Unit No. : 502, C Wing, One BKC, Radius Developers, Plot No. : C-66, G-Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai - 400051 Tel.: 022 68643101
E-mail : acre.acre@acreindia.in Website : www.acreindia.in CIN : U65993DL2002PL115769

POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property)

WHEREAS, The Authorized Officer of Assets Care & Reconstruction Enterprise Ltd./Original Lender acting in its capacity as trustee of Trusts as mentioned below, 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 issued Demand Notice calling upon the borrowers to recover the amount as mentioned in the notice as below:

Sr. No.	Assignor Bank/Original Lender (TRUST)	Assignment Agreement date	Borrowers	Date of Notice issued under Sec. 13(2) of SARFAESI Act 2002.	Outstanding amounts mentioned in the notice issued under Sec. 13(2) of SARFAESI Act 2002.
1.	Yes Bank Ltd./ JCF ARC (ACRE 166 TRUST)	14.02.2025	1) Haresh Subramanyam Rangaswamy, 2) Maheshwari Venkatesh R	01.12.2025	Rs. 1,11,15,054.75/- (Rupees One Crore Eleven Lakhs Fifteen thousand Fifty Four and Paise Seventy Five Only) against Loan Accounts No. AFH002200473290 as on 01.12.2025 and interest thereon

Description of Immovable Property: All that Piece and Parcel Residentially Converted Vacant Site Bearing No.7 Old Khata No.193, Present Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike New Municipal No.730/253/254/11/7, Formed Out Of The Residentially Converted Vacant Site No.11, Situated At Singasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, 192 Ward Of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Measuring East To West 91.8' Feet And North To South 103 Feet In All Totally Measuring 9455.4 Sq.Ft Together With All Rights, Appurtenances Whatsoever Whether Underneath Or Above The Surface, And Bounded On The East: Private Property West By: 30 Feet Road North By: Private Property South By: Krishnappa's Property

The Yes Bank Ltd. ("Original Lender") had assigned all its rights, title and interest of the above loan account in favour of J. C. Flowers Asset Reconstruction Pvt. Ltd., acting in its capacity as trustee of JCF YES Trust 2022-2314 ("J.C. Flowers ARC"). The J.C. Flowers ARC has further assigned all its rights, title and interest of the above loan accounts in favour of Assets Care & Reconstruction Enterprise Limited acting in its capacity as trustee of ACRE - 166 - Trust ("ACRE") by way of an Assignment Agreement executed on the date as mentioned above. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 as on 01.12.2025.

The Borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Assets Care & Reconstruction Enterprise Ltd., acting as trustee of Trusts for total outstanding amounts and interest thereon as mentioned above. 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.

Sd/- Authorized Officer
DATE: 03.03.2026
PLACE: BANGALORE
Assets Care & Reconstruction Enterprise Ltd.
Acting in its capacity as trustee of TRUSTS as mentioned above

Hon. Balasaheb Thackeray Agribusiness and Rural Transformation (SMART) Project
www.smart-mh.org

E-TENDER NOTICE NO: 2026_DOAWB_1282599

Construction of Godown (1000 MT) & Machinery Shed (193.36 Sq.M.)

The Government of Maharashtra is implementing the World Bank-funded SMART Project. Padoli Rural Agro Producer Company Ltd. is one of the beneficiaries under the project and inviting online bids on <https://mahatenders.gov.in> for above mentioned works. The estimated cost of work is **Rs. 145.33 lakhs (including GST)**. The last date for submission of online bid is **30.03.2026 up to 11:30 AM**. Any updates or notices shall be published on aforementioned websites only.

District Implementation Unit, SMART Project Dist. Dharashiv (MH)

ALTIM CREDIT HOME FINANCE PRIVATE LIMITED
REGD. OFFICE: Floor No 7, Kalpataru Infinita, Plot No 22, Sub Plot No 3, CTS No. 15/1, Village Bhamusta, Ward No. 1, Shivaji Nagar, Pune City, Maharashtra 411005

DEMAND NOTICE

The Securitization And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And enforcement of security Interest Act 2002, read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. The undersigned is the authorized officer of Altium Credo Home Finance Pvt.Ltd (ACHFL). Under Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (The said Act), in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, the authorized officer has issued demand notices under 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the borrower(s) (The "said borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective demand notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, notice is hereby given, once again, to the said borrower(s) to pay to Altium Credo Home Finance Pvt.Ltd (ACHFL), within sixty days from the publication of this notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said demand notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents, writings, if any, executed by the said borrower(s). As Security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to Altium Credo Home Finance Pvt. Ltd (ACHFL) by the said borrower(s) respectively.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) & Borrower Address	1. NPA Date, 2. Demand Notice Date (U/s 13(2)), 3.Outstanding Amount
1	1) Madhesha K B (Applicant) 2) Basanna Choudaiah (Co-Applicant) 3) Devamma Basavayya (Co-Applicant) Address: Kurubarahalli, Kanakapura Venkatrayanajoddi Kanakapura, Ramnagar Kanakapura Ramnagar Karnataka Bus Stop - 562117 Loan Account No.: S117202000119	1. 29-Jan-2026 2. 9-Feb-2026 3. Rs. 2,59,481/- (Rupees Two Lakh Fifty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Eighty One Only) as on 03-02-2026
2	1) Pushpa Y (Applicant) Address: 101/17, Anekal, Anekal Bangalore Karnataka - 562106 Loan Account No.: S166202000026	1. 29-Jan-2026 2. 9-Feb-2026 3. Rs. 4,72,819/- (Rupees Four Lakh Seventy Two Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Nine Only) as on 03-02-2026
3	1) Sunkadaku Kotappa Bassevalingappa (Applicant) 2) Sunkadaku Muddappa (Co-Applicant) 3) S Renukamma (Co-Applicant) Address: Megalape Road Harapanahalli Davangere, NA, Davangere - 583131, Karnataka Loan Account No.: 119202000138	1. 29-Jan-2026 2. 9-Feb-2026 3. Rs. 6,13,080/- (Rupees Six Lakh Thirteen Thousand Eighty Only) as on 03-02-2026
4	1) S Ramesha (Applicant) 2) S Manjappa (Co-Applicant) Address: U Bevinahalli, Pothalakatte, Huchangidurga, Harapanahalli, Davangere - 583125, Karnataka Loan Account No.: S118204000014	1. 29-Jan-2026 2. 9-Feb-2026 3. Rs. 7,25,800/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Twenty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Nine Only) as on 03-02-2026
5	1) Madhesha Neelishetty (Applicant) 2) Ghana Neela Shetty (Co-Applicant) Address: 15/20/40/03/2056, measuring 7.20 X 8.40 Mts i.e. 60.48 Sq. Mts. Situated at Huchangidurga Village, Huchangidurga Gram Panchayath, Harapanahalli Taluk, Vijayanagara District. Boundaries: East: House of Yallava; West: House of Chandappa; South: Conservancy; North: Road	1. 29-Jan-2026 2. 9-Feb-2026 3. Rs. 7,25,800/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Twenty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Nine Only) as on 03-02-2026

Description of Secured Asset: All that piece and parcel of residential immovable property bearing Site No.366, carved out of Survey No.587, 588, 589, Situated at Ashraya Layout, Anekal Town Ward No.23, Bangalore Urban District, measuring East to West 20 feet and North to South 30 feet. Boundaries: East: Site No.365; West: Road; South: Road; North: Site No.339

Description of Secured Asset: All that piece and parcel of residential immovable property bearing Site No.152040/03/2056, measuring 7.20 X 8.40 Mts i.e. 60.48 Sq. Mts. Situated at Huchangidurga Village, Huchangidurga Gram Panchayath, Harapanahalli Taluk, Vijayanagara District. Boundaries: East: House of Yallava; West: House of Chandappa; South: Conservancy; North: Road

Description of Secured Asset: All that piece and parcel of Property No.141, E Swatha No.15080300300300230, Situated at Uttamballi Gram, Kunigalgi Grampanchayath, within the Sub-Registration District of Kanakapura. Boundaries: East: Property of Srikantayya, measuring 7.20 X 8.40 Mts i.e. 60.48 Sq. Mts. Situated at Huchangidurga Village, Huchangidurga Gram Panchayath, Harapanahalli Taluk, Vijayanagara District. Boundaries: East: House of Yallava; West: House of Chandappa; South: Conservancy; North: Road

Description of Secured Asset: All that piece and parcel of Property No.246/HA/156, G.I. Asset No.15080300300300230, Situated at Uttamballi Gram, Kunigalgi Grampanchayath, within the Sub-Registration District of Kanakapura. Boundaries: East: Property of Srikantayya, measuring 7.20 X 8.40 Mts i.e. 60.48 Sq. Mts. Situated at Huchangidurga Village, Huchangidurga Gram Panchayath, Harapanahalli Taluk, Vijayanagara District. Boundaries: East: House of Yallava; West: House of Chandappa; South: Conservancy; North: Road

Description of Secured Asset: All that piece and parcel of Property No.246/HA/156, G.I. Asset No.15080300300300230, Situated at Uttamballi Gram, Kunigalgi Grampanchayath, within the Sub-Registration District of Kanakapura. Boundaries: East: Property of Srikantayya, measuring 7.20 X 8.40 Mts i.e. 60.48 Sq. Mts. Situated at Huchangidurga Village, Huchangidurga Gram Panchayath, Harapanahalli Taluk, Vijayanagara District. Boundaries: East: House of Yallava; West: House of Chandappa; South: Conservancy; North: Road

Date: 03.03.2026
Place: Karnataka
Sd/-, Authorized Officer
Altium Credo Home Finance Private Limited

EDITORIAL

How Khamenei's Killing Is Doing Exactly The Opposite Of What US-Israel Wanted

In 2019, I was on a reporting assignment to Kargil, which was my first visit to the place. I knew the town was Shia-majority, but I wasn't ready for what I saw outside the city centre mosque. There were larger-than-life cutouts of Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was killed on February 28 in Israeli-American air strikes on his office complex in Tehran. Back then, I was so struck by the cutouts that I wondered if I had gotten it wrong. Maybe it wasn't Khamenei at all, maybe it was someone else, I wondered. A few men in Iranian-style black headgear stood outside the mosque, perhaps preparing for afternoon prayers. I walked up and asked if those were indeed cutouts of Ali Khamenei. They confirmed it. So I asked the obvious question: why would his image be displayed here, in faraway Kargil? They answered almost in unison. Khamenei was their number-one spiritual leader, the global temporal head of all Shias. A couple of years later, I happened to visit Lucknow and went to the iconic Bada Imambara. Once again, the walls were covered with photos and cutouts of the same man. Cut to today. Outside the Iran Cultural Centre in Delhi, hundreds of mourners from across India have gathered, wearing black badges, visibly in mourning. Social media is flooded with videos of people marching through the main roads of Srinagar, grief smeared across their faces. In India's western neighbourhood, we have seen videos of at least eight mourners killed after security forces opened fire on pro-Iran protesters outside the US Consulate in Karachi.

