

RUPEE HITS 95 MARK AGAINST DOLLAR AMID OIL SURGE, RBI CURBS



WHY DOES THE US HAVE IRAN'S KHARG ISLAND IN ITS SIGHTS?



CARLOS SAINZ LEADS F1 DRIVERS' CALL FOR SAFETY CHANGES AFTER OLIVER BEARMAN'S JAPANESE GP CRASH



IN BRIFS

414 LPG CYLINDERS DUMPED IN HYDERABAD GRAVEYARD SEIZED, 10 HELD



Hyderabad (TSIT): Amid the ongoing shortage of LPG due to the Gulf war, Hyderabad Police on Monday busted an illegal LPG cylinder hoarding racket with the arrest of 10 persons and seizure of 414 cylinders hidden in a graveyard.

BRS MLA'S ALLEGED UNRULY BEHAVIOUR REFERRED TO ETHICS COMMITTEE

Hyderabad, March 29 : Telangana Assembly Speaker on Sunday referred to the Ethics Committee the incident of alleged unruly behaviour of opposition BRS MLA P. Kaushik Reddy in the House.

CM Revanth highlights farmer welfare, food security & rice distribution reforms

Focus on MSP, Anti-Hoarding Measures, and Expansion of Fine Rice Scheme

HYDERABAD (TSIT) Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, during an informal interaction, emphasized that while producers in most sectors have the power to decide prices, farmers alone are deprived of this right.



"To ensure better nutrition and acceptability, we launched the fine rice distribution scheme for the poor," the Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said

Tracing the evolution of food security measures, CM Revanth Reddy recalled that the subsidised rice scheme was first introduced during the tenure of former Chief Minister M. Vijayabhaskar Reddy under the Congress government.

He observed that for nearly four decades, coarse rice was distributed through the Public Distribution System (PDS). However, due to low consumption of coarse rice, a

black-market network emerged to convert it into fine rice. Recognising that coarse rice was not benefiting the poor effectively, the government decided to introduce the distribution of fine rice (sanna biyyam).

"To ensure better nutrition and acceptability, we launched the fine rice distribution scheme for the poor," the Chief Minister said. To support this transition, farmers are being encouraged to cultivate fine

varieties of paddy with a bonus of Rs.500 per quintal.

He revealed that nearly 3.39 crore people—about 86% of Telangana's population—are currently benefiting from the fine rice scheme, with the coverage expected to reach 90% in the future.

The Chief Minister added that ration cards have been issued to all eligible beneficiaries, ensuring that both farmers and the poor are supported—farmers through better returns and citizens through food security. He noted that black-market activities have significantly reduced due to the fine rice distribution system, made possible through continuous monitoring by the Civil Supplies Department and its staff.

Marking one year of implementation of the scheme, the

Chief Minister informed that the progress was shared with MLAs and MLCs in the Assembly. Looking ahead, CM Revanth Reddy stated that the government's next priority is to ensure quality education and nutritious food for students.

He emphasised the need to promote crop diversification, encouraging farmers to shift towards commercial crops alongside paddy. He clarified that while the government will create awareness on crop diversification, it will not impose any pressure on farmers. The Chief Minister also announced that a robust regulatory system would be introduced to curb food adulteration, similar to enforcement models like "Eagle" and "Hydra."

CM Chandrababu Launches Housewarming of 2.5 Lac Houses

NAIDUPETA (TSIT): In a massive statewide initiative, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu today launched the housewarming ceremony for 2,50,893 houses across the state, personally participating in the event at Naidupeta in Sullurupeta constituency of Tirupati district.



Chandrababu Naidu stated that within 21 months, the coalition government has completed and delivered 5.5 lakh houses. In Tirupati district alone, 15,659 houses were completed and distributed.

The Chief Minister inspected the G+3 housing complexes at Pudur near Naidupeta,

which are equipped with modern amenities including parks, walking tracks, wide roads, anganwadis, and schools. He participated in housewarming ceremonies with beneficiaries, taking part in traditional Hindu rituals and also visiting Muslim households, symbolizing communal harmony.

India Naxal-free, Maoist leadership decimated: HM Amit Shah

New Delhi, March 30 : Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday declared in the Lok Sabha that India has virtually become Naxal-free, with the dreaded Maoist central and state leadership structures almost completely eliminated just a day before the government's self-imposed deadline of March 31, 2026.

