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Government of India



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**2.5+ crore** covered under PM Suraksha Bima Yojana and **54+ lakh** under Atal Pension Yojana, strengthening accidental coverage and financial security

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**DEVELOPED TAMIL NADU  
FOR DEVELOPED INDIA  
MODI GOVERNMENT'S RESOLVE**

“Our goal is a developed Tamil Nadu for developed India. The Central Government remains fully committed to enabling inclusive development and the state's progress.”

-Prime Minister Narendra Modi



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# EDITORIAL

## How India Should Navigate A 'New' Nepal

On March 5, 2026, Nepal went to the polls in a snap general election for its 275-member House of Representatives, the first electoral test after the tumultuous protests of September 2025 that forced the resignation of then Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli. The vote, held amid intense political ferment, drew roughly 60% turnout from over 18.9 million registered voters, including nearly one million first-time Gen Z voters. The verdict has been nothing short of transformative. The four-year-old Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), led by rapper-turned-politician Balendra Shah - widely known as Balen - delivered a stunning performance, capturing 120 of the 165 first-past-the-post seats and emerging as the largest force in proportional representation with 49.14% of the vote. This places the party on course to command around 180 seats overall, a decisive majority. The election simultaneously marked the collapse of Nepal's traditional political order. The once-dominant Nepali Congress was reduced to 17 seats, a fall of seventy-two from 2022, while the Communist Party of Nepal - Unified Marxist-Leninist (CPN-UML) secured only seven seats, down seventy-one. The Nepal Communist Party (NCP) also slipped to seven seats. Smaller formations such as the Shram Sanskriti Party managed three seats, while the Rastriya Prajatantra Party and a handful of independents secured single victories. The symbolism of the moment was underlined in Jhapa-5, where Shah defeated Oli himself-an outcome widely read as the electorate's repudiation of the entrenched political elite. Finalised by 8 March, the results effectively clear the path for an RSP-led government, most likely under Shah's leadership, bringing to an end a prolonged cycle of instability that has produced fourteen governments in seventeen years.

Several factors converged to produce this dramatic political shift. At the heart of the upheaval lay the Gen Z protests of 2025, triggered by Oli's controversial decision to ban 26 social media platforms, a move widely perceived as an attempt to silence youth dissent. The ban collided with mounting frustrations over youth unemployment - exceeding 20 per cent among those aged 15-24 - and a steady exodus of talent, with roughly 1,500 Nepalis leaving the country daily. What began as online activism under hashtags such as #NepoKid, targeting corruption and dynastic politics, quickly spilled onto the streets. The "Day of Rage" protests of September 8-9 in 2025 left 76 people dead and more than 2,000 injured, precipitating Oli's resignation and the dissolution of parliament on 12 September 2025. An interim administration led by Sushila Karki-Nepal's first female prime minister-oversaw the transition to elections. The broader political context amplified the revolt. Since the democratic opening of the 1990s, Nepali politics has largely revolved around the Congress-UML axis, but persistent factionalism and corruption scandals have steadily eroded public confidence. Against this backdrop, the RSP successfully projected itself as a vehicle of generational change. Shah's profile - cultivated during his tenure as mayor of Kathmandu - combined anti-corruption rhetoric with a populist appeal rooted in digital mobilisation. The party's centrist-liberal platform, promising transparency, institutional reform and economic revitalisation, resonated strongly in youth-heavy constituencies such as Jhapa-5, where turnout surged. The fragmentation of the political field-143 parties and over 3,400 candidates-further advantaged the RSP, whose social media-driven campaign proved adept at aggregating protest sentiment, even absorbing smaller reformist groups such as the Bibeksheel Sajha Party. For Nepal, the implications of this verdict are both promising and uncertain. The RSP's dominance signals a generational reset in a political system long criticised for stagnation. Its manifesto promises anti-corruption commissions, greater transparency and youth representation in governance, reflecting the aspirations of the protest movement that propelled it to power.

## The One Big Reason This Indian T20i Team Is A Nightmare For The Rest

It was fitting in a way to see that the first two Indian cricketers being interviewed together on the field after India's mind-bogglingly one-sided thrashing of the Kiwis in the final of the T20 World Cup were Abhishek Sharma and Varun Chakravarty. Over the course of the two must-win knockout matches that India played in the tournament (the virtual quarter-final against the Windies and the semi-final vs England) before the final, the Indian T20 juggernaut that had struck fear in the hearts of the rest of the cricket playing world over the last two years was well and truly up and running again, finding that crucial element that fuels T20 teams more than any other - momentum. The only two big question marks that remained ahead of the summit clash were hanging heavy on Abhishek and Varun. Ironically, for many, the top-ranked T20i batter and bowler in the world didn't deserve a place in the playing XI for the final. Those of us who have followed Indian cricket for years knew that the team management would never tinker with a winning combination, regardless of form concerns for a couple of key players and that too just before the last match of the tournament. India went in with an unchanged XI, and Abhishek had a great day in the office, while Varun, though expensive, was amongst the wickets. And with that, almost every box was ticked for a national team that represents a country which became the first to win three men's T20 World Cup titles. The records that were made and broken, of course, don't just end there. India has also become the first team to successfully defend the title and also the first host nation (co-hosts this time with Sri Lanka) to win the cup. But these records will be merely of academic interest in the corridors of power of Indian cricket. The biggest takeaway of this World Cup win will be a crown that was not amongst the prizes that were handed out on Sunday night - that of being hands-down the best and most ruthless T20i machine in world cricket. One that is so far ahead of the others that a single blip, like the shock loss vs South Africa in the Super Eights, is viewed as a major catastrophe. India had absolutely dominated bilateral T20i cricket from after the 2024 edition of the World Cup (in which they were unbeaten) till before the beginning of this edition, winning eight consec-



utive bilateral T20i series. Everyone knew what this team was capable of. But a World Cup title is the final, biggest seal of approval and stamp of authority. Suryakumar Yadav might have become the third Indian captain - after MS Dhoni and Rohit Sharma - but his team has become perhaps the first T20i set of players who are not just world champions, but the absolute bosses of the shortest format of the game on the international stage. The one thing that I fervently stressed on while doing a pre-match analysis was Team India's big-match temperament. In my mind, there is a gulf the size of the Antarctic Ocean between India and every other team when it comes to the mental toughness that is required to play a World Cup final, regardless of what happened just before that or how they got there. Remember how the men in blue struggled a bit in the initial stages of the tournament, even against "minnows" and were searching for that "complete game", that absolutely clinical performance that was expected of the top-ranked T20i team in the world that had blown away all opposition in its path? We didn't really see that happen consistently in the league stage as such (though the win against Pakistan was not a nerve-wracking one), and neither in the Super Eights (India lost to South Africa, and even

Zimbabwe made 184 against Surya and co.). Every Indian cricket fan had their hearts in their mouths in the second semi-final, where England, thanks to a blitzkrieg of a knock by Jacob Bethell (105 off 48), almost chased down a mammoth 254-run target. But in the final, facing a team they had never beaten before in the history of the tournament (NZ had a 3-0 win-loss record against India at the men's T20 World Cup before this final), we were served a performance that was so clinical - in both the batting and bowling departments (the fielding, especially catching needs to be worked on) - that the contest (if it can be called that) had lost all its sting inside the first 10 overs of the second innings and incredibly bordered on being "boring". The final result? A huge 96-run win for India that meant that the trophy that was won back in 2024 was not going anywhere. Who would have envisaged this almost complete performance and show of dominance when in their first match of the tournament India were reduced to 77/6 against the USA, or when Namibia, ranked 15th in the ICC T20i team rankings topped nine Indian wickets or when the Netherlands managed to get up to 176/7, with India winning that encounter by just 17 runs, or when South Africa shot out the overwhelming pre-tournament

favourites for just 111, handing them a 76 run loss? Even if India were to win, it wasn't going to be easy. South Africa had emerged as serious title contenders - just like they did in 2024. And just like in 2024, we knew that if India had to win the title, they would have to find a way to beat Aiden Markram and his team. An India vs South Africa final seemed almost destined to happen. And then the almost unthinkable happened. The Proteas were hit by the Allen-Seifert storm in the first semi-final. It was a play so much out of left field that it stunned even the staunchest of Kiwi supporters. An unbeaten 33-ball century - the first century ever in a T20 World Cup knockout match, and that too the fastest, a 117-run first wicket stand, a more than comfortable nine-wicket win inside 13 overs against a tournament favourite that had humbled the mighty Indian T20i cavalcade! Let no one tell you any different - nobody saw this coming. And just like that, South Africa had been eliminated, and with that, India's biggest bogey team had been shown the door. Regardless of what the overall head-to-head statistics might have been against New Zealand before this final, if there was a poll run on who Indian fans would like to see on the opposite side in the final between South Africa and New Zealand, I can bet the majority of the fans would have voted for the latter choice.

## THE HUNGER FOR FOLLOWERS AND THE AUCTION OF RELATIONSHIPS



The digital age has opened new doors to expression. The internet and social media have given everyone the opportunity to reach the world. While previously limited sources of information and entertainment, today anyone can create videos, write blogs, and reach millions of people using their mobile phones. This change is both democratic and inspiring. But with every change comes new challenges. Today, in the world of social media, popularity has a new definition—followers, likes, shares, and views. The higher these numbers, the more successful a person is considered. This competition has led many content creators to a path where even the confines of personal life are becoming part of their content. In the past few years, a new trend has rapidly emerged—bringing family feuds and personal conflicts to the camera and sharing them on social media. Husband-wife disputes, sibling conflicts, mother-in-law-daughter-in-law squabbles, or even small internal family arguments—things that were previously resolved within the confines of the home—are now being broadcast to millions of viewers in the form of videos and posts. Many YouTubers and bloggers call this "real life content." They argue that viewers want to see reality. But the question is: is it necessary to make every real event public? Is it appropriate to expose personal relationships to the curiosity of viewers? In fact, social media algorithms also encourage this trend. Content that evokes controversy, emotional reactions, or sensation-

alism tends to go viral faster. People comment more on such videos, offering their opinions, and sometimes even arguing for or against them. This is why some creators deliberately choose topics that can stir up emotions. Unfortunately, sometimes these conflicts are genuine, and the privacy of family members is at stake. A minor dispute can be blown out of proportion by being exposed to the cameras. This not only compromises the dignity of relationships but can also negatively impact other family members—especially children. In some cases, it's been observed that disputes are deliberately exaggerated or even completely scripted. This means that the conflict isn't real, but an attempt is made to appear real to attract audience attention. This blurs the line between entertainment and reality. In this age of social media, going "viral" has become synonymous with success. When a video receives millions of views and thousands of new followers, the creator feels they've chosen the right path. But this popularity is often fleeting. A controversy that captured audience attention one day is overshadowed by another controversy the next. There's also a social aspect to this trend. When viewers repeatedly see such content, they gradually begin to perceive it as normal to bring personal relationships into the public arena and make them a topic of discussion. This can undermine the sense of privacy and decorum in society. In our society, the family has always been considered a strong institution. Family is not just a living arrangement, but also a foundation of emotional security, trust, and mutual understanding. When internal family problems are made a public spectacle, it undermines the trust that is the foundation of relationships. Furthermore, young people and teenagers make up a significant portion of the social media audience. They are influenced by what they see. If they repeatedly see that it's normal to publicize personal conflicts in order to gain popularity, they may develop the impression that it's acceptable to

go to any lengths to achieve success in life. It's also true that not all content creators are like this. There are many YouTubers, bloggers, and digital creators who produce informative, creative, and positive content. Many people working in education, science, art, culture, travel, and social issues are using social media as a positive platform. Their efforts prove that controversy and drama aren't the only path to popularity. The real question is one of responsibility. When someone has the power to reach thousands or even millions of people, it also carries a social responsibility. Content creators must understand that their content not only entertains but also influences people's thinking and perspectives. Viewers also play a significant role in this. After all, they are the ones who decide what type of content gets watched and what gets ignored. If viewers only promote sensational and controversial videos, it's natural that such content will continue to grow. But if they give more support to constructive and positive content, the digital landscape could change. Today, there's a need for balance and understanding in the use of social media. We should set boundaries for our personal lives and understand that not everything needs to be made public. Popularity and followers are important, but the dignity of relationships and personal respect are far more important. Ultimately, it's important to remember that social media is a tool, not an end. It can be used to spread knowledge, communicate, and foster positive change. But when it becomes a mere pursuit of popularity, its negative consequences begin to emerge. If this hunger for followers and views continues to grow, it's possible that one day people may become popular but lose touch with their own relationships and values. Therefore, it's important to understand in time that true success is achieved with respect and sensitivity—not by auctioning off relationships.