Shias and Sunnis

The Muslim world is divided broadly between the majority Sunni and minority Shia. Outside Iran, which is almost entirely Shia, the largest Shia population lives in the Indian subcontinent. Shias have lived peacefully in India and are treated like any other community, though they have often been subjected to violence by Sunni groups in Pakistan. But when it comes to the Ayatollah, both Shias and Sunnis revere him in nearly equal measure. And when it comes to his killing at the hands of Israel and the US, the majority in both communities will express their grief and solidarity in one voice. Some Shia and Sunni friends sent me messages yesterday saying it was "one of the worst days of their life". Of course, there are reports from within Iran, reported by Western media, of celebrations over the news of Khamenei's death. And if you are looking at him from the Trumpian lens, he was, as the President said, "one of the most evil people in history". Instead, however, we have witnessed lakhs of people take to the streets of Tehran, mourning the assassination of their beloved spiritual figurehead.

From Placeholder To The Ayatollah

What Israel and the US have done is make Khamenei, who was running a country dealing with extreme economic hardships, protests and internal squabbles, a martyr. But we will come to that in a bit. First, how did Khamenei acquire such a cult status? We need to turn the pages of history. In 1979, Iran's Islamic Revolution toppled the corrupt regime of King Reza Shah Pahlavi and brought Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini back from exile in France, where he had spent 14 years orchestrating opposition through cassette tapes smuggled into Iran. Khomeini's return to Tehran was met by millions, and he swiftly established himself as the Supreme Leader of the new Islamic Republic. Those who lived during the revolution years and after would remember how Khomeini was revered by Shias all over the world. Fondly called the 'Ayatollah', he was successful in fusing religious authority with absolute political power.

Gulf Confronts An Ugly Truth About Aligning With America

The enormity of America's political assassination of Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei cannot be overstated. Iran had not committed any aggression against the US, and yet its top leader and generals have been physically eliminated. It was also not planning any military strikes against either the US or Israel, and, therefore, the latter cannot justify a 'pre-emptive' strike.

What is worse, serious and productive diplomatic negotiations were being conducted by the US and Iran with Oman's mediation. The Omani Foreign Minister, in a bid to prevent a US strike, had said publicly in an interview with a US news channel that Iran had all US demands on its nuclear programme on enrichment, stockpiles, IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) inspection and a formal commitment to never acquire nuclear weapons. According to him, Iran had gone beyond what it had conceded in its 2015 nuclear deal with President Barack Obama. The IAEA chief himself was involved in these negotiations. The next round of discussions at the technical level was to be held in Geneva. But before these could be held, President Trump short-circuited the diplomatic effort and decided to attack Iran. This is the second time that Trump has decided to attack Iran in the midst of negotiations. The first was when the 12-day war in June 2025 was initiated while talks were being held.

Iran's Concessions, US Double Standards

The Iranian nuclear issue has to be seen in perspective. Iran is a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), but under the framework, it has the right to enrich uranium for peaceful purposes - a right that Iran has been unwilling to forswear, though in the latest round of negotiations with the US, it made concessions on enrichment limits. This is something it had not done earlier. Irrespective of all this, the fact also is that the US ignores the nuclear status of Israel, which is an open secret. The US has also reconciled itself to North Korea's repudiating the NPT and acquiring nuclear weapons. It has been complicit in Pakistan becoming a nuclear power and has not made an issue of continuing nuclear cooperation between



Pakistan and China. The US has walked out of all disarmament treaties negotiated with Russia and has announced that it will resume nuclear testing. Against this background, the US's focus on Iran's nuclear programme, which is under strict IAEA supervision, seems to be dictated by considerations related principally to Israel's security and regional pre-eminence. Trump had announced in June 2025 that during the 12-day war, the US had obliterated Iran's nuclear programme. If that is the case, then why make Iran's nuclear issue the *casus belli*, or, case for war?

Where Are The Nuclear Weapons, Anyway?

That Iran is either a few months or a few weeks away from acquiring nuclear weapons is a narrative assiduously pushed by Israel and the US for a long time. However, years have passed without Iran going nuclear. Accusations that Iran has pursued a clandestine programme in secret facilities have never been proved. No doubt, Iran has increased enrichment levels, possibly as a negotiating tactic - a phased response presumably to Trump walking out of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) during his first term. Perhaps Iran wanted to use its growing enrichment capacity as a bar-

gaining chip in negotiations for obtaining sanctions relief.

Can't Expect A Country Not To Defend Itself

The US under Obama, too, had demanded curbs on Iran's missile capability and its regional role, which the latter had rejected. The JCPOA was thus limited strictly to the nuclear issue. But Trump revived these demands in the recent negotiations, primarily in view of Iran's demonstrated capability to attack Israel with devastating effect - which was seen during the 12-day war - and its support for Hamas and Hezbollah.

The point here is, there is no international regime, such as the NPT, that bars countries from possessing missile capability. To expect that Iran would give up its deterrence capabilities would have been unrealistic.

No Rights And Wrongs Here

If Iran's regional role is a problem for the US, then Iran could view the regional role of the US and Israel as a problem, too - especially Israel's expansionism. In these matters, no clear judgment can be made on rights or wrongs, though it can be said that Iran has committed a serious strategic error by projecting itself as the biggest opponent of Israel and the principal supporter of the Palestinian cause, way beyond the support the

leaders of the Arab countries have given to the Palestinians. Arab countries have been more open towards Israel, either openly or more discreetly. Israel and the US, therefore, see Iran as the main obstacle to the regional acceptance of Israel, which the Abraham Accords represent.

Is The Gulf Disillusioned?

One can seriously question Trump's strategy in seeking regime change in Iran without putting boots on the ground and encouraging the opposition elements to take over power from a weakened clerical dispensation. Earlier regime changes in the region undertaken by the US have failed abysmally in achieving their objectives, be it in Iraq, Libya or Syria. Political instability, divisions, violence, Islamism, economic distress, and refugee flows have ensued. It is not clear why Trump and his advisors believe that the consequences of de-stabilising Iran would be any more manageable. After all, Iran had warned the world repeatedly publicly that if attacked, it would target US bases in the region. The existence of these bases allows the US to exercise power regionally, and this includes providing security against Iran, which is viewed as a threat by Gulf states. That Iran is attacking bases and other sites in the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia - even Oman - is not surprising.

ASIA IS A VICTIM OF CONSPIRACIES AROUND THE WORLD



Asia's geopolitical landscape has been fraught with conflict, interference, and intrigue for centuries. This continent is not only a hub of population and culture, but is also considered the world's richest region in terms of natural resources. Yet, ironically, this same Asia has repeatedly been plunged into the flames of war, instability, and poverty. Whether it's the escalating tensions on the Iran-Pakistan border or the border conflict between Cambodia and Thailand, these events do not appear to be mere coincidences. Behind them, a broader global strategy appears to be at work, in which external powers pursue their own interests by keeping Asia in turmoil. Let Asia burn, and the coffers of developed countries fill - this is the naked truth of this politics. Countries in the Global South are rich in resources but lack decision-making power. Despite possessing oil, gas, coal, rare minerals, fertile land, and a young population - these countries remain mired in debt, unemployment, and instability. The root cause of this is not merely internal weaknesses, but the global system that has been designed to keep them dependent for decades. The plunder that developed countries began during the colonial period continues today in new forms - sometimes in the name of free trade, sometimes under the guise of democracy and human rights. The Iran-Pakistan tensions are the latest example. Long-standing sanctions on Iran have weakened its economy, while

Pakistan continues to live under foreign debt and economic pressure. Consequently, the escalating border tensions are no longer merely a local issue. Instability in sensitive areas like Balochistan could pit the two countries against each other. If this tension escalates, energy routes throughout South Asia and West Asia will be disrupted. Oil and gas prices will rise, directly benefiting the powers that control global markets. While war may be in Asia, profits will be reaped elsewhere. History bears witness to the frequent attempts by external powers to incite local conflicts to further their own interests. Sometimes they act as mediators, and sometimes they establish their bases under the guise of military aid and security. Afghanistan is a prime example, where decades of war raged, society was torn apart, and ultimately the very country they claimed to "help" suffered the most. Similar situations are being replicated in other parts of Asia. The Cambodia-Thailand dispute in Southeast Asia appears to be part of this strategy. Tensions over temples and historical sites in the border region are not new, but the military overtones they have taken in recent years are worrying. The region is considered rich in rare minerals, demand for which is rapidly increasing in the era of new technologies and energy transition. When two neighboring countries engage in conflict, it becomes easier for outside powers to intervene. Access to resources is gained in exchange for military aid, investment, and loans. Ultimately, the local population suffers - in the form of environmental destruction, displacement, and economic inequality. This situation in the Global South did not arise suddenly. Since the mid-20th century, developed countries have used Asia, Africa, and Latin America as a source of raw materials and a market for finished goods. Colonial rule ended, but the economic structure remained unchanged. Even today, international financial institutions provide loans, but in return, they impose conditions that

strip these countries of their policy independence. Privatization of resources, reduction of subsidies, and import dependence - these are all part of the same trap. Internal weaknesses within this system are no less responsible. Corruption, power struggles, ethnic and religious divisions erode these countries from within. When societies are divided, external interference becomes easier. Those in power compromise long-term national interests for short-term gains. The voice of the people is suppressed, and decisions are limited to a select few. Nevertheless, it would be a grave mistake to assume that the Global South is helpless. Solutions exist, provided there is will. The first step is regional solidarity. Asian countries must resolve their disputes through dialogue and cooperation. Whether it's border disputes or the sharing of resources - the solution lies not in war, but in shared understanding. When neighboring countries stand together, the scope for external forces will automatically diminish. Another important aspect is economic self-reliance. Real control over resources is possible only when local industries and the public sector are strong. Emphasis must be placed on value addition rather than simply exporting raw materials. Transfer of technology is essential, but production capacity must be developed within the country. Self-reliance does not mean cutting off from the world, but connecting on an equal basis. Environmental justice is also a crucial part of this struggle. Indigenous and rural communities are bearing the brunt of the increased mining being carried out in the name of the energy transition. The countries most affected by the adverse effects of climate change are those that have contributed the least to it. Therefore, it is imperative to demand equitable participation and accountability on global platforms. Change is also necessary at the societal level. The education system must develop not only technical knowledge but also an understanding of history, politics, and the global economy.