Addressing a debate on Naxalism, HM Shah provided a detailed account of the massive success achieved under the Modi government's zero-tolerance policy. He stated that the Maoists' central committee leadership has been neutralised or forced to surrender. Out of the top leadership, 12 have been killed, and only one is absconding, with talks underway for his surrender as well. In the state committees, the picture is equally decisive.

The main 27-member state committee in one key affected state was wiped out — 11 killed, with talks initiated with two others. In Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra-Chhattisgarh, three

Rahul flags economic crisis, blames PM Modi for "surrendering India's future"

New Delhi (TSIT) Congress leader Rahul Gandhi warned on Monday that India is facing a severe economic crisis, citing a collapsing rupee, crashing stock markets, falling incomes, job losses, wiped-out savings, and shortages of essential commodities.

Taking to platform X, Gandhi, who is also the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, said: "The rupee has fallen from Rs 95 to Rs 100, stocks are crashing, jobs are gone, incomes are falling, and people's savings have been wiped out. Even cooking gas cylinders are unavailable." Gandhi further wrote: "This is the result of a compromised leadership. PM Modi is desperate to protect himself and his financial structure, but 140 crore Indians know the truth — he has surrendered India's future."

Gandhi's comments come amid growing concern over inflation, currency depreciation, and market volatility. Economists say a weakening rupee increases import costs and pressures businesses, while declining stock markets reduce investor confidence. "Every citizen is feeling the pinch," Gandhi added. "Families are struggling to make ends meet while the government seems more focused on its own interests than on the welfare of the people."

He also highlighted shortages of essential items, including cooking gas cylinders, as evidence of policy failures. Analysts



"Every citizen is feeling the pinch," Gandhi added. "Families are struggling to make ends meet while the government seems more focused on its own interests than on the welfare of the people."

note that supply chain disruptions, global energy price rises, and domestic regulatory challenges have contributed to sporadic shortages. The statements have intensified the political debate over the government's economic management, with critics pointing to unemployment, inflation, and currency weakness as key issues.

Trump warns Iran on Hormuz, power grid if deal is not reached



Washington (TSIT) : US President Donald Trump on Monday warned that the United States could strike Iran's key energy infrastructure if a deal is not reached soon and the Strait of Hormuz is not reopened, even as he said talks were making progress. Trump said the United States is in "serious discussions" with what he described as a "new, and more reasonable, regime" in Iran to end ongoing military operations. "Great progress has been made," he said, adding that a deal would "probably" be reached shortly. However, he issued a strong warning if negotiations fail. "If for any reason a deal is not shortly reached... and if the Hormuz Strait is not immediately 'Open for Business,' we will... completely obliterating all of their Electric Generating Plants, Oil Wells and Kharg Island," Trump said.

Iran rejects US proposed truce plan as 'very excessive, unrealistic'

Tehran, March 30 : The recent truce plan proposed by the United States contains "very excessive, unrealistic and unreasonable" demands, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said on Monday. The spokesman made the remarks at a press conference in Tehran while elaborating on the US-proposed 15-point plan delivered to Iran via intermediaries to end the ongoing



"If for any reason a deal is not shortly reached... & if the Hormuz Strait is not immediately 'Open for Business,' we will... completely obliterating all of their Electric Generating Plants, Oil Wells and Kharg Island," --Trump

conflict in the Middle East. Unlike the United States, "which constantly changes its positions, and whose officials make and demon-

strate contradictory remarks and behaviours", Iran's stance towards relevant issues has been completely clear from the begin-

ning, Baghaei said, Xinhua News Agency reported.

"We know very well what our desired framework is. As I mentioned

earlier, the materials that have been conveyed to us under various titles, such as the '15-point plan' mainly include very excessive, unrealistic, and unreasonable demands." Baghaei stressed that "up to this moment, we have had no direct negotiation with the United States." He noted that since the last round of negotiations with the United States in Geneva on February 26, Iran has received messages through certain intermediaries, including Pakistan.

RBI injects Rs 84,582 crore into banking system

Mumbai (TSIT): The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday injected Rs 84,582 crore into the banking system to enhance liquidity through two variable rate repo (VRR) auctions. The central bank injected Rs 50,001 crore through the first three-day VRR auction early in the day at a cut-off rate of 5.34 per cent and weighted average rate of 5.44 per cent, according to an RBI state-

ment. The RBI injected another Rs 34,581 crore at 5.26 per cent cut-off and 5.30 per cent weighted average rate at an auction later during the day.