(Dr. Satyawan Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker.)

## Is The Gulf Now Questioning Its US Ties - And The American 'Guarantee'?

The war in Iran, unleashed through pre-emptive strikes by the US and Israel on February 28, is well into its second week, and there are no signs of either side giving up soon. Contrary to expectations, Iran has hit back hard and refused to buckle under the tremendous pressure exerted on it. The targeted assassination of its Supreme Leader and over 40 top military commanders has only strengthened its resolve to fight back. Over the past 12 days, not only has Iran hit back at Israel, but it has also successfully targeted a number of American military bases and assets across the region. These attacks, coupled with strikes on critical energy infrastructure like oil depots, oil fields, gas fields and perhaps the most critical, closure of the Strait of Hormuz, have sent the entire region into a spiral. People are asking tough questions, especially on the ineffectiveness of the regional security apparatus as well as the security guarantees of America that it has been promising the region for over decades. Many are questioning the whole logic of it, while others are already looking at alternative security options for the future. Why has it happened? Why are Gulf nations so helpless and unable to secure their land against Iranian attacks? What are the options to ensure foolproof security in the region, going forward? Tough questions that will be debated long after the war is over. For understanding the current security dynamics and why it has failed, there is a need to fully understand the Gulf Security Architecture. How It All Started The security arrangement in the Gulf goes back to the security umbrella provided by the British till the late 1960s. Thereafter, it was the US that took over the responsibility with the articulation of the Nixon Doctrine in 1969, which called on US allies to contribute to their own security with the aid of American security assistance. The "Twin Pillars policy" was a natural outgrowth of it. It incorporated twin pillars in the form of Saudi Arabia and Iran to ensure the security of the

Persian Gulf. This policy, however, fell apart after the Iranian revolution, which took away one critical pillar (Iran) of the policy. At his 1980 State of the Union Address, in reaction to the 1979 Iranian revolution, President Jimmy Carter had assured the region, stating, "An attempt by any outside force to gain control of the Persian Gulf region will be regarded as an assault on the vital interests of the US, and such an assault will be repelled by any means necessary, including military force." Also Read | Why Russia's Putin May Be The Biggest Winner Of Trump's Iran War Following it, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) was created in 1981 to bring together countries of the region against the perceived threat from two enemies: Iran, an ideological enemy, and Iraq, a belligerent power. The birth of GCC was thus based on two major pillars - fear and exclusion (of Iran and Iraq). In its construct, however, the GCC chose to ignore the geographical and geopolitical realities of the region. Iran and Iraq, geographically, cover almost the entire northern coast of the Persian Gulf, are critical links towards the Levant, Central Asia and South Asia, and are huge reservoirs of natural resources. Post-Iraq World After the Iraq war in 1991, the US reinforced its military presence in the region through the establishment of permanent bases. The Fifth Fleet HQ moved to Bahrain in 1995, while the Al Udeida base in Qatar was set up in 1996; the US CENTCOM relocated to it in 2003. Continuing its security presence in the region, the US introduced the Cooperative Defense Initiative (CDI) in 1999, a plan for the integration of the defence forces of the GCC, Egypt, and Jordan, and to coordinate intelligence-sharing between them. In May 2006, the US launched the Gulf Security Dialogue (GSD) for the promotion of intra-GCC and GCC-US cooperation to meet common perceived threats. Many years later, at the US-GCC Summit in Riyadh in May 2017, an 'Arab NATO' or 'Middle East Strategic Alliance' (MESA) was also mooted,

which would have included nations of the GCC, plus Egypt and Jordan. However, it failed to take off due to the diplomatic blockade on Qatar in June 2017. At the GCC Summit at Jeddah on July 16, 2022, which included the US (President Joe Biden), Egypt, Iraq and Jordan, another assurance was made on collective security, with the leaders reiterating to "confront all activities that threaten the region's security and stability". And, most recently too, after the Israeli missile strike into Doha targeting the Hamas leadership in September 2025, the US had assured iron-clad security guarantees to Qatar, akin to Article 5 of the NATO Charter. However, all the past efforts and assurances have come to nothing as the US has failed to protect the Gulf countries from the ongoing strikes from Iran. Also, the GCC has proved to be ineffective in ensuring collective security in the region, over the past many decades due to a lack of committed organic resources and a lack of a common vision. What Are The Options? The current war has exposed the deep fragilities of the security system in the region. There is a need for a serious review and rethink. Only two options exist. One, the region continues to depend on the US or any other external player to provide it security. However, if even the US, the mightiest of the militaries and with 13 major military bases in the region, could not protect it against only one opposing nation, Iran, then the chances of any success through this model in the future are suspect. The second option is to review and reform the integral regional architecture. It may be recalled that in March 2023, Saudi Arabia and Iran had signed a peace deal, brokered by China. Around the same time, there was a wave of reconciliation among the Arab countries in the region. Egypt reached out to Turkey and Syria to reconcile relations. Qatar and Bahrain also announced the restoration of diplomatic relations. Plus, Syria was readmitted into the Arab League in April 2023, after 11 years of expulsion.

## Major Boost to Rail Connectivity in Tamil Nadu

Flagging off of

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**Podanur – Dhanbad Jn Amrit Bharat Express**  
**Mayiladuthurai – Thiruvarur – Karaikkudi Train Services**

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## Jaishankar discusses West Asia crisis with German, South Korean counterparts; focus on energy security

**NEW DELHI (TSIT)** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday spoke to his German and South Korean counterparts as New Delhi ramps up diplomatic efforts to navigate the fallout of the West Asia crisis, especially on the energy supplies.

Global oil and gas prices have surged after Iran virtually blocked the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow shipping lane between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, that handles roughly 20 per cent of global oil and LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas). Following his conversation with German Foreign Minister Johann Wadepuhl, Jaishankar said the ongoing conflict in West Asia was discussed. "Exchanged views with FM @JoWadepuhl of Germany on the ongoing conflict in West Asia," he said on social media.

Jaishankar said he and South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Hyun discussed the situation in West Asia, including its implications on the energy sector. "Discussed advancing our bilateral agenda. As also the situation in West Asia, including its energy implications," the external affairs minister said. In a post on X, Cho hoped that this year's high-level exchanges would elevate Korea-India relations to a new level. South Korean President Lee Jae-



**MINISTER JAISHANKAR AGREED AND SAID WE SHOULD WORK TOGETHER TO EXPAND STRATEGIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN KOREA AND INDIA, WHICH HAS SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL AND STRONG COMPLEMENTARITY," CHO SAID**

Myung is expected to visit India within next two months. "Minister Jaishankar agreed and said we should work together to expand strategic economic cooperation between Korea and India, which has significant potential and strong complementarity," Cho said. "We also discussed the situation in the Middle East, which is having a major impact on global security and the economy, and agreed to maintain close communication on measures to ensure the safety of our nationals as the situation develops," he said.

## LPG SHORTAGE PUTS HYDERABAD RESTAURANTS ON BRINK OF SHUTDOWN

**Hyderabad (TSIT):** Hyderabad's hospitality sector has reported a sharp decline in the availability of commercial LPG cylinders, with several restaurants warning that the situation could lead to many temporarily shutting operations. With Israel and the US attacking Iran and the widening conflict in West Asia, coupled with the shutdown of the Strait of Hormuz, the situation has significantly disrupted LPG supply in India. Restaurant associations in Bengaluru and Mumbai have already declared an emergency, announcing the closure of kitchen operations by the end of the week. Hyderabad is likely to follow suit, with many restaurant owners warning the shortage could soon become a reality if the government fails to address the issue.

**Cloud kitchens under stress**  
Cloud kitchens in Hyderabad are also facing the strain. These delivery-only restaurants operate without a physical dining area or storefront, focusing entirely on preparing food for online orders. Muhammad Yusuf, owner of Biryani Souq - Take Away Kitchen, a famous cloud kitchen in Film Nagar in Jubilee Hills, said that LPG supply has decreased to less than 50 per cent. "We would get 10 cylinders. Today, we just got three. We do not know what tomorrow



holds. Things are very uncertain," Yusuf has a team of 55 members, all natives from other states. Many have resonated the same sentiment that no government official has reached out to them. "No representative from the government has reached out to us. We have no clarity or update on how long this situation will last," said a restaurant owner. Several small hotels and roadside eateries serving a broader segment of the city's population are feeling the brunt as supplies of commercial LPG cylinders dwindle. The situation has only worsened during the ongoing festive month of Ramzan.

**REDIRECTING LPG FOR DOMESTIC USE**  
Industry representatives said that dispatches have slowed significantly, forcing distributors to

release existing stock cautiously. The government's prioritisation of domestic cooking gas supplies over commercial has led to a crunch for hotels and restaurants. YS Naveen, a domestic LPG supplier in BHEL, said commercial establishments have not received cylinders for the last three days. "Hotels and restaurants are facing strain. So far, there is no crisis as such, but if the situation in the Middle East prolongs, supplies will be affected," Telangana Gas Dealers Association President Jagan Mohan Reddy confirmed the demand and supply issue, following the outbreak of the war. "The supply of commercial LPG cylinders has stopped, although canteens in schools, colleges and hospitals, as well as orphanages, will continue receiving," he said.

## Rahul Gandhi 'only person who didn't bend' before govt, says Priyanka in LS

**New Delhi, March 10 :** Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday strongly defended Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, stating that he is the only person who has not bowed before the BJP-led government.

She made the remarks while speaking during the discussion on the resolution seeking the removal of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. Krishna Prasad Tenneti, who was presiding over the House at the time, allowed Priyanka Gandhi Vadra to address the House during the debate. In her speech, Priyanka Gandhi took a swipe at the ruling party and said she found it ironic that leaders who frequently criticise former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru were now quoting him. "I was laughing today, because the person



whom they criticise every day - Nehru ji - they are quoting the same person today. Suddenly, they have started respecting Nehru ji. They said that the one who made the democracy strongest was Nehru ji," she said, drawing loud thumping from the Opposition benches in sup-

port of her remarks. She then defended Rahul Gandhi and said that he had remained firm despite sustained attacks from the government. "There is only one person in this country who did not bend in front of these people (government) in these past 12 years - that is the Leader of Opposition, Rahul Gandhi. This is because the LoP does not shy away from speaking the truth. They (government) cannot digest the truth," Priyanka Gandhi said. Her remarks came amid a broader debate in the House over the motion against Speaker Om Birla. Earlier in the discussion, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, replying to the motion against Speaker Birla, said all members, including the ruling and Opposition MPs, are all bound by laws and regulations as mandated by the Constitution.

### INDIA SUPPLYING DIESEL TO BANGLADESH AS PART OF ONGOING AGREEMENT

**New Delhi, March 10 :** India is continuing to supply diesel to Bangladesh via pipeline from the Numaligarh refinery in Assam as part of the long-term agreement that is in place with the neighbouring country. The India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline was operationalised in 2017. It has been supplying diesel to Bangladesh on a commercial basis from the Numaligarh Refinery Ltd. This diesel supply is part of regular ongoing energy trade between the two countries, a senior official said. Meanwhile, fuel availability in India is being closely monitored, he added.

## FIVB BEACH PRO TOUR CHALLENGE 2026 AT KIIT UNIVERSITY SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDES

KIIT Makes History as First Indian University to Host FIVB Beach Pro Tour Challenge

The FIVB Volleyball World Beach Pro Tour Challenge 2026, hosted by KIIT University, concluded successfully at Dutee Chand Athletic Stadium after five days of high-intensity competition and international sporting spirit. The prestigious tournament brought together 83 teams from 52 countries, with more than 300 players and officials participating in the championship.