How The Iran-Israel War Can Pinch Pockets Across The World

The escalation of hostilities between Israel and Iran has brought West Asia back to the centre of global economic anxiety. While the immediate headlines focus on missiles, retaliation, and geopolitics, the deeper and more enduring impact of this conflict may be felt far beyond the battlefield - in global trade flows, energy markets, inflation trajectories, and maritime security. For a world economy already strained by fragmentation, protectionism, and slowing growth, this conflict threatens to become yet another systemic shock. At the heart of global concern lies oil and trade. West Asia is not merely a geopolitical flashpoint; it is the connective tissue of global commerce. Nearly one-fifth of the world's oil trade and a substantial share of liquefied natural gas (LNG) shipments pass through the Strait of Hormuz. Any sustained disruption - whether through direct military action, proxy attacks, or heightened insurance and security costs, will have an immediate knock-on effect across supply chains. Even without a complete closure of shipping lanes, uncertainty alone raises freight rates, delays deliveries, and forces rerouting, adding time and cost to global trade. The experience of recent years should make this worryingly familiar. From the pandemic to the Ukraine conflict and Red Sea disruptions, global trade has become increasingly vulnerable to geopolitical shocks. The Israel-Iran conflict adds another layer



of risk, particularly because it sits astride the world's most critical energy corridor. Unlike earlier disruptions that were to some extent regionally contained, this conflict has the potential to simultaneously affect energy supply, maritime logistics, and investor confidence - an unusually toxic combination. Oil markets will be, perhaps, the most immediate casualty. Even though the conflict escalated only 48 hours ago, it has already triggered volatility in crude prices, reflecting fears of supply disruption rather than actual shortages. History suggests that markets price in risk faster than reality. A prolonged conflict could push oil prices significantly higher, not because production collapses overnight, but because risk premiums rise across futures markets, shipping insurance spikes, and strategic stockpiling intensifies. For oil-importing economies like India, this acts as an inflationary tax, one that governments

can neither easily predict nor control. Energy costs ripple through transport, manufacturing, fertilisers, and feed directly into inflation prices. For developing economies, the consequences are harsher: weaker currencies, widening current account deficits, and shrinking fiscal space. In effect, geopolitical conflict in West Asia risks exporting inflation to the rest of the world. For India, these risks are particularly acute. India imports over 85% of its crude oil requirement, making it highly sensitive to price shocks. While diversification of suppliers and increased purchases from Russia have provided some insulation, India is very susceptible to price volatility. A USD 10-15 increase in crude prices can materially alter India's inflation outlook and complicate macroeconomic management. Yet oil is only part of India's vulnerability. Approximately 95% of India's trade by volume and around 70% by value moves

by sea. If maritime trade routes in and around West Asia become riskier or costlier, India's exports, from engineering goods and chemicals to textiles and electronics, will face immediate pressure. Higher freight costs could erode competitiveness, delivery delays will certainly impact contracts, and insurance premiums could eat into margins. For small and medium exporters, already operating on thin buffers, such shocks could be existential. There is also a strategic dimension. India's western ports are deeply integrated with trade routes passing through the Arabian Sea and the Gulf. Any instability in these waters could affect not just energy imports but also India's broader trade with Europe, Africa, and the Americas. In an era where 'friend-shoring' and resilient supply chains are becoming policy priorities, maritime insecurity undermines the very logic of dependable trade corridors.

OIL AND GAS PRICES JUMP AS CONFLICT ESCALATES

Oil and gas prices have surged as Iran continues to launch strikes across the Middle East in response to ongoing attacks by the US and Israel. Natural gas prices spiked by nearly 50% on Monday after QatarEnergy, one of the world's biggest exporters, halted production following "military attacks" on its facilities. Brent crude, the global benchmark for oil prices, jumped by 10% to touch more than \$82 a barrel on Monday after at least three ships were attacked near the Strait of Hormuz at the weekend. Iran warned vessels not to pass through the crucial waterway in the south of the country, through which about 20% of the world's oil and gas is shipped. In the US, stock market indexes opened lower with the Dow Jones Industrial Average off nearly 1% while the Nasdaq index and S&P 500 also began trading in the red. In London, the FTSE 100 share index fell 1%, with the owner of British Airways among the biggest fallers following the disruption to Middle East airspace. Banks such as Barclays, Standard Chartered and HSBC also saw their share prices slide due to concerns that a sus-



tained rise in energy prices risks fueling inflation which, in turn, could lead to fewer interest rate cuts by central banks. Leading stock markets in Europe sustained bigger drops. In France, the CAC-40 fell by 1.8% while Germany's Dax extended earlier declines to fall by 2.1% in early afternoon trading. Meanwhile, the price of gold, which is viewed as a safe-haven asset during periods of uncertainty, added 2% to \$5,388 an ounce. QatarEnergy, which is owned by the state, said that it had suspended producing liquefied natural gas (LNG) after the country's Ministry

of Defence (MoD) said a drone launched from Iran targeted a facility in Ras Laffan Industrial City. Qatar's MoD also said a drone went after a water tank belonging to a power plant in Mesaieed, south of the capital Doha. Meanwhile in neighbouring Saudi Arabia, Aramco temporarily shut its major oil refinery at Ras Tanura on the coast after being hit by a drone. International shipping has almost come to a standstill at the entrance to the Strait of Hormuz, with analysts warning that a prolonged conflict could push energy prices even higher. The UK

Maritime Trade Operations Centre (UKMTO) said that two vessels had been struck, and an "unknown projectile" was reported to have "exploded in very close proximity" to a third. After its initial surge, Brent crude fell back to \$79 a barrel while US-traded oil was up by around 7.6% at \$72.20. "The market isn't panicking", Saul Kavonic, head of energy research at MST Marquee told the BBC. "There is more clarity that so far, oil transport and production infrastructure hasn't been a primary target by any side," he added. "The market will be watching for signs

that traffic through the Strait of Hormuz returns, which would see oil prices subside again." But some analysts have warned it could go over \$100 in the event of a prolonged conflict which could have a knock-on effect on inflation and interest rates. Robin Mills, chief executive at Dubai-based consultancy Qamar Energy and a former executive at oil giant Shell, said: "The jump in prices will feed through almost immediately because the oil traders are very much following the news too. "At the moment, oil prices are not particularly high, they are still below where they were even two years ago so we're not in full-blown oil crisis mode yet." On Sunday, the Opec+ group of oil producing nations agreed to increase their output by 206,000 barrels a day to help cushion any price rises, but some experts doubt this would help much. Edmund King, president of the AA, warned the disruption could drive up petrol prices around the world. "The turmoil and bombing across the Middle East will surely be a catalyst to disrupt oil distribution globally, which will inevitably lead to price hikes," he said.

AVIATION, TRAVEL STOCKS TUMBLE AS MIDDLE EAST TENSIONS ESCALATES



New Delhi: Shares of airline companies, tour and travel-related service providers tumbled on Monday, March 2, amid escalating tensions in the Middle East. The stock of InterGlobe Aviation ended 6.25 per cent lower after falling 7.50 per cent during intraday trade on the BSE. Shares of SpiceJet also dropped 5.72 per cent and in intraday trade, it had declined 9.20 per cent. Shares of Yatra Online tumbled 9.59 per cent, Easy Trip Planners slumped 7.08 per cent, TBO TEK dived 4.04 per cent, Thomas Cook dropped 3.57 per cent, and Le Travenues Technology dipped 2.08 per cent. In the equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 2,743.46

points or 3.37 per cent to 78,543.73 in early trade. It later ended at 80,238.85, down 1,048.34 points or 1.29 per cent. The 50-share NSE Nifty tumbled 575.15 points or 2.28 per cent to 24,603.50 in intraday trade. The benchmark later settled 312.95 points or 1.24 per cent down at 24,865.70. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, jumped 7.75 per cent to USD 78.49 per barrel. The conflict between Israel, the US, and Iran has resulted in multiple airspace closures in the Middle East, massively disrupting flight operations. The Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) on Sunday, March 1, reported a noticeable rise in booking cancellations and reschedul-

ing requests, particularly for sectors connecting India with Europe via major Gulf hubs, due to airspace restrictions arising from the Middle East crisis. IATO President Ravi Gosain told PTI that travel agents across the country are working closely with airlines and overseas partners to minimise inconvenience to passengers by facilitating re-bookings, refunds, and alternate routings. "Aviation stocks also saw some profit-taking amid fears of escalated ATF prices," Vikram Kasat, Head - Advisory, PL Capital, said. The conflict between Israel, the US, and Iran has resulted in multiple airspace closures in the Middle East.