In the first auction, the central bank received bids of Rs 57,287 crore as against the notified amount of Rs 50,000 crore and accepted bids worth Rs 50,001 crore. However, for the second auction, the bids received were lower than the notified amount.

# Karnataka: Davanagere South bypoll hinges on silent vote, minority shift

Davanagere, March 30 (TSIT) Silent voters, a possible split in minority votes, and the unmistakable shadow of last-minute money power have turned the Davanagere South bypoll into a quiet, simmering contest — one where the noise is low, but the stakes are unmistakably high.

Traditionally seen as a Congress-leaning seat, Davanagere South has over the years witnessed the dominance of veteran leader Shamanur Shivashankarappa and his political network, with minority votes — particularly from Muslim communities — playing a decisive role in electoral outcomes. However, the current bypoll presents a more fluid and unpredictable scenario.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has fielded Dasakariyappa Srinivas, projecting him as a grassroots, acces-



sible leader with strong local connect. Party workers and supporters describe him as a "middle-class candidate" who has been actively engaging with voters across wards and localities.

On the other side, the Congress continues to rely on its traditional

base, banking on its established organisational strength and past electoral performance in the constituency. A key twist in the contest has been the withdrawal of minority leader Sadiq Pailwan, whose presence was earlier seen as a potential factor in consolidating or

splitting Muslim votes. His exit has altered the electoral arithmetic, triggering fresh churn within the community. On the surface, the election feels uneventful. No dramatic wave, no visible surge. But beneath that calm lies a constituency thinking, calculating, and withholding. "People say one thing and do another. It's silent voting this time," said Tippteswamy, capturing the mood.

At tea stalls and street corners, conversations dip when they turn political. "Ask outside. Here, people won't speak openly," said a hotel worker at Hoondadha Circle, reflecting the caution among voters. Yet, when they do speak, a more assertive and layered picture emerges — particularly from within the Muslim community. "There is anger over how candidates were chosen," said Imran Khan from

Azad Nagar. "Some want to defeat Congress this time as a message," he said, indicating a clear protest sentiment. In group discussions, that sentiment sharpens further. "This time, many have decided — Congress should be defeated," said one Muslim resident, requesting anonymity. Another added, "There is no problem with the party as such, but because of certain leaders, people are thinking differently. That is why there is talk of teaching a lesson." At the same time, caution remains. "What is said now and what happens finally can be different," another resident noted, underlining the fluidity within the community. Even among those expressing anger, there is no single alternative. Some hint at backing BJP, others speak of tactical voting, while a section remains undecided.

## SPARSH Hospital Demonstrates Coordinated Mass-Casualty Response Following Industrial Fire



Bengaluru: In the aftermath of the industrial fire accident at a textile design printing factory on Mysore Road on 1st February evening, five critically injured burn victims were treated at SPARSH Hospital RR Nagar, reinforcing the hospital's preparedness to manage high-acuity mass-casualty emergencies. The hospital's strategic location and arterial connectivity enabled timely transfer within the critical golden hour.

The patients, initially given first-line emergency care at a nearby hospital, were transferred to SPARSH Hospital RR Nagar in critical condition. The injuries were severe and involved burns on face, hands, and back, with one patient suffering severe inhalation burns affecting the airway.

Upon receiving the alert, SPARSH Hospital activated its mass-casualty and burn management protocols, mobilizing dedicated ICU beds and assembling a multidisciplinary emergency team within minutes. A rapid capacity assessment confirmed readiness for prolonged intensive care and advanced nutritional and metabolic support - critical for managing severe burns. Upon arrival, patients were rapidly triaged and stabilized, with families counselled on injury severity and next steps. The clinical response was led by Dr Gunasekar Vuppalapati, Senior

Consultant - Plastic Surgery, along with Dr Deepak K L, Senior Consultant - Aesthetic and Reconstructive Plastic Surgery. The multidisciplinary team included intensivists, anesthesiologists, critical care specialists, specialized burn nurses, nutrition experts, and physiotherapists. To ensure uninterrupted high-dependency care, 21 trained nurses were deployed in rotational shifts, enabling 1:1 monitoring for the patients.

Over the next five hours, the team delivered coordinated emergency intervention, initiating individualized burn management for each patient. One patient with severe inhalation injury was administered emergency intubation and advanced airway support.