KIIT University created history by becoming the first university in India to host an event of the FIVB Beach Pro Tour Challenge series, marking a proud moment for the institution, the state of Odisha and the country. The tournament was formally inaugurated on March 4 by Odisha's Minister for Law, Works and Exercise, Prithviraj Harichandan, in the presence of Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KIIT and KISS, Mr. Blair Harrison, FIVB Technical Delegate, and Prof. (Dr.) Saranjit Singh, Vice Chancellor of KIIT University, along with several international



**WINNERS:**  
Women's Gold Medal  
United States:  
Durish / Koenig  
Men's Gold Medal  
Belgium: Vercauteren / Van Langendonck

### HIGHLIGHT POINT:

- ▶ KIIT University became the first university in India to host an FIVB Beach Pro Tour Challenge event.
- ▶ The tournament featured 83 teams from 52 countries.
- ▶ The tournament featured 83 teams from 52 countries.
- ▶ More than 300 players and officials participated in the championship.
- ▶ The event was held for five days at Dutee Chand Athletic Stadium in Bhubaneswar.
- ▶ International players and officials praised the world-class infrastructure, organisation and hospitality provided by KIIT University.

inside campus. All of them were happy with KIIT hospitality," said Dr. Samanta. The championship also created a vibrant sporting atmosphere on the KIIT campus and attracted large numbers of sports enthusiasts. Several international players and officials praised the world-class infrastructure, professional organisation and warm hospitality provided by KIIT University as the host institution. Many participants expressed appreciation for the excellent facilities and the welcoming environment created for athletes from across the globe.

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# Oil and gas prices fall after Trump says war is 'very complete'

Oil and gas prices fell sharply on Tuesday after US President Donald Trump said that the war in Iran was "very complete, pretty much". Crude almost reached \$120 a barrel on Monday over fears that the conflict would cause lengthy disruption to energy supplies from the Middle East, but dropped back to around \$92 following Trump's comments. Gas prices also fell and stock markets in Europe and Asia rebounded, although US markets dipped slightly when trading began on Tuesday. The boss of Saudi Arabia's Aramco, the world's biggest oil exporter, has warned of "catastrophic consequences" if the Strait of Hormuz, a shipping route crucial to global energy supplies, remains blocked. About a fifth of the world's oil usually passes through the narrow waterway, but traffic has all but halted since the war started more than a week ago. Aramco's chief executive, Amin Nasser, warned that global stockpiles of oil were at the lowest for five years and the supply bottleneck meant these would be used at a faster rate. "The longer the disruption goes on... the more drastic the conse-



quences for the global economy," he said. On Tuesday, the International Energy Agency (IEA) held a second meeting with G7 nations to discuss options for stabilising the global oil market, including releasing millions of barrels of crude from countries' stocks. The IEA is holding a meeting of member governments later "to inform a subsequent decision" on whether or not to make emergency stocks available. On Monday, Trump told a news conference in Florida: "We took a little excursion because we felt we had to do that to get rid of some evil. Then, I

think you'll see it's going to be a short-term excursion." He later wrote on social media: "If Iran does anything that stops the flow of Oil within the Strait of Hormuz, they will be hit by the United States of America TWENTY TIMES HARDER than they have been hit thus far." The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said "in response to Trump's nonsense", Iran's armed forces will "not allow the export of a single litre of oil from the region". Trump's comments raised hopes that the war would not be a drawn-out conflict, and Brent crude fell below \$84 a

barrel at one point before rising to \$91.72 on Tuesday. It is nearly \$20 higher than it was before the US-Israel war with Iran began on 28 February when Brent was priced at around \$73 a barrel. Gas also dropped, with UK prices for month-ahead delivery falling sharply to 126p a therm, well below Monday's peak of 171p. The fall in oil prices has given traders a moment to "exhale", but energy markets remain in a state of "total tug-of-war", said Alberto Bellorin, founder and managing director oil and gas investment firm InterCapital Energy. Oil

trading will "remain incredibly twitchy", he said, and prices are likely to spike if the conflict escalates and fall if it seems to be easing. The hopes of a swift end to the lifted raised European stock markets. London's FTSE 100 rose 1.2%, Germany's Dax index climbed 1.9% and the French Cac 40 rose 1.4%. Earlier in Asia, Japan's Nikkei 225 had closed up 2.9%, recovering some of Monday's losses, while South Korea's Kospi gained 5.4%. But US markets, which had ended Monday slightly higher, fell as trading began. The S&P 500, Dow Jones and Nasdaq all fell by about 0.5%. On Monday, G7 nations said they were ready to take "necessary measures" to address the global supply of energy in the light of surging oil prices. A meeting between G7 leaders and the IEA ended without a final decision on whether the nations would release oil from stockpiles, though the matter was discussed. Robin Mills, chief executive of Qamar Energy, an energy consultancy based in Dubai, told the BBC that there was a reluctance to use this option too early as "once the strategic reserves are gone, they're gone".

# Asian shares surge as oil prices sank back to about USD 90

Tokyo: Asian shares have rebounded from their sharp declines a day before after a rally on Wall Street as global investors wagered that the war with Iran may not last too long. But the gains early Tuesday, March 10, fell far short of losses Monday, when oil prices neared \$120 per barrel before falling back to about \$90. US futures were trading about 0.4% lower. Helping to assuage investors' fears, US President Donald Trump told CBS News he thinks "the war is very complete, pretty much." However, he made other comments that seemed to threaten intensified action against Iran if it makes any "attempt to stop the globe's oil supply." Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 added 3.2% to 54,399.08 after the government released revised economic data that showed Japan's economy grew slightly faster than initially estimated in the final quarter of last year, boosted by solid business investments. The economy expanded at an annual pace of 1.3%. The initial estimate was a much weaker 0.2%. "Today is the rebound, obviously positive comments from President Trump overnight, we're starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel for the war," said Neil Newman, a



managing director and head of strategy at Astris Advisory Japan. "So volatility is going to remain with us but things are certainly looking a lot brighter today." Australia's S&P/ASX 200 gained 0.8% to 8,669.50. South Korea's Kospi jumped 3.6% to 5,453.45. Hong Kong's Hang Seng added 1.6% to 25,804.70, while the Shanghai Composite index rose 0.4% to 4,119.29. Share prices have been swinging mostly in tandem with oil prices, which have gyrated as the war has deepened. Early Tuesday, benchmark US crude fell \$4.70 to \$90.07 a barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, dipped \$5.13 to \$93.83 a barrel. On Monday, stock prices swerved from a steep early loss to a moderate gain. The S&P 500 dropped as much as 1.5% before flipping to a gain of 0.8%. It closed at 6,795.99. The Dow Jones Industrial Average clawed back a plunge of nearly 900 points to rise 239 points, or 0.5%, to 47,740.80. The Nasdaq composite climbed 1.4% to 22,695.95. Share prices have wavered due to uncertainty about just how high oil prices will go and how long they will stay there because of disruptions to Middle East energy facilities. If oil prices stay very high for very long, households' budgets already stretched by high inflation could break under the pressure. Companies would see their own bills jump for fuel and to stock items on their store shelves or in their data warehouses. It all raises the possibility of a worst-case scenario for the global economy, "stagflation," where growth stagnates and inflation remains high.

## INDIA'S MOST-LOVED MID-SIZE CRUISER:

# ROYAL ENFIELD METEOR 350 CROSSES 6 LAKH SALES MARK

Royal Enfield Meteor 350, India's most loved cruiser, has crossed the 6 lakh sales milestone, earning the trust of riders across the globe since its launch in November 2020. With its relaxed cruising character, refined engine and effortless rideability, the Meteor 350 has quickly become the preferred cruiser motorcycle among both seasoned motorcyclists and new riders. Over the years, the motorcycle has also earned several global accolades, including the prestigious 'Indian Motorcycle of the Year 2021' award, cementing its place as one of the most successful cruisers in the mid-size motorcycle segment. Ever since its launch, the Meteor 350 has redefined what easy cruising means for riders across age groups, emerging as an accessible cruiser for both daily city commutes and long highway rides. As the first Royal Enfield motorcycle to migrate on the J-series platform, Meteor 350 immedi-



ately struck a chord not only with long-distance riders and motorcycle enthusiasts, but also with first-time buyers who appreciate comfort and mechanical refinement. By delivering an experience that feels equally comfortable while navigating city traffic or riding on open highways, the Meteor 350 has helped expand the mid-size cruiser segment by attracting new riders. The motorcycle enjoys a strong demand in India and international markets, especially LATAM, SAARC and European markets, reflect-

ing its wide-ranging appeal across diverse riding environments and geographies. Combining timeless cruiser aesthetics with modern engineering and rider-centric features, the Meteor 350 is powered by a 349cc air-oil-cooled, single-cylinder engine that delivers smooth, tractable power with a refined character. The motorcycle features a digital-analog instrument cluster, Tripper navigation pod, LED lighting elements, premium switchgear, USB Type-C fast-charging port, Assist-and-slip clutch and

adjustable levers. This reflects Royal Enfield's focus on blending classic design with contemporary functionality. The Meteor 350 is offered in four distinct variants - Fireball, Stellar, Aurora and Supernova, catering to a range of rider preferences, with ex-showroom prices in India ranging between ₹1,95,546 and ₹2,15,770. The Meteor 350 is sold in 60+ countries, backed by a strong dealer network of over 2000 stores in India and over 1000 outlets in the international markets.

## G7 TO TAKE 'NECESSARY MEASURES' TO SUPPORT ENERGY SUPPLIES

G7 nations have said they are ready to take "necessary measures" to support the global supply of energy after the US-Israel war with Iran sent oil prices surging. However, a meeting of G7 finance ministers and the International Energy Agency (IEA) ended without an agreement to release strategic crude reserves. The oil price reached nearly \$120 a barrel on Monday, over fears of a lengthy disruption to supplies, before falling back sharply after President Trump raised hopes the war would soon end. At the virtual meeting, the option of releasing oil from stockpiles was one of several discussed as Fatih Birol, head of the IEA, said global oil markets "have deteriorated in recent days". Birol said: "In addition to the challenges of transit through the Strait of Hormuz, a substantial amount of oil production has been curtailed. This is creating significant and growing risks for the market. "IEA member countries currently hold over 1.2 billion barrels of public emergency oil stocks, with a fur-



ther 600 million barrels of industry stocks held under government obligation." Follow the latest developments on the war in the Middle East Following the meeting, French finance minister Roland Lescure said, "we are not there yet," on the question of whether emergency stocks will be released. If reserves are released it would be the first time since 2022 following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. In a statement following the meeting, the G7 said: "We stand ready to take necessary measures, including to support global

supply of energy such as stockpile release." Chancellor Rachel Reeves said on Monday the UK used the meeting to call for "immediate de-escalation" in the Middle East and guaranteed security for ships in the region. "I stand ready to support a co-ordinated release of collective IEA oil reserves," she added. Major disruption to energy supplies from the region threatens to push up prices for consumers and businesses around the world. Rising inflation could lead to further interest rate cuts by central banks. About a fifth of the

world's oil supply is usually shipped through the Strait of Hormuz. But traffic through the narrow passage has all but halted since the war started more than a week ago. The US and Israel launched fresh waves of airstrikes across Iran over the weekend, hitting multiple targets including oil depots. Meanwhile, Iran targeted energy infrastructure in neighbouring Gulf states. Overnight, Saudi Arabia said it had intercepted and destroyed two waves of drones heading towards a major oilfield. Last week the markets had been relatively relaxed about the seemingly nightmare scenario of millions of barrels of crude and liquefied gas trapped in the Gulf. But the escalations over the weekend, alongside scenes of destruction of energy infrastructure both in Iran and across the Gulf, saw the markets take rapid fright. On Monday morning in Asia, the price of Brent crude jumped by more than 25% to touch \$119.50 a barrel at one point before dropping below \$90 after Trump told CBS the "war is very complete, pretty much".