India and Canada agree series of deals as Carney and Modi reset ties in Delhi

After nearly three years of diplomatic tensions, India and Canada have taken a major step towards restoring their relationship as leaders from both countries unveiled a wide-ranging set of measures aimed at deepening economic cooperation. Among the agreements is a long-term uranium supply deal, which experts say will bolster India's energy security as it comes under pressure from the US. Plans for an expanded economic partnership could also boost trade and investment between the two nations. Cooperation in areas such as critical minerals, clean energy, space and higher education promises new opportunities for innovation and joint development. Analysts describe the announcements as a potential "reset" in India-Canada relations, signalling a willingness on both sides to move past recent strains and focus on shared strategic and economic priorities. After concluding his engagements in India, Carney is scheduled to continue his Indo-Pacific tour with stops in Australia and Japan, according to the official itinerary released by



his government. His visit to India, which included a meeting with PM Modi in Delhi on Monday, was the first leg of a broader diplomatic push aimed at diversifying Canada's trade and strategic partnerships beyond North America. From India, Carney is scheduled to fly to Sydney where he will arrive on Tuesday. He will then travel to Canberra on 5 March, where he is due to hold bilateral talks with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, with discussions expected to focus on trade expansion, defence cooperation and emerging technology partnerships. "He will deliver an address to both houses of Australia's Parliament and invited dignitaries - marking the first such

address by a Canadian prime minister in nearly 20 years," read a statement, external by the Canadian government. Carney's final stop on this tour is Tokyo where he is due to arrive on 6 March. He is expected to meet Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi to advance cooperation in areas, including clean energy, critical minerals, advanced manufacturing and food security. As we wind up our coverage of an eventful day, here is a look back in photos at Carney's time in India. As we've been reporting, in a significant reset of relations, India and Canada today unveiled a sweeping package of measures aimed at restoring and deepening economic and strategic cooperation.

Here's a quick recap: PM Modi and PM Carney agreed to fast-track negotiations towards a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), with the aim to conclude talks by the end of the year. They also set an ambitious target of boosting bilateral trade to around \$50bn by 2030. In a major announcement, Canadian company Cameco has signed a long-term deal to supply uranium to India. The leaders also outlined new frameworks for cooperation on critical minerals, clean energy and AI. With a large number of Indian students studying in Canada, education featured prominently in the talks. Both governments announced plans to expand academic partnerships, ease exchanges for students and researchers and strengthen mutual recognition of qualifications. The two countries will also relaunch a structured defence dialogue and step up maritime and broader security cooperation, underlining a strategic convergence which, analysts point out, extends well beyond trade.

Limited flights leave UAE but disruption continues amid Iran strikes

A limited number of flights have been able to leave the United Arab Emirates as departures across the Middle East continue to be disrupted by the joint Israeli and US war on Iran. More than 4,000 flights a day have been cancelled across the region, according to flight tracking service Flightradar24 with hundreds of thousands of passengers affected. The disruption "will only increase the longer the crisis continues" and it "will have enormous repercussions for the industry," director of communications Ian Petchenik said. The ongoing airline disruption comes as more than 100,000 Britons have registered their presence in the Middle East with the UK government. On Monday morning, 79% of global flights to Qatar and 71% of flights to the United Arab Emirates had been cancelled, according to aviation analytics firm Cirium, while 81% of flights to Israel and 92% of flights to Bahrain have also been grounded. United Arab Emirates national carrier



Ethihad Airways had suspended services until 14:00 local time (10:00 GMT) but departures after that included an Ethihad flight to London Heathrow (EY67), which is due to land in the UK in the early evening. Other Ethihad flights have left for destinations including Moscow, Paris, Cairo, Delhi and Karachi, according to the flight-tracking service Flightradar 24. The airline told Reuters, "Some repositioning, cargo and repatriation flights may operate in coordination with UAE authorities and subject to strict operational and safety approvals". All regular scheduled services remain cancelled. Dubai Airports has announced on

social media that a "limited resumption of operations" will begin on Monday evening, with a small number of flights allowed to operate from the region's two main hubs - Dubai International and Dubai World Central. The Dubai-based airline Emirates says it will accommodate customers with earlier bookings on these flights as a priority, and will contact passengers directly. No flights are so far taking off or landing from Doha, as Qatari airspace remains closed. Earlier in the day, Qatar's national airline Qatar Airways said its flight operations remain temporarily suspended on Monday due to the closure of Qatari air-

space. "Qatar Airways will resume operations once the Qatar Civil Aviation Authority announces the safe reopening of Qatari airspace," the airline wrote on X. Ian Scott, from Wedmore in Somerset, told BBC Your Voice he had been travelling back from Melbourne to Venice when his Saturday morning flight out of Doha was forced to turn back mid-air due to the conflict. "We were in airport for 15 hours before evacuation to a hotel. That was full and we had to shelter underground due to close explosions," he said. Since then, Scott said he could hear blasts in the area, and is still waiting for an opportunity to leave. Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper told the BBC the situation was "deeply stressful" for those affected. She said many of those stuck were people travelling for holiday or business. Asked if the government was considering launching an evacuation, she said it was in close contact with airlines, airports, Middle Eastern governments and the travel industry.

How Aston Martin must adapt to meet changing needs

It is the firm famed for making the car James Bond drives, but its history has been almost as turbulent as some of the adventures of the Ian Fleming hero. Aston Martin confirmed this week it would be cutting a fifth of its workforce, after the firm's net losses jumped by more than 50% last year. Bosses at the luxury car firm blamed its woes on US president Donald Trump's tariffs in a statement made last month. Experts believe Aston Martin, which is headquartered in Gaydon, Warwickshire, was particularly susceptible to those headwinds but believed there were opportunities for its fortunes to be revived once again. The firm is a significant part of the West Midlands' manufacturing prowess, and employs about 3,000 people. This means job losses could total about 600. Its troubles come at a time when the car industry is facing one of the most difficult periods in its history, according to former Aston Martin

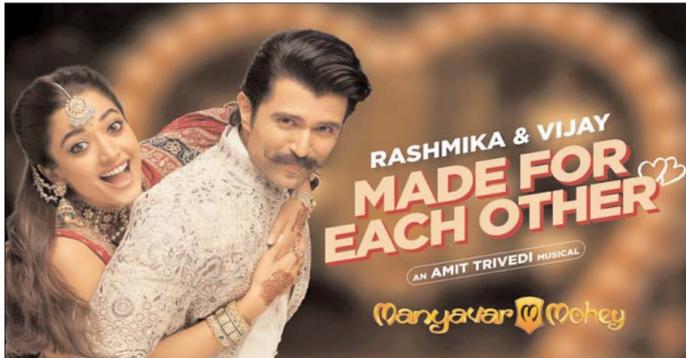


CEO Andy Palmer. He said car makers were having to adapt to manufacturing electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids, as well as changes in consumer behaviour. He added that China was the largest automotive market in the world and that vehicles produced there were now competing within the luxury market traditionally occupied by the likes of McLaren and Aston Martin. "There are competitors, there are emerging competitors, and they're hitting in places like China where historically most of those vehicle manufacturers have been taking their profits from. "Whilst the Chinese

manufacturers may not be a direct challenge in the luxury market, they're undoubtedly skewing expectations." Palmer also agreed that volatility created by tariffs on imports to the USA was also having an impact on firms like Aston Martin. "Tariffs are ultimately paid for by the consumer, and both manufacturers and consumers are waiting." He explained that firms could consider manufacturing their vehicles in the USA to avoid tariffs, but this was only likely to only be an option for larger manufacturers. Despite that, the firm's brand recognition remains a large part of its appeal.

Rashmika Mandanna and Vijay Deverakonda Elevate Manyavar Mohey's 'Made for Each Other' Into a Cultural #Virosh Phenomenon

2nd March 2026: Manyavar Mohey, India's quintessential wedding fashion brand, has onboarded Rashmika Mandanna and Vijay Deverakonda as its brand ambassadors for its new campaign, 'Made For Each Other.' This isn't just an ad; it's a high-energy, fashion-infused musical, giving 'Virosh' fans what they've been waiting for - a never-before-seen glimpse into the hilariously relatable banter and undeniable chemistry of the duo, leading to their ultimate 'Made for Each Other' moment. What begins as a stylish, synchronized twinning plan instantly ignites into an epic, lyrical show-down. The playful 'nok-jhok' erupts as Rashmika fires the first witty shot, "Twinning ka plan tha, yeh kya hai pehna", to which Vijay delivers an equally charming comeback, "Rizz kar raha hai tera hero, hai na?" The banter playfully escalates, culminating in a dramatic declaration: "Let's Cancel! Hum hain NOT Made for Each Other". Just when the audience settles into the



fun, rom-com style tension of 'will they or won't they', the music softens and the story turns tender. The transition from playful sparring to heartfelt confessions is beautifully captured as Vijay and Rashmika acknowledge their differences, only to reveal how those very distinctions strengthen their bond. It's a poignant testament that true connection thrives not despite differences, but often because of them. The campaign culminates in a breath-

taking visual spectacle, with Vijay exquisitely styled in a Manyavar Indo western ensemble and Rashmika resplendent in a Mohey lehenga, perfectly encapsulating the campaign's core message - Manyavar Mohey, Made For Each Other. Vedant Modi, Chief Revenue Officer, Vedant Fashions Limited, elaborated on the campaign's vision, "At Manyavar Mohey, we don't just dress weddings, we become a part of the memories that define them. Our

essence lies in being an indispensable part of those significant life milestones, crafting memories as enduring as our meticulous craftsmanship. Every piece we create is designed to celebrate the beauty of two unique personalities coming together. This campaign reflects that spirit. Rashmika and Vijay, with their effortless charm and relatability, were the perfect choice to bring this musical story to life. Through the campaign, we present wedding wear in a way that feels

modern, expressive and deeply rooted in India's celebratory culture, reaffirming our belief that with Manyavar Mohey, every couple truly is Made for Each Other." Sharing his thoughts, Vijay Deverakonda added, "Manyavar Mohey has always been about celebrating bonds that grow stronger through everyday moments, and that's exactly what this campaign represents. 'Made for Each Other' uses music to express every relationship, the fun disagreements, the unspoken connection and the comfort of togetherness. What I personally love is how modern, comfortable and effortless the outfits are while still being rooted in tradition." Rashmika Mandanna added "Manyavar Mohey has a beautiful way of celebrating weddings through emotion and storytelling, and that's what made this association special for me. The outfits are not just elegant and fashionable but also showcase incredible craftsmanship and attention to detail."

Iran strikes Qatar and Saudi energy sites as US jets shot down by Kuwaiti 'friendly fire'



fire" at the plant was now under control. It also said that the refinery had sustained "minor damage" from falling debris after the interception of "two drones in the refinery's vicinity". In a spate of breathtaking moments, the surge in oil and gas prices might appear another - not least as households around the world remain scarred by the spike in energy prices a few years ago. What could

the economics implications be? It depends on how far those prices go - and how long they remain elevated. But the impact of the current level of those prices suggests the impact could be relatively muted. Economists reckon that broadly, a sustained rise in oil prices of about 5% adds about 0.1% to inflation in major economies - so the current increase in crude costs would point to a rise of about

0.2% to inflation. But then there's gas futures to consider. They are now up more than 40% which, if sustained, may mean a considerable bump to energy bills (albeit not until the summer). Even so, we're a long way off the peak movements we saw during the war in Ukraine. As it stands, barring a more extensive surge in energy costs, the impact on inflation could be unhelpful - but not disas-

trous. However, these are early days, and much could change. Netanyahu tells reporters that the Iranian regime will "threaten all of humanity" if they are able to get nuclear weapons and the means to deliver them. "So we set out to protect ourselves, but in so doing we protect many others," he says during his visit to Beit Shemesh. "I want to say a special thanks to our great friend and a great leader of the world Donald Trump in joining us in this great effort to save the world." Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is currently speaking to reporters at the site of a fatal Iranian ballistic missile strike on Sunday. The blast, at Beit Shemesh - between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem - saw nine Israelis killed, including three teenagers. Iran state TV Channel Two has confirmed that Mansoureh Khojaste Bagherzadeh, wife of Iran's Supreme Leader Ali

Khamenei, has also been killed "at home". Iranian outlets had previously reported that Bagherzadeh was in a coma. Previously, Iranian media had said that Khamenei's daughter, grandchild and son-in-law have been killed. Khamenei and his wife had six children, four sons and two daughters. Earlier, we visited a school in Beirut that, since the very early hours of the morning, has turned into a shelter for the large number of displaced people who fled their houses for fear of being killed by the Israeli military campaign. We saw people in their pyjamas; others coming with a small bag containing all they could grab as they left their houses in a rush. A few had also brought their pets along. "I wouldn't leave them [the pets] behind. They are souls," a woman who left her house in southern Beirut alongside her three children told me. As we were there, news came of a new Israeli strike.

UK will allow US to use bases to strike Iranian missile sites, PM says



The UK has agreed to a US request to use British military bases for "defensive" strikes on Iranian missile sites, Sir Keir Starmer has said. But the prime minister said the UK had learned lessons from the "mistakes of Iraq", and was not involved in the initial strikes on Iran and "will not join offensive action now". The BBC understands the US is likely to use RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire and Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean for strikes on Iranian missile sites. The PM made the announcement, which the Telegraph reported US President Donald Trump said "took far too long", just hours before a British RAF base in Cyprus was hit by a drone strike on Sunday night with no casualties reported. Investigations are under way to establish where it was fired from. The attack at RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus took place at around midnight local time (22:00 GMT) with the MoD later saying that "minimal damage" was caused. In a video

statement released earlier on Sunday, Sir Keir said the basis of the decision to accept the US request was the "collective self-defence" of allies and protecting British lives, accusing Iran of pursuing a "scorched-earth strategy". The prime minister added the US would use UK bases for the "specific and limited defensive purpose" of destroying Iran's missiles "at source". He added that the move was in accordance with international law, and the UK government had published what it said was a summary of its legal advice. Trump, in an interview with the Telegraph.

MORE THAN 100,000 BRITONS REGISTER FOR HELP IN MIDDLE EAST



A total of 102,000 Britons have registered their presence in the Middle East with the UK government, as Iranian strikes continue across the region. Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper told the BBC there were an estimated 300,000 British citizens in Gulf countries, where much of the airspace is closed. She said many of those trapped were holiday-makers, passengers transiting through or people on business visits. Foreign Office sources said no evacuation was imminent but the government was preparing for potential scenarios if commercial flights remained grounded. British nationals in Bahrain, Israel, Kuwait, Palestine, Qatar and United Arab Emirates have been urged to register their presence to receive updates from the Foreign Office. The government has previously used registration schemes to provide urgent updates to people affected by international crises but the number of people and countries affected in this case is unprecedented. Cooper told BBC Breakfast the situation was "deeply stressful" for those affected. She urged people to follow local advice, which in most countries was to shelter in place. Asked if

the government was planning to launch an evacuation, Cooper said: "We are in close contact, for example, with the travel industry, with airline companies and airports and also with the governments in the region." She added: "But we will need to provide updates for people as we go along... That's why we're encouraging people to register their presence so we know where they are so we can get information to them swiftly." Cooper said that in previous similar situations the government had wanted to work with airline companies so people could fly home in the normal way. Layla Hamood and Matthew McGinn, who are on their honeymoon with their three-year-old son, are among those stuck in Dubai. The family have not left their hotel since the attacks started. "It's been terrifying to be honest," Layla told BBC Breakfast. "The bombing hasn't stopped. We can hear the missiles." She added: "No one knows what to do. We're in a limbo, we don't know how we can get home." Nearly half of the flights scheduled to depart from London Heathrow to the region on Sunday were cancelled, according to analytics company Cirium.

KIDNAPPING OF FOREIGNERS SOARS IN AFRICA'S LAWLESS SAHEL REGION



When Marin Petrovic arrived in Bamako in early September last year, he was elated. The Bosnian national had spent years applying for tourist visas to Mali, only to be repeatedly denied on security grounds. The West African country has long been afflicted by civil war, foreign military interventions, and Islamist insurgencies. "Now it was finally approved and I couldn't wait to start this trip," he wrote in Bosnian in

a public Instagram post on 15 November 2025. Petrovic declined to speak to the BBC for this article. The plan was to visit some of the country's dramatic landmarks, before returning home. In Bamako, Petrovic enjoyed the sights and sounds of markets, busy roads, schools, and even sampled some local beers, according to the post. "The next day I set off for Mopti, known for its 100-year-old mud mosque," he continued, referring to the Grand Mosque of Mopti, a 15m (49ft) tall architectural feat made from mud bricks. On Instagram, Petrovic describes himself as a "mountain rescue" expert and "guide", whose motto is not to "dream your life", but to "live your dream".

ALLIES OF US IN THE GULF BEAR BRUNT OF IRAN ATTACKS

In the clear blue skies above Abu Dhabi, white contrails streak high above the sand-coloured villas and well-watered gardens. These are no incoming Dreamliners or Airbuses bringing in the next manifest of tourists and guest workers. They are incoming ballistic missiles, launched by the Emirates' giant neighbour just across the Gulf. Iran. As of Sunday afternoon, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) defence ministry said it had so far "dealt with" 165 incoming ballistic missiles, two cruise missiles and 541 Iranian drones. In Bahrain, a friend alerted me on Sunday morning that the airport was under attack after having a sleepless night. "Woken by huge bangs and wailing siren," he texted. "I think



maybe around 20 booms and bangs. At least two hits". These are not familiar scenes in this region, but since this conflict began on Saturday morning, Iran appears to have expanded its target set from just hitting military targets, like the US Navy's 5th Fleet headquarters in Bahrain, to airports and other civilian sites. Now luxury hotels and

shopping malls, high-rise apartment blocks, state-of-the-art airport departure terminals are getting sporadically hit as gaps appear in the Arab states' air defences in the Gulf. These places were never built with the prospect in mind that they would one day come under attack from drones and ballistic missiles. Iran's Foreign Minister, Abbas

Aragchi, has denied targeting his country's neighbours, telling Al Jazeera: "We are not attacking our neighbours in the Persian Gulf countries, we are targeting the presence of the US in these countries. Neighbours should direct their grievances to the decision-makers of this war". Some of the damage to civilian infrastructure in the Gulf states is accidental - resulting from debris falling from intercepted missiles. But not all. The number of attacks on airports in Bahrain and the UAE point to more than coincidence. Iran always made it clear in advance that, if it was attacked, it would retaliate at any country it considered to be complicit in that attack.

ISRAEL STRIKES LEBANON AFTER HEZBOLLAH ROCKET FIRE AS IRAN CONFLICT WIDENS

Israel's military has said it has struck Hezbollah targets in Lebanon, after the Iranian-backed Shia group said it launched rockets and drones at the Israeli city of Haifa to avenge the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Lebanon's health ministry said 31 people were killed by Israeli strikes in Beirut's southern suburbs, where Hezbollah has a strong presence, and the country's south. There were no reports of casualties in Israel from Hezbollah's fire, which the group said was retaliation for Khamenei's "pure blood" and Israeli strikes in Lebanon since a cease-



fire ended a war between them 15 months ago. The Israeli defence minister vowed Hezbollah would pay a "heavy price". On Monday, Israel Katz said he had ordered the Israeli military to "act forcefully" against the group and that its leader Naim Qassem

was now a "marked target for assassination". Lebanese President Joseph Aoun denounced the Israeli strikes while also warning against turning Lebanon into a battleground for conflicts "that do not concern us". Later, Prime Minister Nawaf

Salam announced that his government was immediately banning Hezbollah's military activities in Lebanon in response to the rocket fire. It had been widely expected that Hezbollah, which has close financial and ideological ties to Iran, would join the conflict between Iran, Israel and the US. The conflict has spread quickly across the Middle East since the joint US-Israeli attack on Iran's leadership and armed forces on Saturday, with Iran responding by launching missiles and drones towards Israel and Gulf Arab states hosting US military bases.