## Volkswagen to cut 50,000 jobs as profits drop

Volkswagen has said it will cut 50,000 jobs in Germany by 2030 as its profits dropped to their lowest level since 2016. Chief executive Oliver Blume told shareholders that the cuts would take place in Germany and fall across the entire group, including Audi and Porsche. Europe's largest carmaker said post-tax profits had fallen by around 44% in 2025. It said it was hit by US import tariffs, intense competition from China and high restructuring costs from the shift to electric vehicles. The firm projects a recovery in the coming year, but its finance chief stressed that it would have to focus on "rigorously" reducing costs. "In total, around 50,000 jobs are due to be cut by 2030 across the Volkswagen Group in Germany," Blume said in a letter to shareholders in the firm's annual report. "We are operating in a fundamentally different environment," he added. The



group had already struck a deal with unions to cut more than 35,000 jobs across the country in a "socially responsible manner" by 2030, in order to save some 15bn (£12.4bn). Volkswagen, along with other German carmakers, has been badly affected by a decline in demand for its cars in China, previously a Volkswagen market. At the same time, Chinese brands have been moving into Europe, increasing competition for sales. US President Donald Trump's decision to impose 25% tariffs on car imports has made conditions even harder. In its annual fig-

ures, Volkswagen said its net profit after tax fell from 12.4bn (£10.7bn; \$14.4bn) to 6.9bn (£6.1bn; \$8bn) last year. For 2026, Volkswagen said it predicted a core profit margin of between 4% and 5.5% - potentially lower still than the 4.6% it achieved this year. Volkswagen finance boss Arno Antlitz warned that the group's profit margin was "not sufficient in the long run" and said that further cost-cutting was needed. "We can only realise this if we continue to rigorously reduce costs," he said. "That is what we will focus on in the coming months."

## Hyderabad, this one's for you: Ai+ Smartphone's Pulse 2 Goes on Sale on Flipkart on March 11 at Rs. 5,999

Hyderabad, March 10, 2026- Ai+ Smartphone's Pulse 2 goes live on Flipkart on March 11, 2026, at 12 noon, starting at just ₹5,999. And Hyderabad is firmly in the brand's sights for what comes next. The city ranks among Ai+ Smartphone's top 10 markets nationally, and the brand isn't slowing down. Hyderabad's young, digitally-native consumers, streaming more, gaming more, and spending smarter, are exactly who Pulse 2 was built for. As demand for feature-packed, value-first smartphones surges across Telangana, Ai+ Smartphone sees the market as a key driver of its next growth chapter. "Hyderabad consumers know what they want: real performance, real value, no compromises," said Madhav Sheth, CEO, Ai+ Smartphone and Founder, NxtQuantum Shift Technologies. "We designed Pulse 1 last year to deliver on all three expectations. Today, Pulse 2 takes that promise further. It's an upgrade designed

# PULSE 2

SALE DAY PRICE	₹5,999	4GB + 64GB
SALE DAY PRICE	₹7,999	6GB + 128GB

**SALE LIVE ON**

Flipkart

11th MAR | 12PM

for people who are passionate about growing and evolving," he added. With Hyderabad increasingly shopping online-first, Flipkart is the natural launchpad, giving city consumers the same day access and first-day pricing as buyers anywhere in the country. Ai+ Smartphone already operates a service centre in Hyderabad as part of its 300-strong nationwide network, and has firm plans to deepen its footprint across the region.

**What's Inside** Pulse 2 significantly upgrades the Pulse 1 experience with improvements across the features users rely on most. The front camera jumps from 5MP to 8MP, the battery grows from 5000mAh to a slim 6000mAh, and the refresh rate improves from 90Hz to 120Hz for smoother visuals. Durability also steps up from IP54 to IP64, while the 50MP Dual AI rear camera continues to deliver

strong photography performance in the segment. Software sees an upgrade as well, with Pulse 2 launching on Android 16 with NxtQuantum OS (versus Android 15 on Pulse 1), bringing transparency, privacy, sharper responsiveness, stronger system efficiency, and a more refined experience straight out of the box. A redesigned form factor adds improved in-hand comfort and a cleaner aesthetic, avail-

able in five colours: Green, Blue, Pink, Purple, and Black. Pulse 2 goes live on Flipkart on March 11, 2026, at 12 noon.

**About Ai+ Smartphone**  
Ai+ Smartphone is a next-generation brand built in India, delivering reliable and high-performance mobile experiences. Powered by NxtQuantum OS, India's first sovereign mobile operating system. The brand focuses on delivering a clean design, ensuring long battery life, and maintaining trusted software performance, all while keeping prices accessible without compromising the user experience. From redefining smartphones to pioneering AIoT products as part of the company's Connected Ecosystem, Ai+ Smartphone is creating a new standard for trust, immersive experience, and accessibility. Rooted in a privacy-first architecture and a commitment to equitable access, Ai+ Smartphone stands for more than specs — it stands for India's next era of user-owned.

## Conference calls for better data and coordinated policy on migration

CHENNAI: A national conference on migration organised by the Madras School of Social Work (MSSW) on Monday brought together academics, researchers and civil society organisations to examine emerging migration patterns, labour rights and vulnerabilities faced by migrant workers.

The conference, titled 'From Push to Pull: Unveiling the Realities of Migration', featured sessions on labour migration, trafficking risks, homelessness and policy responses for migrant populations.

Prof Stephen Anthony, director-MSSW, presented findings from a recent survey on homeless persons in Chennai to present the realities of homelessness.

The 2025 survey commissioned by the GCC identified 13,529 homeless persons in the city, including 3,250 elderly persons, 2,322 children, and 2,482 living as families. "More than 60% of the homeless population are living in family units. They are living as home-



less across generations. Piecemeal interventions do not solve the problem but holistic attempts need to be made," he opined.

Journalist and researcher Anuradha Nagaraj, founder of The Migration Story, focused on informal workers who move across states for work and form a

large segment of India's informal economy. "Workers move for reasons ranging from distress and seasonal employment to better opportunities and aspirations. However, migrant workers often face barriers in accessing welfare entitlements in destination cities, including

social security schemes, healthcare and education for their children," she stated. "There isn't enough reliable data on migrant workers, as seasonal and circular migration patterns often leave them uncounted in official surveys." In a plenary session, Chetan Choithani spoke on migration, livelihoods and inequality in India, while V Sivasankar of Pondicherry University discussed vulnerabilities faced by tribal communities affected by migration.

A panel discussion examining issues of trafficking, exploitation and protection among migrant populations across gender and age groups was also held that focused on gendered migration risks, circular migration, bonded labour and child trafficking linked to migration. The conference was inaugurated by S Raja Samuel, principal of MSSW, with addresses by migration scholar S Irudaya Rajan and former Additional Chief Secretary Christodas Gandhi.

## CM Stalin seeks Centre's intervention amid rising LPG supply concerns



CHENNAI: Chief Minister MK Stalin on Tuesday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, requesting the Union government's intervention to ensure the safety of Tamils residing in Gulf countries and to review the supply of LPG cylinders.

The appeal comes amid the escalating conflict in West Asia involving Iran, Israel and the United States, which has spread to the Gulf region.

Chief Minister Stalin conducted a review meeting to evaluate the impact of the US-Iran tensions on

Tamil Nadu and outline response measures.

"I have written to Prime Minister Modi, urging the Union Government to ensure the safety of Tamils living across the affected Gulf countries and to safeguard the welfare of Tamil Nadu fishermen who are currently stranded in the region," Stalin said in a post on X.

He further stated, "I have also emphasised that the Union Government must ensure that the LPG Cylinder shortage arising from this conflict does not affect the public, commercial establishments, or MSME industries in Tamil Nadu. I have further urged that all necessary alternative arrangements be made for restaurants affected by commercial gas cylinder shortage and that the additional power required be secured and supplied."

The Chennai Hotels Association has appealed to the Prime Minister to intervene in the supply of commercial LPG cylinders used in the food industry.

In a letter to PM Modi and Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, the Association's President, M Ravi, highlighted that the supply of commercial LPG cylinders should be classified as essential due to shortages reported in Chennai.

## Nainar strips ANS Prasad of party posts after TVK tie-up

CHENNAI: A day after publicly inviting actor and Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) president Vijay to join the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), the BJP state unit has removed ANS Prasad from his posts as the party's state spokesperson and media in-charge in the Assembly Election state working committee. In a brief order issued by state president Nainar Nagenthran, Prasad was relieved of his responsibilities with immediate effect. The order stated that he was removed from the post of state spokesperson and from the additional role of media in-charge assigned to him in the party's Assembly election working committee. The decision



came a day after Prasad publicly suggested that TVK chief Vijay could be welcomed into the NDA fold, triggering speculation about a possible political alignment ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections. Party insiders, however, said the move may not be directly linked to the statement alone. "Prasad merely echoed views that some senior leaders, including Tamilisai Soundararajan, had expressed earlier."

## Hotels in Pondy shift to cooking of low-fuel menus due to shortage of commercial LPG cylinders

PUDUCHERRY: Some of the hotels in Puducherry have started shifting to low-fuel menus as the shortage of commercial LPG cylinders has disrupted their service schedule.

A hotel owner told PTI on Tuesday that they had introduced stringency measures to manage the current shortage in availability of commercial cylinder as a result of the conflict between America and Iran.

"We have now introduced sales of coffee, tea or juice only between 4 pm and 7 pm instead of usual sales of tiffin items," the hotelier said in view of the current situation.

According to a dealer in LPG



cylinders, the central government has issued an order to ensure that LPG cylinder was supplied and marketed on priority solely to domestic consumers

of LPG only. The commercial LPG cylinders' supply had been suspended.

"We are not getting the refills for commercial sector and we

have been asked to prioritise supply for the domestic consumers only," the dealer said.

A hotelier said that they have worked out strategies and stringent measures to ensure that there is no problem in the future, although we are able to manage the current situation with available commercial cylinders. He said that those who had already booked banquets were assured of uninterrupted supply of food. We, however, tell those seeking to book rooms hereafter about the difficulty in supplying the food and we also do not permit outside food for any function or celebration," the hotelier said.

## Seat talks hit roadblock as Left wants more, DMK firm on 5 each

CHENNAI: Seat-sharing talks between the Left parties and the ruling DMK have hit a roadblock, with the former insisting on more seats than the six allotted to them in the 2021 Assembly election, while the latter has offered only five seats, citing the presence of more allies in the coalition.

Sources said the DMK leadership conveyed to the CPM and the CPI that the party was willing to offer only five seats each, fewer than what the Left parties contested in the previous election. A CPM delegation led by state secretary P Shanmugam met the DMK's seat-sharing



committee at Anna Arivalayam, the party headquarters, on Tuesday. CPM leaders K Kanagaraj, K Samuelraj and S Kannan also participated in the meeting. Senior DMK leaders, including headquarters secretary KN Nehru and party treasurer TR Baalu, could not attend the meeting owing to the party's state conference in Tiruchy and the ongoing Parliament session.

# India's first government AI clinic to boost public health system

NEW DELHI: India's first government-run artificial intelligence (AI) clinic, launched recently at the Government Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS) in Greater Noida, marks a major step in integrating advanced technology in the public health system of the country, according to a media report.

The initiative aims to boost early detection of diseases, diagnostics, and treatment, which can be crucial to improving outcomes and survival rates, Gulf News

reported.

The clinic will reportedly perform genetic screening using AI, which can help in faster detection of diseases such as cancer, heart disease, kidney disease, and liver disease. AI tools at the centre will also assist in interpreting X-rays, ultrasounds, CT scans, MRI reports, and laboratory investigations, helping doctors improve accuracy and speed of diagnosis.

"The clinic will use artificial intelligence along with genetic screening to analyse



blood tests, imaging scans, and other clinical data," Brigadier (Dr) Rakesh Kumar Gupta, Director of GIMS, was quoted as saying.

He added that the initiative would also open new opportunities for healthcare startups.

Typically, an AI clinic works using advanced algorithms and automation. They support doctors in diagnosis, treatment planning, and patient management.

The AI health centres also function as standalone units or integrated hospital departments, where AI systems analyse patient data in real time to support clinical decision-making, the report said. Another key advan-

tage is that it improves access to quality healthcare, particularly in remote and underserved areas, where the availability of specialists is limited.

While AI tools are already used in select private hospitals and diagnostic labs, this is the first dedicated government AI clinic. The report stated that the AI model could be replicated across government hospitals in other states.