Michael B Jordan upends Oscars race as Sinners wins big at Actor Awards



US actor Michael B Jordan has scored a surprise win at the Actor Awards, formerly known as the Screen Actors Guild Awards, giving him a surge of momentum in the final weeks before the Oscars. He was named best actor for his role in vampire horror film Sinners, which also scored the top prize of the night - best ensemble cast. "I don't even know where to begin, I wasn't expecting this at all," Jordan said in his speech, adding that he felt "so honoured and privileged" to have been nominated. Accepting the best ensemble prize, his co-star Delroy Lindo said making Sinners had been an "incredible journey", adding: "Every single day we brought ourselves, our hearts, our souls, to this endeavour." Lindo said: "To be recognised by you all, 'thank you' does not come anywhere near to encompassing what we feel, the gratitude." The awards for Sinners came a week after the Bafta Film Awards, where Jordan and Lindo were praised for their composure after Tourette's campaigner John Davidon involuntarily shouted a racial slur while the pair were on

stage. Other winners at the Actor Awards included Sean Penn (One Battle After Another) and Jessie Buckley (Hamnet), as well as a surprise supporting actress victory for Amy Madigan (Weapons) and a posthumous win for Catherine O'Hara (The Studio). In his acceptance speech, Jordan paid tribute to his mother Donna, who he has been bringing to events as his guest throughout awards season, for supporting his acting career from a young age. "Mom, thank you for driving me back and forth to New York when we didn't have enough money to go through the Harlem tunnel, when we were looking for gas money, parking spaces," he said. Jordan also thanked Sinners director Ryan Coogler and his co-stars, commenting: "Everybody that had something to do with this movie, you gave us your time and your talents and vulnerability and allowed me to do my best work." Voting for this year's Actor Awards ceremony closed on Friday, five days after the Baftas ceremony, where the N-word was shouted while Lindo and Jordan were on stage.

Could Kim's teen daughter become North Korea's next leader?

As North Korean leader Kim Jong Un threatened Seoul and vowed to continue expanding his sanctioned nuclear weapons programme at the party congress, the big question was whether his 13-year-old daughter would be anointed as his heir. That news, or any unquestionable indication of it, didn't materialise this week. But it has launched a debate about the young Kim Ju Ae's viability as the next leader for the country of 25 million - a dictatorship which has only ever been ruled by a member of the Kim family. The party congress, a key meeting of North Korean leaders and officials that takes place every five years, is usually watched closely for Kim's message to Seoul and Washington. But this time the focus shifted. Last week

Seoul's spy agency briefed lawmakers that it believes Kim has selected his daughter as his heir, and that she was seen giving her opinion on policy matters. Although she is becoming more visible alongside her father on state media, much about her remains a mystery. North Korea has never published her name or age. Her existence was first publicised when basketball star Dennis Rodman told The Guardian her name after his visit to Pyongyang in 2013. She is widely believed to be 13 years old partly based on estimates by intelligence reports. Seoul's spy agency had earlier said she has an older brother, but they have since distanced themselves from the assessment. "It was an intelligence failure," says Cheong Seong-chang, a North Korea watcher and



vice-president at Sejong Institute who was an early proponent of the theory that Ju Ae will become the heir. Cheong and other analysts now believe that Ju Ae is the oldest child and has a nine-year-old sister. She first appeared in public in a state TV report in 2022, holding her father's hand while inspecting North Korea's latest missile. Cheong says her TV appearances - where she is placed in the centre of the

frame and the state media's description of her as "the respected child" - are the clearest sign that she has become the official heir. "The state media is using words reserved for the supreme leader. It underlines her own cult of personality." Her proximity to the country's military is another sign, Cheong adds. She inspected troops and weapons alongside her father. Several times, the top

generals were seen kneeling beside her to whisper in her ear as she sat with her father watching military parades. Kim Jong Un's power rests in his control of the military, Cheong explains. If Ju Ae were to succeed him, she would need to appear as a credible military commander. When inspecting troops with her father, she dons the same long black leather coat and dark sunglasses that he wears. When Kim Jong Un inherited power, it happened rather suddenly. He only appeared publicly a year before his father's passing. Cheong believes Kim is trying to avoid such a rapid transition by introducing Ju Ae early to the regime and the public. There is no evidence that Kim Jong Un is suffering from ill health, aside from references to his weight, smoking and drink-

ing habits. But Kim might be trying to appoint his heir early to avoid a succession crisis, according to Cheong. However, former North Korean official Ryu Hyunwoo sees little possibility of a woman ruling over the country. Ryu, who served as a diplomat before defecting in 2019, says the North Korean legal code, created by the Kim family, requires the country to be run by a person of the Paektu bloodline - in other words, a direct descendant of the country's founder Kim Il Sung. Although Ju Ae is of the bloodline, North Korea's patriarchal system would not see her as being of the bloodline, Ryu says. Women at every level struggle to be treated equally in North Korea. Female officials are rare and female military commanders are even rarer.



"WHAT SORT OF CALL IS THAT?"

Australia Great Unhappy With Umpiring In India vs West Indies T20 World Cup 2026 Virtual Quarter-Final

Australia great Matthew Hayden was not too pleased with the umpiring in the India vs West Indies T20 World Cup 2026 Super 8 Group 1 match. On the fourth ball of the 19th over bowled by Arshdeep Singh, Hayden called out on-field umpire Alex Wharf. Arshdeep delivered one outside off-stump, but the umpire initially did not signal it a wide - much to Hayden's dismay in the commentary box. "That has to be a wide. What sort of call is that? Has to be some action there," Hayden said. Replays confirmed the umpire had erred. Talking about the match, Sanju Samson led India's recovery with captain Suryakumar Yadav in support as India reached 98/2 at the halfway mark of their chase of 196 in a must-win encounter. India need another 98 runs from 60 balls to make the semifinals. Samson smashed



three sixes and six fours to bring up a 26-ball fifty and was unbeaten on 54, while Suryakumar was on 18 not out. The duo added 57 runs for the unbroken third wicket. Suryakumar also survived a chance when

Gudakesh Motie failed to hold on to a tough return catch in the 10th over. Having lost two key wickets inside the powerplay, India were 53/2 after six overs, but Samson and Suryakumar stabilised the

innings, maintaining the run rate around 10 per over. West Indies executed a clear attacking blueprint in their virtual quarter-final, riding on Roston Chase's foundation before launching a late assault to

post an imposing 195/4. Chase, making full use of two reprieves, struck a fluent 40 off 25 balls while adding 68 runs for the opening wicket with Shai Hope (32 off 33). The pair provided solid early momentum with a measured yet proactive approach. India clawed back briefly when Jasprit Bumrah delivered a double strike in the 12th over to halt the charge, but the respite did not last long. Rovman Powell (34 not out off 19; 3x4, 2x6) and Jason Holder (37 not out off 22; 2x4, 3x6) launched a ferocious counter-attack, stitching together an unbeaten 76-run partnership for the fifth wicket off just 35 balls to provide the perfect finishing flourish. India bowled Bumrah in short bursts and held him back for the death overs despite his impact in the middle phase. The strategy, however, misfired,

Mitchell Starc Emotional As Alyssa Healy Slams Ton In Final ODI For Australia

In the annals of Australian cricket, Alyssa Healy is a name that will be etched permanently. Healy bid an emotional farewell to white-ball international cricket with a breathtaking 158-run knock in the third and final match at Bellerive Oval in Hobart on Sunday. The 35-year-old wicketkeeper-batter had earlier confirmed that the bilateral series against India would mark the conclusion of her 16-year international career. Australia, asked to bat first in the final ODI, were chasing a clean sweep against the touring Indian side. Healy was greeted with a guard of honour as she walked to the crease. She wasted no time asserting her dominance, striking 27 fours and two sixes in a quickfire 98-ball knock that helped Australia reach an imposing 409/7. Her teammate Beth Mooney also contributed an unbeaten 106 off 84 balls, ensuring the hosts



crossed the 400-run mark. Alyssa Healy's husband and Australia skipper Mitchell Starc was present in the stands when she reached the milestone. He was visibly emotional after Healy's feat. Healy, who debuted for Australia at 19 in February 2010, finishes her ODI career with over 3,500 runs. In T20 internationals, she amassed 3,054 runs at an average of 25.45, including a career-best 148 not out - the highest

individual T20I score among Full Member nations. She holds the record for the most T20I dismissals (as wicketkeeper) globally and ranks second in appearances for Australia in the format. Her glittering career includes six T20 World Cup triumphs (2010, 2012, 2014, 2018, 2020, 2023) and two ODI World Cup titles (2013, 2022). Healy was also recognised as the ICC T20I Cricketer of the Year in both 2018 and 2019.

"Dukhi Mat Ho Bhai": Rohit Sharma Gave Golden Advice To Sanju Samson When He Was Dropped

India wicket-keeper batter Sanju Samson's journey up to the match-winning 97 against West Indies has been nothing short of a rollercoaster. Despite being India's first-choice T20I opener for more than a year, Samson found himself out of India's playing XI at the start of the tournament after Ishan Kishan's impressive form. However, now Samson has grabbed his second chance with both hands. Following his incredible knock against West Indies, a pep talk given to him by former India captain Rohit Sharma went viral on social media. Rohit had been present at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai ahead of India's opening game of the tourna-



ment against the United States of America (USA). However, Samson did not feature in India's playing XI. This was when Rohit walked up to Samson to offer him support. "Kaisa hai? Dukhi mat ho bhai. It is a long tournament, kabhi bhi mauka aa sakta hai ("How are you? Don't be dis-

heartened. It is a long tournament. The opportunity can come at any moment," Rohit had said to Samson, as revealed in a video posted by the official Instagram account of the International Cricket Council (ICC). Rohit's words have turned out to be true. Samson was able to make a return to the

team following India's defeat to South Africa. While he played a fiery cameo in India's win over Zimbabwe, he then smashed an innings against the West Indies that will go down in Indian cricket folklore. Samson also paid tribute to Rohit and Virat Kohli after the match. "Playing IPL for around 10 to 12 years and being with the Indian team for the last 10 years... I have not always been playing, but I was looking from the dugout, learning from greats like Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma. It was very important to observe, learn, and see what they were doing," Samson said after master-minding India's highest-successful run chase in T20 World Cup history.

Arvid Lindblad Opens Up: UNO With Lewis Hamilton, Advice From Max Verstappen And Embracing Indian Culture

Arvid Lindblad is Formula 1's newest sensation. At just 18, he is set to drive for Racing Bulls, the sister team of multiple-time F1 world champions Red Bull Racing. While his mercurial talent has seen him shoot up the racing ladder in no time, his journey holds a special appeal to India, with his maternal roots tracing back to Punjab. Lindblad made a special visit to India just a week before his long-awaited F1 debut, for the Red Bull Moto Jam event, and spoke candidly on his Indian heritage and on the potential return of the Indian Grand Prix. He also shared his thoughts on tackling the 2026 regulations, handling pressure, going shoulder-to-shoulder with the likes of Max



Verstappen and Lewis Hamilton, and the influence of former Red Bull advisor Helmut Marko on his career. On 2026 regulations While the brand new F1 car regulations for the 2026 season have been described as "GP2" by some experienced, Lindblad shared insights

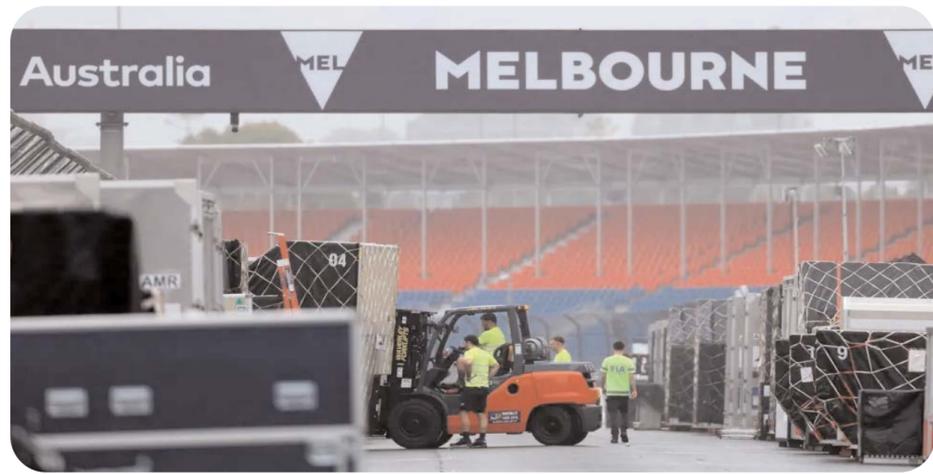
driving to what I've got." "You could argue it's easier because it's slower, but I think it's much more complicated now. Because there's a lot more new elements, a lot more things you have to be aware of whilst driving." Handling pressure as a rookie Lindblad enters the F1 2026 season as the only rookie on the grid. The 18-year-old never doubted his capability to be among motorsport's very best. Arvid Lindblad: "To be honest, from when I started this journey when I was five, I always believed I could be in Formula One, and that was always what I was working towards. That was always what it was gonna be, that was always what I was working towards."

SIX NATIONS TROPHY TO BE REPLACED AFTER FIRE DAMAGE



The Six Nations trophy is to be "retired from ceremonial use" and replaced after being damaged by fire in an accident during transit. The trophy was damaged after round three of the tournament, when the vehicle carrying it was involved in an incident, according to a statement, external on the Six Nations website. No passengers were injured but the trophy sustained "fire damage" in the aftermath and the manufacturers decided it cannot be restored to its former state. An "identical exhibition trophy" will be used for the remainder of the championship, with a new one being commissioned in time for the 2027 Six Nations. "Whilst in transit during round three of the Guinness Men's Six Nations, an incident occurred involving the vehicle carrying the championship trophy," the statement reads. "Thankfully no passengers were injured, however the trophy sus-

tained fire damage and following an assessment by the official trophy manufacturer, unfortunately it cannot be restored to its full presentation standard. "In keeping with these presentation standards, respect for the significance of winning the Six Nations - one of sport's most prestigious titles - and to preserve the integrity of the trophy and its heritage, it will be retired from ceremonial use." The trophy, which is 75cm tall and made of silver, was created in 2015 to reflect the tournament's evolution to six teams after Italy joined the fold in 2000. Current holders France are favourites to retain their crown after winning the opening three games of this year's tournament. "Whilst this accident is hugely unfortunate, the situation adds another chapter to the history of a trophy that represents one of global sport's most celebrated tournaments, with its roots reaching back to 1883.



Australian Grand Prix to feel 'no impact' of travel chaos

ENGLAND 'GIVEN REASSURANCES' OVER SAFETY IN TURKEY

Manager Sarina Wiegman says England have been given reassurances there are no safety concerns about their Women's World Cup qualifier against Ukraine being held in Turkey as the conflict in the Middle East widens. The Lionesses play in Antalya at 17:00 GMT on Tuesday because Ukraine are unable to play in their home country as a result of the war with Russia, which is in its fifth year. On Saturday the US attacked Iran as part of a joint operation with Israel, sparking retaliatory strikes across the Middle East. The Iranian regime has responded with attacks on US assets and countries in the region with a US military presence, including Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Iraq. Turkey borders Iran and Iraq and is close to Cyprus, where an Iranian drone crashed into a British RAF base on Sunday. Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon have also exchanged strikes. "Yes, we did have reassurances. We are in close contact with the government and the people here that are responsible," said Wiegman. "We're fine here but we're keeping an eye on it. We're in contact all the time with the responsible



authorities. "Of course, you're concerned about what's happening in the world. When we think, or our government thinks it's unsafe, we will go back. At this moment, we don't have signals of that." England travelled to Turkey last Wednesday for a training camp but it is unclear how many fans will attend the match following the weekend's developments, with some supporters and several media outlets already choosing to withdraw. Wiegman says the fact

Ukraine are having to host the match in Turkey because of conflict in their home country following Russia's invasion is "really sad". "We have great facilities here and the climate is really good so we can prepare really well. But the reason we're here is not nice," she added. "You want Ukraine to be able to play in their home country. They had to travel a lot themselves to get here. The things they have in front of them in their country is really horrible. "We hope this game unites a bit. It's a chance for Ukraine to show themselves to the world in another way where hopefully football unites and brings some joy." England are in a group with Ukraine, Iceland and Spain, with only the top team qualifying automatically for the 2027 Women's World Cup in Brazil. Midfielder Georgia Stanway hopes England can get off to a winning start this week when they face Ukraine, before hosting Iceland at the City Ground on Saturday. "Our main task is to qualify as fast as possible but we also understand the process behind it and what it takes to get to a Euros and a World Cup," said Stanway. "We know it's super difficult.

WHAT CAN PLAYERS AND CLUBS DO ABOUT 'AI SLOP'?



You do not have to look far on social media to find images and videos of footballers in unlikely or bizarre situations. Scroll through TikTok and you may soon stumble across Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo cutting each other's hair, or boarding the Titanic in Edwardian dress. You might even see Kylian Mbappe on a ski-lift with a turtle. This is the result of the exponential growth of artificial intelligence (AI). Or, more precisely, AI 'slop'. AI can be asked to deliver pretty much anything. By anyone. The tools are becoming ever more sophisticated and easily accessible. It will become even harder to spot what is real and what is, in AI terms, deepfake. It may seem, for the most part, like harmless fun. After all, who really thinks Messi and Ronaldo have been serving burgers? But is there a point at which players and clubs will try to draw the line? Options are limited for players to take action as football has become a commercial juggernaut, players and clubs have had to learn how to look after their brands. That could be by protecting

the club crest or challenging the use of a player's name in unauthorised promotional material. Take Chelsea midfielder Cole Palmer, who has trademarked the term 'Cold Palmer' with the UK government's Intellectual Property Office. The 23-year-old did the same with his name, autograph and signature 'shivering' celebration. Creating protections is one thing. Being able to tackle this new AI world of relentless content is another. In the UK there is limited legislation covering someone's likeness. Or, as it is called in football, image rights. Jonty Cowan, legal director at law firm Wiggin LLP, told BBC Sport that AI was presenting "lots of novel challenges". "Various governments around the world are trying to figure out... how do we react to AI?" said Cowan. AI is being used to put players into real-life scenarios, as well as those more obviously fake. Take the unveilings of Antoine Semenyo and Marc Guehi by Manchester City in January. The club's official photographs show each player with director of football Hugo Viana.

Suriya's next Officially Titled 'Vishwanath & Sons' - Directed by Venky Atluri & Produced by Suryadevara Naga Vamsi

The much-anticipated #Suriya46 has been officially titled Vishwanath & Sons, a name that instantly reflects the essence of a classy, pure family drama. The first look posters, featuring Suriya alongside a child, radiate warmth and nostalgia, bringing back the beloved vintage charm of the star and offering delightful vibes to audiences. Touted as one of the biggest family drama spectacles, the film boasts a powerful ensemble cast including Mamitha Baiju, Radhika Sarathkumar, Raveena Tandon and others. The film is directed by blockbuster filmmaker Venky Atluri, who is currently riding high on consecutive successes with Lucky Baskhar, SIR/Vaathi. Known for his distinctive storytelling and emotionally rich writing, he promises yet another memorable cinematic experience. The film has successfully wrapped up its shoot and is gearing up for a grand worldwide release this July. The teaser will be unveiled soon, adding to the growing excitement. The film brings together a top-tier technical team, elevating its cinematic canvas to the highest standard. Captivating music is composed by G. V. Prakash Kumar, while the visuals are crafted with finesse by cinematographer Nimish Ravi. Editing is handled by Navin Nooli and the film's rich production design is being handled by Banglan, promising an immersive



and authentic world on screen. Riding high on back-to-back successes like Vaathi / Sir and Lucky Baskhar, producer Suryadevara Naga Vamsi along with Sai Soujanya is bringing yet another promising Tamil-Telugu

venture. Bankrolled under the prestigious banners of Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas, the film is presented by Srikara Studios, further adding strength and scale to this ambitious project.

Saampradayini Suppini Suddapoosani" is a Perfect Film for a Theatrical Experience: Director Sudheer Sriram

After classic entertainers like Missamma, Adirindayya Chandram, and Tata Birla Madhyala Laila, the popular pair Shivaji and Laya are coming together for the film Saampradayini Suppini Suddapoosani. Following the successes of Little Hearts and Raju Weds Rambayi, this film is being presented in association with ETV Win by noted producers Bunny Vasu and Vamsi Nandipati. The recently released trailer has significantly raised expectations. Touted as a crime-comedy family thriller, the film is being produced under the Sri Shivaji Productions banner by hero Shivaji himself and directed by Sudheer Sriram. The movie is set for a worldwide release on the 6th of this month. On this occasion, director Sudheer Sriram interacted with the media. Here are the highlights:



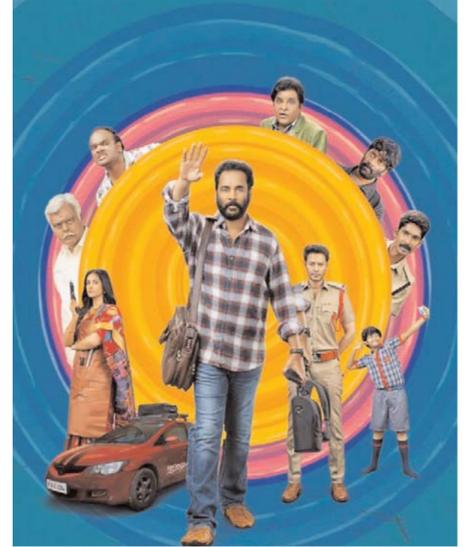
film's director Venkat Ramji (Ramji) is my mentor and like a godfather to me. Because of him, I stand before you today as a director.