AI tools are known to play a significant role in healthcare delivery, particularly in labs, radiology, and cancer screening.

In pathology, doctors can use AI for analysing tissues and detecting diseases that can be missed by the human eye. This not

only reduces processing time but also improves diagnostic precision. AI has shown significant potential in identifying early signs of cancers such as breast and lung cancer by reducing false positives and negatives. The early diagnosis improves survival rates and treatment outcomes.

The advanced technology has also demonstrated its skill in processing vast genomic datasets to identify disease-linked biomarkers and predict how patients will respond to treatment. It can aid in precision therapy with customised drug dosages and lifestyle changes, by analysing medical history, lifestyle, and genetic data.

**SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**TENDER NOTICE**  
(1) Tender Notice No:- E-R-T-136-25-26  
Date: 07.03.2026

**Name of Work:-** Laying of additional lines for shunting purpose at FMY of PP Yard. (This work involves Earthwork for formation, Laying of track (Approx 1250 Track mtrs), Bridge extension and other associated works.)  
**Tender Value: Rs. 4,14,30,849/-**  
**EMD: Rs. 3,57,200/-**

(2) Tender Notice No:- E-R-T-137-25-26  
Date: 07.03.2026

**Name of Work:-** Construction of new shunting neck at Marauda. (This work involves Earthwork for formation, Laying of track (Approx 500 Track Mtrs), Bridge extension and other associated works.)  
**Tender Value: Rs. 1,01,56,619/-**  
**EMD: Rs. 2,00,800/-**  
**Submission of Tender: upto 11.00 Hrs. on 30.03.2026. Opening of Tender: 11.00 Hrs. on 30.03.2026.**

For further complete details for the above work, please contact office of the Sr.DEN/Co./Rajpur or refer/download tender document which is available on our website: www.ireps.gov.in

Divl. Engineer-III  
S.E.C.R., Rajpur  
PR/Engg/AN/351  
South East Central Railway @secrail

**Protium** (Erstwhile Growth Source Financial Technologies Limited)  
Registered & Corporate Office Address: 7th Floor, Block B2, Phase - I, Nirlokan Knowledge Park, Pahadi Village, Off. Western Express Highway, Cama Industrial Estate, Goregaon(E), Mumbai- 400063, Maharashtra.

**POSSESSION NOTICE - (U/S 13(4) & As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)**

WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Protium Finance Limited (ERSTWHILE Growth Source Financial Technologies Ltd.) (hereinafter referred to as 'Protium Finance Limited') under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) (SARFAESI Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 13th Mar, 2025 calling upon the borrowers 1. Meenakshi Pal Panna through its Proprietor Pichai Prabhu and Co-Borrowers 1. Pichai Prabhu S/o Pichai 2. Prabhu Sumathi D/o Karthikeyanmanni respect of loan account bearing No. GS040EL1430653 to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice being Rs. 25,59,474.62/- (Rupees Twenty-Five Lakh Fifty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-Four And Sixty-Two Paise Only) as on 4th November, 2024 with further interest, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and Public in General that the Hon'ble CHIEF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE MADURAI Court in exercise of powers conferred on them under Sec. 14 of the said Act, had issued an order dated 19.12.2025 in Case Number Cr.M.P.No.8098/2025 appointed Adv. P. Santhiya to take possession of the Secured Assets at the location mentioned. The said order was executed on 20.02.2026, and Adv. P.Santhiya took physical possession of the Secured Asset/Mortgaged Property, described herein below on 20.02.2026 and handed over physical possession of the Secured Asset/Mortgaged Property to the Authorised Officer of Protium Finance Limited. However, a part of the secured property was not handed over by the occupants.

Further, Protium Finance Limited are in process of disposal of the said property through Public Auction for recovery of outstanding dues. Public in general are informed that no stay/injunction order has been passed by any Court/Tribunal and have clear title and free from encumbrance. People who are interested in the said property can participate in auction as and when intimated by Protium Finance Limited by giving advertisement in newspaper.

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 Protium Finance Limited, for an amount of Rs. 25,59,474.62/- (Rupees Twenty-Five Lakh Fifty-Nine Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-Four And Sixty-Two Paise Only) as on 4th November, 2024 and further interest thereon, plus costs, charges, expenses incurred.

The Borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY -**  
All that piece and parcel of property land and building bearing, situated at SF No. 98/3A1A, Door No. 246/3A, Plot No. 1, Vandiyur Ilbit Village, Madurai North Taluk, Madurai North Regd. District Theppakulam SRO. Total measuring of 1081 sq. ft. and bounded by Boundaries for 1081 sq. ft. of land and building North by Plot No. 2 South by S. No. 98 of Property East by S. No. 98 of Property West by 20 feet wide South Common Road Measurement details North - East West 37 ft, East - South North 31 ft 1081 sq. ft. South - East West 32 1/2 ft. West - South North 31 ft

Date of Possession: 20th February, 2026  
Place of Possession: MADURAI, TAMILNADU. Sd/-, For Protium Finance Limited  
Authorised Officer

**Protium** (Erstwhile Growth Source Financial Technologies Limited)  
Registered & Corporate Office Address: 7th Floor, Block B2, Phase - I, Nirlokan Knowledge Park, Pahadi Village, Off. Western Express Highway, Cama Industrial Estate, Goregaon(E), Mumbai- 400063, Maharashtra.

**POSSESSION NOTICE - (U/S 13(4) & As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)**

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The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and Public in General that the Hon'ble CHIEF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE, TIRUVANNAMAI Court in exercise of powers conferred on them under Sec. 14 of the said Act, had issued an order dated 27.01.2026 in Case Number Cr.M.P.No. 1059/2025 appointed Ad-vocate Commissioner, T.S.Praveen to take possession of the Secured Assets at the location mentioned. The said order was executed on 09.03.2026, and Advocate Com-missioner, T.S.Praveen took physical possession of the Secured Asset/Mortgaged Property, described herein below on 09.03.2026 and handed over physical possession of the Secured Asset/Mortgaged Property to the Authorised Officer of Protium Finance Limited. However, a part of the secured property was not handed over by the occupants.

Further, Protium Finance Limited are in process of disposal of the said property through Public Auction for recovery of outstanding dues. Public in general are informed that no stay/injunction order has been passed by any Court/Tribunal and have clear title and free from encumbrance. People who are interested in the said property can participate in auction as and when intimated by Protium Finance Limited by giving advertisement in newspaper.

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 Protium Finance Limited, for an amount of INR 22,34,827.64/- (Rupees Twenty-Two Lakh Thirty-Four Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty-Seven and Sixty-Four Paise) as on 12th March 2025 and further interest thereon, plus costs, charges, expenses incurred.

The Borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**  
ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE LAND AND BUILDING IN PLOT NO.67 SITUATED AT GOWINDHASANI GARDEN (KALAIKAVI GROUPS, ARANI TK, TIRUVANNAMALAI DT. MEASURING 994 1/2 SQ. FT. OF LAND COMPRISED IN OLD SURVEY NO'S 6/2 & 6/3 AS PER SUBDIVISION NEW SURVEY NO. S 6/2A1A1 & 6/3A AND AS PER PATTI NEW SURVEY NO.6 WITHIN THE SUB REGISTRATION DISTRICT OF ARANAI AND REGISTRATION DISTRICT OF CHEYAR WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES HEREUNDER EAST BY - PLOT NO.66, WEST BY - PLOT NO.68, NORTH BY - 16 FT STREET AND PLOT NOS. 63 & 70, SOUTH BY - ROAD NO.65 SURROUNDING ON THE NORTHERN SIDE 20 FT ON THE SOUTHERN SIDE 21 FT ON THE EASTERN SIDE 46 FT ON THE WESTERN SIDE 51 FT ADMEASURING 994 1/2 SQ. FT. OF LAND AND BUILDING

Date of Possession: 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2026  
Place of Possession: TIRUVANNAMALAI, TAMIL NADU. Sd/-, For Protium Finance Limited  
Authorised Officer

**FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED**  
Registered Office: Unit No. 1101, 11th Floor, Cignus, Plot No. 71 A, Powai, Pascoli, Mumbai - 400087

**PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION CUM SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

E - Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets/under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8(6) & 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

15 Days' Notice is hereby given to the Public in general and in particular to the Borrowers/Co - Borrowers/Guarantors that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, Fedbank Financial Services Limited, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Fedbank Financial Services Limited, Secured Creditor, will be sold on 'As is where is', 'As is what is' and 'wherever there is' on 27/03/2026 from 10 am to 10.30 am, for recovery of Rs. 79,26,428/- (Rupees Seventy Nine Lakhs Twenty Six Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Eight Only) in Loan Account No. FEDCHNLP4077593 as on 29/07/2025 with interest and expenses thereon from 30/07/2025 due to Fedbank Financial Services Limited, Secured Creditor, from (1) M/s. A K S Agencies (Borrower), (2) Mr. Chandrasekaran S (Co - Borrower); (3) Mrs. Ambiga P (Co - Borrower); (4) Mrs. Shanthi C (Co - Borrower); (5) Mr. Chandra Babu V (Co - Borrower).

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

All that piece and parcel of the land bearing Plot No.1 measuring 2163 Sq.ft., together with building thereon with amenities, comprised in Survey No.325/3, situated at K.K.Nagar, Vengathur Village, Thiruvallur District and bounded on the North by: Remaining land owned by Sethu Narayanamurthy, South by: Plot No. 2, East by: North to South 10 feet Road and West by: Plot owned by Shanmugam addressing Northern Side: 85 feet, Southern Side: 69.6 feet, Eastern Side: 21 feet and Western Side: 35 feet and situated at within the Registration District of Thiruvallur and in the Sub Registration District of Manavala Nagar.

**RESERVE PRICE (IN RS.)** Rs. 31,00,000/- (Rupees Thirty One Lac Only)

**EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT (IN RS.) THROUGH DD/PO/RTGS IN FAVOR OF FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED** Rs. 3,10,000/- (Rupees Three Lac Ten Thousand Only)

**BID INCREMENTAL AMOUNT** Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only)

**LAST DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS WITH SEALED OFFER/ TENDER WITH EMD** Till 26th March, 2026 latest by 05:00 P.M. at - Fedbank Financial Services Limited, D.No.103, Navins Presidium, B-Block, 5th Floor, Nelson Manickam Road, Amanjikarai, Chennai - 600029

**INSPECTION OF PROPERTIES** 20th March, 2026 Before 5 PM

**LAST DATE FOR PAYMENT OF 25% OF ACCEPTED HIGHEST BID FOR CONFIRMED SUCCESSFUL BIDDER (INCLUSIVE OF EMD)** The payment should be made latest by next working day from the date of bid confirmation

**LAST DATE FOR PAYMENT OF BALANCE 75% OF HIGHEST BID** Within 15 days from the date of bid Confirmation

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Fedbank Financial Services Limited (FEDFINA) Secured Creditor's website i.e. www.fedfina.com & Link https://www.fedfina.com/public-notice-for-auction-cum-sale/ under Auction For any enquiry, information, support, procedure and training kindly coordinate with Authorised Officer of Fedbank Financial Services Limited / any Mr. Bhaskar N Reddy - 9986160143, Email Id: bhaskar.reddy@fedfina.com.