What is your background? I am from Kadapa. My father was a postmaster. I have loved films since childhood and always dreamed of gaining recognition like a film celebrity. After watching Happy Days, I completed my engineering. I've been in the film industry since 2015 and worked in the direction department for several films. I worked on Evaru, starring Adivi Sesh. The

Why did you choose Shivaji garu as the hero? When I saw Shivaji garu in 90s films, he reminded me of my father. While narrating stories, I felt I should approach him with this one. When I narrated Saampradayini Suppini Suddapoosani, he immediately said he would produce it himself. That made me extremely happy.

SIVAJI'S SSS RELEASE TRAILER: COMPLETE FUN BLAST WITH RELATABLE MOMENTS

Saampradayini Suppini Suddapoosani is gearing up to entertain audiences in theatres on March 6, 2026. Starring Sivaji and Laya, the film is directed by Sudheer Sriram and backed in distribution by Bunny Vas and Vamsi Nandipati. The combination of ETV Win, Bunny Vas Works and Vamsi Nandipati Entertainments has raised expectations among moviegoers. The trailer highlights the film's core strength, its unabashed comedy. Packed with humorous situations, witty exchanges, and exaggerated misunderstandings, the preview assures a clean entertainer suitable for all audiences. The trailer showcases the crazy family of Sivaji, Laya and Rohan. The fun situations, crazy moments and relatable life of proper middle class family connects. Sivaji appears completely at ease, balancing humor with subtle emotional beats. The crime angle adds spice to the narrative, especially through interesting road journeys, chase from police and goons and a lot more madness. Fast cuts, chaotic situations, and comic timing ensure that the tension never overshadows the fun. Instead, the chase sequences amplify the laughter. Laya's dynamic and slightly eccentric character promises to be a major talking point. With strong promotional buzz and confident distribution, the film looks



ready to deliver a complete package of thrills and comedy on the big screen. The release trailer also intro-

duces Prince Cecil, Ali, Kamalakar, Dhanraj, Jabardasth Emmanuel and others in key roles.

SUVARNA TEXTILES TEASER RELEASED



The teaser of "Suvarna Textiles", a film written and directed by Prashanth Namini and starring Shivakumar Ramachandraravaru, Deborah Doris Fell, Rajasekhar Aningi and Vikramaditya Dambar in the lead roles, was recently released. The film, which is being made as a youth entertainer, is being produced by producer Anil Irugudindla under the banners of A.Y.V. Productions and Sanatana Creations. Director Venu Udagula released the teaser of the film at Prasad Lab on Sunday. On this occasion... Hero Sivakumar said... Currently, he is working with NTR in Dragon, which is being directed by Prashanth Neel... He will definitely collect 2 thousand crores... If you see how Tarak is thin and walks in the desert wearing glasses, Tarak will be on the next level. When it comes to this movie.. He ran in the streets of Hi-Tech City wearing a

nightie. Director Prashanth Namini has a good zeal. He made the movie with a lot of passion. He will definitely like it. The youth will like it very much. He said that if you watch the teaser, it will not disappoint anyone. Director Venu Udagula said... The teaser is very good. If the film is made the way it is, it will be a movie that everyone will talk about. He said that Prashanthnamini will become a good director with this film. Hero Sohail said... Prashanth has been familiar to me since long. He first told me this story. But I didn't have the courage to do this genre myself. Seeing this teaser, it seems to connect well with the youth. All the best Prashanth Namini said. Director Prashanth Namini said... This is a new genre. Even though it has some adult content... this is a film worth watching with the family, he concluded. Film producer Anil Irugudindla, actor Lobo and others participated in the event.

ANKITA LOKHANDE SAYS RAMZAN IS A 'REMINDER OF PATIENCE, PEACE, COMPASSION'



Mumbai: Television superstar Ankita Lokhande took to her social media account to extend her warm wishes on the occasion of Ramadan. She shared a graceful video of herself dressed in a red traditional outfit, adorned with gold detailing and statement jewellery. The actress, through her post, conveyed the message of peace and compassion, reflecting the spirit of the holy month. She captioned the post as, "Ramadan is a reminder of patience, peace and compassion. To every soul fasting across the world, may this month fulfil your heartfelt wishes. Prayers and love from India." Recently, the actress along with her husband Vicky Jain had performed the Bhaktambar Pooja,

after which she said that she felt extremely peaceful and blessed. For the uninitiated, Bhaktambar Puja is a sacred Jain ceremony centered around the devotional chanting and reverence of the Bhaktambar Stotra, a revered 7th-century hymn composed by Acharya Mantunga. Ankita had taken to her social media account, where she shared a few glimpses from the pooja and wrote, "We performed Bhaktambar Puja, and once again I felt how powerful it is when a married couple prays together." She added, "There is a different kind of peace that comes when two souls sit side by side and offer something meaningful to God — it calms the heart, settles the mind, and nourishes the soul."

Varalaxmi Sarathkumar – Naveen Chandra's Love Song from 'Police Complaint' Launched

The upcoming action thriller Police Complaint stars talented South Indian actress Varalaxmi Sarathkumar and versatile actor Naveen Chandra in lead roles. Produced by Balakrishna Maharana under the MSK Pramida Sri Films banner, the film is directed by Sanjeev Megoti.

A beautiful melodious love song titled "Prema O Prema", picturized on Varalaxmi Sarathkumar and Naveen Chandra, has been officially launched by senior journalist Prabhu. The song has been released through Anwika audios. The music for "Prema O Prema" is composed by Sudhakar Mario. Director Sanjeev Megoti expressed confidence that the song will strongly connect with



youth audiences, trend widely, and earn a place among super hit love songs. He described the film as a horror thriller blended with an out-and-out action entertainer. The movie is designed as a complete action thriller

with elements of action, comedy, and romance. Apart from Varalaxmi Sarathkumar and Naveen Chandra, the film also features Krishna Sai, Ragini Dwivedi, Aditya Om, Ravi Shankar, Srinivasa Reddy, Saptagiri, Sharath

Lohithaswa, Gemini Suresh, Dil Ramesh, and several others. Nearly 52 senior artists have acted in this action-packed entertainer.

The cinematography is handled by S.N. Harish, while the action sequences choreographed by Dragon Prakash and Ravi Teja are expected to be major highlights. The roles played by Varalaxmi Sarathkumar, Naveen Chandra, and Ragini Dwivedi are said to be completely different from their previous films. The film has recently completed its censor formalities and is gearing up for release soon.

The makers are confident that Police Complaint will entertain audiences with its unique blend of thrills, romance, action, and horror elements.

HINDI ZEE5 DROPS TRAILER OF JAB KHULI KITAAB:

Pankaj Kapur & Dimple Kapadia Redefine Mature Love in This Unconventional Love Story and What A Treat It Is

Applause Entertainment presents a Shoestrap Films Production, Jab Khuli Kitaab, based on the original play of the same name by writer and director, Saurabh Shukla. Hindi ZEE5 unveiled the trailer of its upcoming film Jab Khuli Kitaab today, offering audiences a heartfelt, humorous, and refreshingly honest glimpse into one of the most poignant portrayals of mature love on screen. Written and directed by Saurabh Shukla and led by the stellar pairing of Pankaj Kapur and Dimple Kapadia, the film delves into the emotional complexities of a five-decade-long marriage disrupted by a truth long buried in silence. The trail-

er offers a window into the quiet, familiar world of Gopal [Pankaj Kapur] and Anusuya [Dimple Kapadia], a couple bound by 50 years of shared routines, memories, and silent understanding. Their seemingly peaceful life takes an unexpected turn when Anusuya reveals a long-buried secret, shaking the very core of their relationship. Struggling to come to terms with the revelation, Gopal finds himself torn between heartbreak and dignity, eventually choosing to pursue divorce. Their story leads them to a young lawyer, played by Aparshakti Khurana, where difficult conversations begin to unravel years of unspoken emotions, lingering pain, and buried affec-



tion. As memories resurface and truth come to light, the trailer unfolds as a moving and nuanced portrayal of love tested by time. With its blend of sensitivity, warmth, and honesty, it promises a compelling story

about relationships, forgiveness, and the strength required to confront the past and rediscover connection. Blending gentle humor with effortlessly flowing moments, the film stays light on its feet and ulti-

mately makes for a genuinely enjoyable watch. Talking about his character Gopal, Pankaj Kapur said, "What makes Jab Khuli Kitaab truly special is Saurabh Shukla's vision. It's rare to find a filmmaker who chooses to shine a spotlight on older, mature love — and to do it with such honesty, humour, and tenderness. Saurabh has crafted a narrative that is not only refreshing, but deeply real. He reminds us that love doesn't fade with age; it evolves, it complicates, it bruises, and it heals. It was a rewarding challenge to portray a man rediscovering love in the most unexpected way; I'm grateful to be part of a story that treats this stage of life with such

dignity, authenticity, and emotional depth." Dimple Kapadia on playing Anusuya said, "What makes Jab Khuli Kitaab truly special is Saurabh Shukla's vision. It's rare to find a filmmaker who chooses to shine a spotlight on older, mature love — and to do it with such honesty, humour, and tenderness. Saurabh has crafted a narrative that is not only refreshing, but deeply real. He reminds us that love doesn't fade with age; it evolves, it complicates, it bruises, and it heals. It was a rewarding challenge to portray a man rediscovering love in the most unexpected way; I'm grateful to be part of a story that treats this stage of life with such