Date: 11/03/2026  
Place: Chennai Sd/- (Authorised Officer)  
Fedbank Financial Services Limited

# Hegseth says today will be 'most intense' of US war on Iran, as people in Tehran describe strikes

United Arab Emirates air defences have detected nine ballistic missiles today, destroying eight while one fell in the sea, the nation's Ministry of Defence has said. An additional 35 drones were detected, 26 of which were intercepted while nine fell in UAE territory. According to the MOD's post on X, this brings the total of Iranian weaponry directed at the UAE to 262 ballistic missiles (241 of these destroyed) and 1,475 drones (1,385 of these intercepted). The attacks have resulted in six deaths, of Emirati, Pakistani, Nepalese and Bangladeshi nationalities. "The Ministry of Defence affirms that it is on high alert and readiness to deal with any threats and to firmly counter all that targets the destabilization of the state's security, ensuring the preservation of its sovereignty, security, and stability, and protecting its interests and national capabilities," the MOD said. British Airways has cancelled more flights to



the Middle East. BA said flights to Amman, Bahrain, Doha, Dubai, Tel Aviv have been cancelled up to and including 28 March. Abu Dhabi will not restart until October, as this is only a winter route for BA. The airline said the update was to give more certainty to passengers. BA still has two more repatriation flights from Oman to the UK this week, with tickets still on sale. The airline continues to operate a

reduced service to Larnaca, Cyprus. The US stock market is flat this morning, as concerns about the situation in Iran persist. The Dow Jones Industrial Average and S&P 500 were down about 0.3% in early trade, while the Nasdaq was flat. As a major producer of oil and gas, the US is less exposed to economic risks from the jump in oil prices sparked by the US-Israeli war. Its shares have been less impacted than those in

regions that rely more heavily on energy imports. The US says it will ramp up strikes against Iran, as attacks continue across the Middle East. Here's what you need to know: A top Iranian security official has threatened Donald Trump to be careful "so that you won't get eliminated" after the US president warned against stopping the flow of oil through the Strait of Hormuz - as oil prices fall from their Monday peak of

almost \$120 a barrel US Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth says today will be the "most intense" day of US strikes on Iran so far, with "the most fighters, the most bombers, the most strikes" A mother in the Iranian city of Karaj described feeling the "shadow of death" after a strike hit close to her home. Our Middle East correspondent reports that in northern Israel there have been at least 30 warnings of incoming missiles and drones today as millions of people in parts of the country rush for shelter. Qatar and the UAE have also reported fresh attacks. Earlier, the UK Ministry of Defence announced it was preparing another warship for possible deployment to the Eastern Mediterranean as HMS Dragon prepares to leave Portsmouth within days. Ali Larjani, Iran's top security official, has been responding to the US in a series of posts on X. He says that Iran is not scared of Trump's "worthless threats",

## FAMILY OF CHILD INJURED IN CANADA SCHOOL SHOOTING SUES OPENAI



The family of a girl critically injured during a mass shooting at a Canadian school is suing ChatGPT-maker OpenAI, claiming it had been aware the suspect had been planning an attack but failed to alert the authorities. Twelve-year-old Maya Gebala was shot in the neck and head in the attack in Tumbler Ridge on 10 February and remains in hospital. An initial ChatGPT account linked to the suspect, 18-year-old Jesse Van Rootselaar, was banned by OpenAI in June 2025 due to the nature of her conversations with the chatbot, but Canadian police

## Lebanon calls for talks with Israel on plan to end Hezbollah conflict



Lebanon's president has called for direct negotiations with Israel as part of a proposal to end the escalating conflict with Hezbollah, while sharply criticising the Iran-backed group for dragging the country into a wider regional war. A spokesperson for President Joseph Aoun told the BBC that Lebanon was ready to negotiate, but not while the country remained under Israeli fire. Speaking during a virtual meeting with senior European Union officials on Monday, Aoun outlined what he described as a path towards "permanent security and stability arrangements on our borders". Israeli officials have shown little sign of backing negotiations, and the government did not immediately comment. Under the Lebanese president's four-point plan, a "complete truce" would coincide with the disarmament of Hezbollah, and international assistance for the Lebanese Armed Forces to help them regain control of "areas of tension". "And simultaneously, Lebanon and Israel [to] begin direct negotiations under international sponsorship, in order to execute the aforementioned plan," a statement said. Aoun said the war had

taken a devastating toll on Lebanon, with more than 700,000 people displaced, including 200,000 children, and hundreds killed in Israeli strikes over the past nine days, according to the United Nations. "Some of them are on the roads. They have no shelter and not even the most basic necessities of life," he said. The president also delivered unusually blunt criticism of Hezbollah, accusing the Shia Muslim militia and political movement of acting against Lebanon's national interests. Referring to Hezbollah as an "armed faction", Aoun said it gave "no weight to Lebanon's interests or to the lives of its people", and wanted the "collapse of the Lebanese state under aggression and chaos". The remarks follow the government's declaration last week that Hezbollah's military operations were illegal, though the state currently lacks the capacity to disarm the group on its own. Last week, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed the Lebanese government directly on X, writing: "It is your responsibility to enforce the ceasefire agreement and it is your responsibility to disarm Hezbollah."

## SYRIAN EX-COLONEL IN COURT ON CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY CHARGE

A former colonel in the Syrian Air Force intelligence department has appeared before a London court charged with crimes against humanity. Salem Michel Al-Salem, appeared at Westminster Magistrates' Court via video link and has been named publicly for the first time after a request from his team to prevent this was rejected. The 58-year-old is charged with three counts of murder as a crime against humanity, one count of conduct ancillary to murder as a crime against humanity and three counts of torture. The charges all relate to alleged events in Damascus in 2011 and 2012, including deaths at a demonstration on 22 April 2011 when protesters calling for prisoners to be freed were allegedly shot

dead. Chief magistrate Paul Goldspring remanded Al-Salem on bail until his next court appearance at the Old Bailey on Friday. No indication was given as to how Al-Salem will plead to the charges. Al-Salem remained seated on the video link throughout the hearing, wearing what appeared to be an oxygen mask. The court heard that he has been diagnosed with spinal onset motor neurone disease and was too unwell to confirm his name. It had been argued by Al-Salem's lawyer that he should not be named in the media, and that doing so could put him at risk. But the chief magistrate turned down the application, saying the fact that it might "rise in people strong feelings of hostility and concern is not.

## MIXED MESSAGES FROM TRUMP LEAVE MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS OVER WAR'S END

President Donald Trump and his administration have so far offered mixed messages and contradictory explanations on the joint US-Israeli military campaign against Iran. And Monday - the 10th day of an operation that has rattled allies and shaken markets - typified this confusion around the war's timeline and ultimate goals. After a tumultuous morning during which US shares indices dropped and oil prices surged, the American president began speed-dialling reporters in an apparent effort to soothe nerves. His comments, however, were lacking in clarity even when he was pushed for more detail. "I have a plan for everything, OK?" he told a reporter from the New York Post



when asked about spiking oil prices. "I have a plan for everything. You'll be very happy." To CBS News, he said the war "is very complete, pretty much". "We're very far ahead of schedule," he added. When asked whether the operation could therefore end soon, Trump said: "I don't know, it depends. Wrapping up is all in my mind, nobody else's." His telephone spree,

at least in an economic sense, had the desired effect. Stock markets rallied, and the price of a barrel of oil - which had reached \$120 earlier in the day - dropped below \$90. Just days ago, Trump said that he would not stop the war until Iran's "unconditional surrender". But after his comments on Monday, it appeared as though an end to a military operation

that has roiled the Middle East and led to the near complete shutdown of shipping traffic through the Straits of Hormuz could be in sight. By evening, however, Trump was walking back those comments. "We could call it a tremendous success right now," he said. "Or we could go further. And we're going to go further." He said the US was "very close to finishing" what he called an "excursion", but warned that the US would intensify its strikes if Iran continued to threaten oil tankers exiting the Persian Gulf. "We will hit them so hard that it will not be possible for them or anybody else helping them to recover that section of the world," he said. Trump also laid out an expansive mission for the war.

## FIVE IRANIAN FOOTBALLERS GRANTED AUSTRALIAN VISAS AFTER ANTHEM PROTEST

Five members of the Iranian women's football team have been granted humanitarian visas in Australia after their elimination in the Asian Cup, the government in Canberra says. Immigration Minister Tony Burke said the women "were moved to a safe location" by Australian police. He said other squad members had been told they were welcome to stay in the country. The women had been due to fly home, but supporters had raised fears for their safety after the team declined to sing the national anthem ahead of their match against South Korea



last week. This prompted criticism in Iran, with one conservative commentator accusing the team of being "wartime traitors" and pushing for harsh punishment. The remainder of the team was taken to Gold Coast Airport and was expected to fly to Sydney

watched from inside the bus. Australia's humanitarian visa programme grants permanent protection to refugees and people in humanitarian need. Visa holders can live, work and study in the country. Speaking early on Tuesday, Burke said the five players were happy for their names to be confirmed as Fatemeh Pasandideh, Zahra Ghanbari, Zahra Sarbali, Atefeh Ramazanzadeh, and Mona Hamoudi. "They want to be clear they are not political activists. They are athletes who want to be safe," he said, adding that talks had been going on over several days.

## SIGNAL ISSUES SCAM WARNING TO USERS AFTER HACKERS TARGET OFFICIALS



Signal has warned users to look out for signs of scams, after Dutch intelligence said high-profile users of the secure messaging app were being targeted by hackers. Dutch cybersecurity agencies said on Monday a Russia-backed campaign had targeted individual users of Signal, as well as WhatsApp. They said this had seen hackers pose as support staff to try and obtain details that would give them access to accounts or hijack linked devices - with Dutch officials, military staff and civil servants among those targeted in the "global" campaign. Signal says its systems remain secure but it is taking reports of such activity "very seriously". The campaign was identified by Dutch intelligence agencies, the Military Intelligence and Security Service (MIVD) and General Intelligence and Security Service (AIVD). They said in a press notice the "large-scale global cyber campaign" appeared to target people of interest to the Russian state, such as government officials and journalists. "It is not the case that Signal or WhatsApp as a whole have been compromised. Individual user accounts

are being targeted," said Simone Smit, AIVD director-general. Signal reiterated this in a series of posts on X, stressing its systems "have not been compromised and remain robust". "These attacks were executed via sophisticated phishing campaigns, designed to trick users into sharing information - SMS codes and/or Signal PIN - to gain access to users' accounts," it wrote. So-called phishing attacks see criminals attempt to convince users to part with passcodes, money or details about their identity - often by impersonating customer support agents, friends, family and celebrities. In the campaign identified by Dutch intelligence agencies, hackers pretended to be Signal Support to try and get people to share account details. Users are asked when creating a Signal account to secure it with a PIN code - something it says should never be shared with anyone. The company added users should also not share verification codes messaged to their phone number. WhatsApp has given similar advice, saying users should not share six-digit codes used to secure their account.



Wildflowers cover Death Valley in best display since 2016

## Canada police investigate reports of shots fired at US consulate in Toronto



Canadian police say they are investigating reports that a gun was fired at the US consulate in Toronto. "Evidence of a firearm discharge has been located," Toronto Police Operations posted on X on Tuesday, adding that the report of gunfire was received just before 05:30 local time (09:30 GMT). No injuries have been reported,

and no suspect has been identified, the police statement adds. It comes as Norwegian police investigate an explosion that occurred outside the US embassy in Oslo on Sunday. Officials there are seeking a suspect who they believe may have placed the improvised device in a possible act of terrorism.

## ICC Books Commercial Tickets For West Indies, South Africa After Charter Flight Cancellation

The wait is finally over, as the International Cricket Council (ICC) has booked separate commercial flights for the stranded West Indies and South Africa teams to ensure a safe journey home, sources told NDTV. This move comes after the charter flight, originally scheduled to take off from Kolkata, was canceled due to "logistical issues." Speaking to NDTV, an official confirmed that commercial bookings were made to guarantee the safe passage of the players amid the ongoing conflict involving the United States and Iran. The source also revealed that the players will begin departing India in batches rather than as a single group. "All the players are now booked on commercial flights out... they have started leaving in batches," the official told NDTV. The two teams that played their final T20 World Cup games in Kolkata (West Indies in Super 8s on March 1 and South Africa on March 4 in semi-final) have



not been able to fly out due to the disruption that has been caused by International airspace restrictions across parts of West Asia following American and Israeli strikes on Iran. The situation has forced multiple airlines to avoid routes through the Gulf region. ICC's airline partner is Emirates and they are

unable to operate due to shutdown of Dubai airspace. The restrictions severely complicated outbound travel from India towards the Caribbean and Africa, forcing cricket authorities to explore alternative routes and charter arrangements. Earlier, in a communication conveyed on Tuesday evening, both teams were scheduled to

leave Kolkata on a shared charter flight to Johannesburg on Tuesday afternoon. From there, the West Indies contingent was to continue onward to Antigua, while the South Africans were expected to disperse for their respective commitments. The West Indies squad has been stranded in Kolkata since March 1 after being

knocked out of the T20 World Cup by India, who defeated them by five wickets in their Super Eight match at Eden Gardens on March 1. South Africa's campaign had ended a few days later when they lost the first semifinal to eventual runners-up New Zealand at the same venue on March 4, leaving them caught in the same boat.

## "Bohot Miss Karunga Aapko Papa": Rinku Singh Shares Emotional Note For Late Father

Indian cricketer Rinku Singh realised a long-standing dream as he became a world champion in the T20 format. Rinku was a part of India's team that defeated New Zealand in the final on Sunday to retain the T20 World Cup trophy. While the moment was undoubtedly of great jubilation for Rinku, the explosive batter couldn't quite celebrate the way he would've liked to because of his father's death, only a few days before the final. As Rinku held the trophy in his hand, he could only think about his father and how happy he would've been seeing him fulfil this dream. Referring to his father in an emotional Instagram post, Rinku said that he stepped onto the field only with the vision of fulfilling his dream. But, is now unable to fill the void that his dad left, even as the dream has become a reality. "Aapne baat kiye bina itne din kabhi nahi nikale. Mujhe nahi pata aage ki zindagi aapke bina kaise chalegi... par mujhe har kadam par aapki



zaroorat padegi." (So many days have never passed without speaking to you. I do not know how life ahead will go on without you... but I will need you at every step.) "Aapne sikhaya tha ki farz sabse aage hai.. toh field par bas aapka sapna pura karne ki koshish kar raha tha. Ab aapka sapna pura ho gaya hai... toh bas yahi lagta hai ki kash aap mere paas hote." (You taught me that duty comes before everything else... so on the

field, I was only trying to fulfil your dream. Now that your dream has been realised... I just wish that you were here with me.) "Har chhoti badi khushi mein aapki kami khalegi. Bohot miss karunga aapko Papa... bohot zyada." (I will miss you a lot, Papa... so very much. Rinku's father was undergoing treatment for fourth-stage liver cancer before the news of his death was confirmed.

## JAIPUR POLO TEAM WINS SMS GOLD VASE, SECURES NINTH TITLE OF THE SEASON

The Jaipur Polo Team continued their remarkable run this season as HH Maharaja Sawai Padmanabh Singh led the side to victory in the prestigious SMS Gold Vase, securing their ninth title of the season with a narrow 6-5.5 win over Krishna Polo in a closely contested final. The team had earlier confirmed their place in the final with a strong semi-final performance against RPC. The final was a tightly fought encounter, with both teams exchanging momentum across the chukkers. Jaipur began on a positive note, taking a 2-1.5 lead at the end of the first chukker through early attacking pressure.



Krishna Polo responded in the second chukker, with Kr. Vishal Singh Rathore leading the charge to give his side a narrow 3.5-3 advantage at halftime. Jaipur shifted gears in the third chukker, regaining control of possession and capitalising on scoring oppor-

tunities. HH Maharaja Sawai Padmanabh Singh led the attack with clinical finishing, helping the team move ahead 5-3.5. Krishna Polo mounted a determined challenge in the final chukker through goals from Kr. Vishal Singh Rathore and Rk. Sidhant Singh. However,

Jaipur maintained composure in the closing stages, holding their defensive structure and managing the game effectively to secure the 6-5.5 victory and lift the SMS Gold Vase. Semi-Finals - Jaipur vs RPC In the semi-final against RPC, Jaipur overcame an early deficit after RPC took a 3.5-1 lead at the end of the first chukker. Jaipur responded steadily in the second chukker through goals from Br. Harshodya Singh and Mr. Yogendra Singh, narrowing the gap to trail 4-5.4 at halftime. The momentum shifted decisively in the third chukker as Jaipur tightened their defence and controlled possession.

## He Just Set A National Record With 113-Foot Free Dive, But What Is The Sport All About?

As cricket continues to hog the sporting limelight, diver Dinesh Saundappa is quietly making history for India. He made a new national record in freediving, achieving a depth of 34.5 metres in the Variable Weight category. This milestone marks a significant moment for the sport in India, highlighting the growing presence of Indian athletes in less conventional sporting arenas. Dinesh's journey into the world of professional freediving began almost by accident. While scuba diving in the Maldives, he found himself so captivated by the underwater world that he decided to pursue freediving seriously. Today, he has transitioned from a curious diver to a certified freediving coach and a national



record holder. Speaking to NDTV, Dinesh mentioned that he wasn't even aware he had broken the record at the moment it happened. He has dedicated this achievement to his mother. Why Freediving? Freediving is often described as a meditative experience rather than just a physical challenge. Unlike scuba diving, which

relies on heavy equipment, freediving is about exploring the depths on a single breath. For Dinesh, the sport acts as a form of "medicine" that offers a sense of absolute freedom and tranquility. According to Dinesh, the sport is as much about mental discipline as it is about lung capacity. As a diver descends, the increas-

ing pressure causes the oxygen in the lungs to compress. To conserve oxygen for vital organs, the mind must remain perfectly still. Training allows a diver's heart rate to drop significantly. While a typical resting heart rate is around 75-80 bpm, a freediver's heart rate can plunge to 40-50 bpm during a dive. Meditation is a crucial part of his training, helping him maintain the focus required to manage the body's oxygen consumption effectively while diving. Dinesh also emphasised the critical role of a coach in this high-stakes sport. Because a diver must trust their life to the person on the surface or accompanying them, the bond between the athlete and the coach is paramount.

## "WEST INDIES STILL STRANDED": ENGLAND GREAT BLASTS ICC BIAS IN EXPLOSIVE POST

While the England cricket team boarded their return flight home just 36 hours after being eliminated from the T20 World Cup 2026, the likes of West Indies and South Africa are reportedly still waiting to leave India. West Indies' T20 World Cup campaign concluded on March 01 after a Super 8 loss to India, while South Africa were eliminated by New Zealand in the semi-finals on March 04. Yet, both remain in India due to airspace restrictions, in the wake of the US-Israel war with Iran over West Asia. Former England captain Michael Vaughan, who has been questioning the International Cricket Council (ICC) over the prolonged delay. On Tuesday, Vaughan poked ICC again,

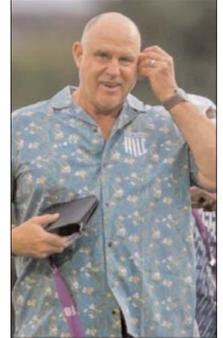


asking why England were able to leave so early while West Indies and South Africa continue to wait. "Just to let you all know that the West Indies got knocked out of the World Cup on March 1st. It's now March 9th. They are still stranded in Kolkata.. SA are in the same position..!!!!!! This isn't right... England got on a charter 36 hrs after being knocked out.. as should be

the case for all teams," he wrote on X (formerly Twitter). When Will South Africa, West Indies Fly Out? The stranded West Indies and South Africa squads are scheduled to leave Kolkata in the early hours of Tuesday on a shared charter flight to Johannesburg following their exits from the T20 World Cup. From Johannesburg, the West Indies squad will continue to Antigua. This shared flight was arranged after both teams were stranded in India for several days due to international airspace restrictions amid the conflict in the Middle East. The number of players currently remaining in India are 12 from the West Indies plus 10 support staff and 12 from South Africa plus two support staff.

## Gujarat Titans Appoint Matthew Hayden As Batting Coach Ahead Of IPL 2026

Gujarat Titans today announced the appointment of former Australian great Matthew Hayden as the franchise's batting coach ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 season. A World Cup winner and one of the most dominant opening batters of his era, Hayden joins the Titans setup with an illustrious international career and expertise in modern-day T20 batting dynamics and will strengthen the franchise's support staff as it prepares for the 2026 season with renewed vigour. Commenting on the appointment, Vikram Solanki, Director of Cricket, Gujarat Titans, said: "Matthew's appointment comes at a pivotal phase in our journey. As a



franchise committed to excellence and long-term success, we are constantly focused on strengthening our cricketing ecosystem. His experience at the highest level, coupled with his ability to mentor emerging talent, will be instrumen-

tal in shaping our batting identity for the seasons ahead." Commenting on his appointment, Hayden said: "Good batting applies pressure. Great batting owns the game. That's the standard we want to set at Gujarat Titans." Hayden represented Australia in 273 international matches across formats, scoring over 15,000 international runs and playing a pivotal role in multiple ICC tournament victories. His aggressive yet technically robust approach to batting laid early foundations for the evolution of powerplay dominance in white-ball cricket. He also featured in 32 IPL matches, showcasing a style of play ideally suited to the league's high-intensity demands.

## 'FIGHTER' KARTAL STUNS KEYS IN INDIAN WELLS COMEBACK



Britain's Sonay Kartal showed her "fighter" spirit as she battled back to stun former Australian Open champion Madison Keys in the third round at Indian Wells. American Keys, who won her first major at Melbourne Park in 2025, dominated the first set but Kartal rallied to complete a 2-6 6-2 6-3 turnaround in just under two hours. The British number two revealed she was still struggling with the back injury that had forced her to call a medical time out during her second-round match against Emma Navarro on Sunday, when she saved a match point en route to victory. "At times in this match I was in discomfort with my back, so it's a match like today which shows the fighter in me," Kartal told BBC Sport after her win over Keys. "On these courts I do feel I can beat anyone on any given day." Kartal's run to the fourth round at Indian

Wells last year, her debut at a WTA 1,000 tournament, helped kick-start a breakthrough season for the 24-year-old, who reached a career-high ranking of 44 in 2025. With victory over 15th seed Keys, Kartal - now ranked 54th - becomes the first British woman to reach the fourth round at the California-based tournament twice. Kartal said she will prioritise recovery for her back before she meets Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina, the reigning Australian Open champion, in the last 16. "It [the back] was a pretty big hindrance," Kartal added. "I didn't really practise yesterday so I gave it as much recovery as I could, so I think now it's about getting recovered and doing the same exact thing to get back on the court in the next couple of days." Kartal was not the only player to cause an upset on Monday with a comeback win.

## Cheltenham Festival: Saratoga wins for McManus on owner's 75th birthday

Trainer Nicky Henderson, speaking to BBC Radio 5 Sports Extra, whose horse Hyland goes in the Ultima Handicap Chase: "We have got a strong load on today." "This has been a good race, and it has been kind to us over the years. It is all the best novice hurdlers, who are all coming out to play. They are the future. "It keeps us going. It is terrific. When you have horses as good as these - we will keep bashing away all week! I know a lot of people going abroad and watching horse rac-

ing. To go and sit in the sun, watch the racing on TV. If you want to have a bet, you can do it on your phone. It is a different way of doing it, but I like to be at Cheltenham. The atmosphere at Cheltenham is what makes it. It is amazing the first race today when the tape goes up and off we go - it will be a great atmosphere. Trainer Nicky Henderson, speaking to BBC Radio 5 Sports Extra, whose horse Hyland goes in the Ultima Handicap Chase: "We have got a strong load on today." "This has

been a good race, and it has been kind to us over the years. It is all the best novice hurdlers, who are all coming out to play. They are the future. "It keeps us going. It is terrific. When you have horses as good as these - we will keep bashing away all week!" Sean Bowen, the reigning champion jockey who is on course to win the title again this season, has yet to land a winner at the Cheltenham Festival. The 28-year-old has another chance here as he rides Resplendent Grey. The longest Grade

One race of the day at three miles and a furlong, with the joint biggest field with 22 runners scheduled to compete. Multiple tipsters fancy Quebecois, despite the seven-year-old trained by Paul Nicholls enduring patchy form in recent races. He has not won in four over fences, but the mount of jockey Harry Cobden hugely impressed at Cheltenham Trials Day in January. And with the seventh-lightest weight of the field, this is a chance for this well-tipped lad to step up.



## PRIYADARSHI'S SUYODHANA RELEASE DATE LOCKED AS MARCH 27

Suyodhana, starring Priyadarshi and Drishika Chander in the lead roles, is gearing up for a worldwide theatrical release on March 27. The film also features Dialogue King Sai Kumar and senior actress Prema in pivotal roles. Produced under the Prajwala Line Creations banner, the film is directed by Y. S. Madhav Reddy and produced by Bosubabu Nidumolu. The makers recently unveiled the film's release date poster, confirming that the movie has completed all formalities and is ready for its theatrical rollout. Speaking on the occasion, producer Bosubabu Nidumolu said that Suyodhana has been crafted with a strong storyline and high production standards. He noted that the film features significant performances from Priyadarshi, Sai Kumar, Drishika Chander, and veteran actress Prema. The music for the film has been composed by Jai Krish, while the lyrics have been penned by Ramajogayya Sastry.



### Highlights

- SUYODHANA, STARRING PRIYADARSHI AND DRISHIKA CHANDER IN THE LEAD ROLES, IS GEARING UP FOR A WORLDWIDE THEATRICAL RELEASE ON MARCH 27. THE FILM ALSO FEATURES DIALOGUE KING SAI KUMAR AND SENIOR ACTRESS PREMA IN PIVOTAL ROLES.

The producer added that the team is excited to bring the film to audiences on March 27 and revealed that the

teaser, trailer, and songs from the film will be released soon as part of the promotional campaign.

## The Blockbuster combination Vamsi Nandipati Entertainments and ETV Win next "Inka Em Anukoledhu" Crazy Title Announcement Video; Film Releasing on Sept 4th

Producer Vamsi Nandipati, who previously delivered multiple successful projects in collaboration with ETV Win, is once again joining forces with the platform for "Inka Em Anukoledhu." Their earlier collaborations proved that content-driven entertainers with a unique comedic flavor can resonate strongly with audiences. "Inka Em Anukoledhu" is directed by the writer-director duo Pranai Valluripalli and Giri Pemmasani, with Sinjith Yerramilli composing the music and Rehan Shaik handling cinematography. The makers of "Inka Em Anukoledhu" have sparked major buzz online with a wildly entertaining title announcement video that instantly caught everyone's attention. Instead of following the usual promotional formula, the team unveiled the title through a quirky, meme-packed video that blends satire, nostalgic ETV theme, and unapologetic humor. What makes the announcement stand out is its creative use of meme references and witty punches throughout the video. Packed with humorous nods and internet-style comedy, the clip keeps viewers



engaged from start to finish. Adding to the curiosity, the makers cleverly kept the cast details completely under wraps in the announcement. Produced by Vamsi Nandipati with co-producers Ramana Reddy and Sameer Kannu, the bromantic comedy is gearing up for a theatrical release on September 4, 2026. With its unconventional and hilarious title reveal, the film has already created strong anticipation among audiences.

## Grand Felicitation Ceremony: "Katti Kantha Rao Memorial National Award" Presented to Actor Dr. Rajendra Prasad



Grand Felicitation Ceremony: "Katti Kantha Rao Memorial National Award" Presented to Actor Dr. Rajendra Prasad" On Monday evening in Hyderabad, the Katti Kantha Rao Memorial National Award was presented to veteran actor Dr. Rajendra Prasad, popularly known as Nata Kireeti. The award ceremony was organized jointly by the Bharata Cultural Academy and the Telugu Film Television Welfare Forum. As part of the event, International Women's Day was also celebrated, and several women from different fields were honored. The program was attended by many distinguished personalities including BJP State President Ramachander Rao, noted director S.V. Krishna Reddy, senior actress Kavitha, Telangana FDC MD and I&PR Commissioner Ms. Priyanka, directors Prem Raj, Vision VVK founder Vijay Kumar, Nagabala D. Suresh Kumar, lyricist

Janaki Dubbing Janaki expressed her gratitude to the Bharata Cultural Academy and Telugu Film Television Welfare Forum for remembering senior artists like her and honoring them. She requested Nagabala Suresh to continue organizing such programs every year to recognize veteran artists. Nagabala Suresh Kumar Nagabala Suresh said that good deeds should inspire people even after we are gone. He recalled that his career began 32 years ago with the serial Adi Parashakti, followed by successful serials like Swathi Chinukulu and Nagabala, which created a sensation. He noted that the Nagabala serial was appreciated in 18 countries and was translated into 16 Indian languages. Over his career, he produced 27 serials, received 12 Nandi Awards, a Lifetime Achievement Award, and recognition from the Guinness Book of World Records.

Senior Actress Dubbing

## "Dark Night" – Emotional Thriller Starring Poorna Releasing in Theatres on March 13

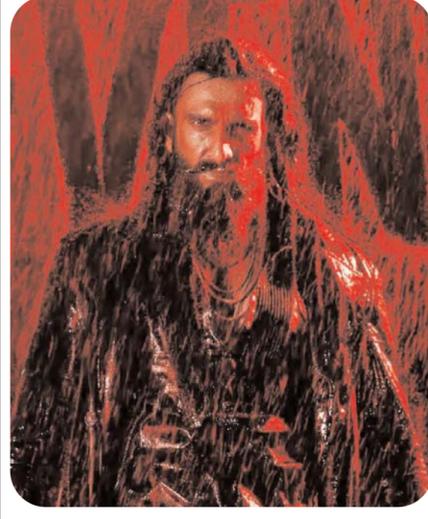
"Dark Night," an emotional thriller starring actress Poorna in the lead role, is all set to release in theatres across the Telugu states on March 13. The film is written and directed by G.R. Aditya. Poorna plays the character Hema, a pivotal role that drives the narrative forward. The film also stars Trigun (Adith Arun) as Roshan, Vidarth as Alex, and Subhashree Rayaguru as Sophia in important roles. The movie features music composed by Mysskin, and is presented by Patolla Venkat Reddy under the P19 Studios banner. The film is produced by Suresh Reddy Kovvuri. Speaking on the occasion, producer Suresh Reddy



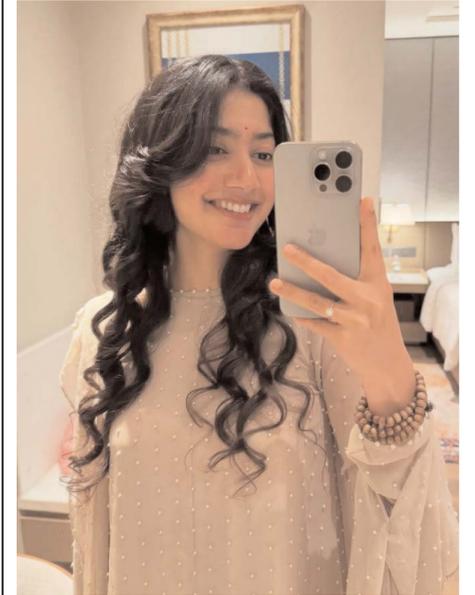
Kovvuri said: "Dark Night" story revolves around the lives of four central characters. The complex emotions, secrets, and conflicts between them create a grip-

ping and engaging narrative. As the story unfolds, audiences will experience an emotional journey filled with suspense. The film also introduces an unexpected twist with supernatural elements that take the story in a surprising direction. With Mysskin's signature background score, the film blends emotion and suspense, making 'Dark Night' a memorable cinematic experience. Overall, with its unique storytelling, emotional depth, and thrilling elements, the film will keep audiences engaged with the characters for two intense hours. The story particularly highlights themes relevant to today's youth, reflecting their experiences and emotions."

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## Sai Pallavi says 'just coz I love what I wore' as she shares new pictures



Mumbai: Actress Sai Pallavi shared a few glimpses of her latest look, saying "just coz I love what I wore," as she posted a set of pictures celebrating the outfit she donned. The actress took to Instagram, where she appeared delighted with her look, giving a candid peek into her personal style. Keeping it simple, the actress looked every inch gorgeous in sarees and salwar kameez. "Just coz I love what I wore," Pallavi wrote as the caption. Pallavi's acting journey began with uncredited roles and appearances on dance shows, but her breakthrough came as Malar in the 2015 Malayalam film Premam. In 2017, she ventured into Telugu cinema with Fidaa. Pallavi has starred in the films Kali, Middle Class Abbayi, Maari 2, Paava Kadhaigal, Love Story, Shyam Singha Roy, Gargi, Amaran and Thandel. Her song "Rowdy Baby" is the first South Indian video song to reach one billion views on YouTube. She will next be seen playing Sita in Nitesh Tiwari's 'Ramayana'. The upcoming film features a galaxy of stars with Ranbir in the role of Lord Ram and Yash essaying Raavan. Sunny Deol will portray Lord Hanuman, Amitabh Bachchan will play Jatayu, and Lara Dutt will be seen as Kaikeyi. Two music titans, Hans Zimmer and A. R. Rahman are joining forces for the film. 'Ramayana' is a two-part live-action cinematic universe being reimaged on the scale of the biggest tentpoles produced to date. The film also features Hollywood's top stunt directors Terry Notary (Avengers, Planet of the Apes) and Guy Norris (Mad Max: Fury Road, Furiosa), choreographing the epic battles between gods and demons. 'Ramayana' is being filmed for IMAX and will be released worldwide with Part 1 releasing in Diwali 2026 and Part 2 in Diwali 2027.

## 28th Ugadi Awards under the Aegis of Sri Kala Sudha – Pemmasani Chandrasekhar and Kandula Durgesh to Attend as Chief Guests

Marking 27 years since its inception, the Sri Kala Sudha Telugu Association, which was established on November 21, 1998, in Chennai to promote and celebrate Telugu culture, will be presenting the 28th Ugadi Awards on the auspicious occasion of the Parabhava Nama Samvatsara Ugadi. The awards ceremony will be held on Sunday, March 15, 2026, at 4:29 PM at the Music Academy, Chennai. During the event, "Mahila Ratna," "Bapu Bomma," "Bapu-Ramana," and "Vishishta Ugadi" Awards, along with Cine Awards-2025, will be presented. These awards will honour actors, directors, producers, and technicians from films released in 2025 across various categories. Additionally, accomplished women from different fields will be felicitated with the Mahila Ratna



Award. The decision regarding the awardees was taken after discussions with the committee members. Members of Sri Kala Sudha have invited Telugu people from across regions to attend the event and celebrate the rich legacy and achievements of the Telugu community. On this occasion, the organizers announced the names of the award recipients and shared details of the upcoming ceremony. The press meet was attended by Telugu

Film Producers Council Secretary Tummala Prasanna Kumar, senior film journalist Prabhhu, Bethireddy Srinivas, Prativadhi Bhayankara Phaninder, Venu Gopal, Ajay Kumar, journalist Keshava, and others. The event will have Dr. Brahmasani Chandrasekhar as the Chief Guest, while MVR Murali Krishna will attend as the Guest of Honour. A. Sai Prasad, Sahu Garapati, Shashikanth

Valleppalli, Muba Padmaiah, Rajamouli Sheern, and Saroj Vivekanand will grace the occasion as Special Guests. The Vasishta Ugadi Award for Public Service will be presented to Andhra Pradesh Tourism and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh. The Mahila Ratna Award will be conferred upon Mrs. Mamatha Madireddy. The Andesri Memorial Award will be presented to Oscar-winning lyricist

- Chandrabose, while the PB Srinivas Award will be given to music director Devi Sri Prasad for the film Thandirini.
- Ugadi Cine Awards – 2025 Winners**
- Best Film: Mirai
  - Best Sensational Film: Sankranthiki Vasthunnam
  - Best Jury Award Film: Dude
  - Best Actor: Akkineni Naga Chaitanya
  - Best Actress: Rashmika Mandanna
  - Best Director: Anil Ravipudi
  - Best Dialogue Writer: Mahesh Babu P
  - Best Cinematographer: Niketh Bonmi
  - Best Villain: Diksith Shetty
  - Best Music Director: Bheems Ceciroleo
  - Best Debut Director: Ram Jagadish
  - Best Debut Actor: Harsh Roshan
  - Best New Hero: Keeriti Reddy
  - Best Male Singer: Ramana Gogula
  - Best Female Singer: Haripriya
- Other Awardees**
- Best New Actresses: Aishwarya Arjun, Anaswara Rajan, Sakshi Madolkar
  - Best Dialogues & Director: Rahul Ravindran
  - Best Child Artist: Bulli Raju
- The organizers stated that the Ugadi Awards ceremony will celebrate excellence in cinema and recognize distinguished personalities from various fields, further strengthening the pride and cultural identity of the Telugu community.