"Severe burns are life-threatening and require immediate, structured intervention," said Dr Gunasekar Vuppalapati. "Beyond fluid resuscitation, the challenge is preventing a cytokine storm - an extreme immune overreaction that can damage vital organs, along with metabolic collapse, hypothermia, and infection. The first 48 hours are critical. Our focus was airway stabilization, precise fluid management, temperature control, aggressive wound care, and high-protein nutritional support, delivered through seamless coordination between the surgical, ICU, and nursing team."

## No LPG shortage in Karnataka: Muniyappa

Bengaluru, March 30 (TSIT) Against the backdrop of concerns over LPG availability and pricing, Karnataka's Food and Civil Supplies Minister KH Muniyappa has asserted that there is no shortage of domestic or auto LPG in the state, while issuing a strict warning to private distributors against over-charging consumers.

Positioning the state's supply chain as stable and actively managed, the minister said the government has stepped up commercial LPG distribution significantly, scaling daily supply to 29,463 cylinders and raising the allocation limit to 68 per cent. He noted that the supply mechanism had gradually improved from 20 per cent at the onset of the Middle

East crisis, to 40 per cent, and now to 68 per cent, ensuring that commercial demand is being met in a phased and prioritised manner.

As part of this calibrated expansion, 17,500 cylinders are being supplied daily to hotels, while other sectors, including auto LPG, continue to receive allocations as per existing orders. The minister said the priority-based distribution model is designed to balance demand across critical and commercial segments without disrupting essential services.

Reinforcing the government's stance on market discipline, Muniyappa cautioned private LPG distributors against selling cylinders above the government-fixed price.

## Protest to halt school admissions at an institution whose government recognition has been revoked

Bengaluru : The management of Jamia Mohammadiya Mansoor in Hegde Nagar has allegedly created fake documents and is operating Samar International Islamic School, whose recognition has already been cancelled.

Students, parents, and Kannada organizations staged a protest today, demanding that no admissions be made for the 2026-27 academic year. Protesters gathered in front of the school and expressed anger, stating that students' futures should not be put at risk.

The School Education Department has already ordered the closure of the institution, and protesters insisted that the rule of law must be upheld. They emphasized that the High Court's order—pro-



hibiting admissions until further notice—must be strictly followed. Concerns were also raised about violations of children's right to education. Social activist Abdul Hameed Pasha stated that despite the department's closure order, the school continues to admit students in defiance of government regulations and court directives. He accused the institution of suppressing chil-

dren's rights. He further alleged that the institution fraudulently received a grant of Rs.10 lakh from the Minority Welfare Department, calling it a serious misuse of public funds. According to him, the organization is misrepresenting itself by using a Mumbai-based registration under the name "Al Jamia Mohammadiya Education Society" to mislead both the

public and the government, and to evade taxes. The school is reportedly being run from an unregistered madrasa, and granting funds to such an institution, he said, is an unforgivable offense. He also pointed out that the institution is not a registered trust but an organization, and under the Karnataka Education Act (1983) and the Right to Education Act (2009).

## BENGALURU SOUTH GEARED UP FOR DIGITAL CENSUS 2027; FOCUS ON 'SELF-ENUMERATION': KN RAMESH

Bengaluru : South City Corporation is fully prepared for "Houselisting and Housing Census 2027," the first phase of India's first-ever completely digital census. To facilitate this historic process, a special Self-Enumeration (SE) portal has been introduced, allowing citizens to record their information themselves.

Launch with the Census of Dignitaries Following tradition, this massive program will be inaugurated by enumerating the state's constitutional dignitaries and prominent figures. Dignitaries residing within the Bengaluru South City Corporation limits will lead by example by recording their details through this special portal.

"The participation of dignitaries will provide significant impetus to

this digital campaign. It will build confidence among the general public regarding the ease and security of the census process," stated the Principal Census Officer.

How the Digital Census Process Works This year's census will be conducted in two distinct phases:

Self-Enumeration Period (15 Days): For 15 days prior to the start of official fieldwork, citizens can log into the SE portal to record their household details.

Enumerator Visits (30 Days): Following the self-enumeration period, enumerators will conduct door-to-door visits for 30 days to collect and verify information.

Awareness and Publicity

The enumeration process of dignitaries will be broadcast via television, radio, regional

channels, and social media to raise public awareness. All census officers have been instructed to prepare lists of dignitaries within their jurisdictions and coordinate to ensure the success of this mission.

Appeal to the Public The census plays a vital role in planning city infrastructure, development projects, and welfare schemes. Therefore, every citizen of Bengaluru South is urged to participate actively in this national endeavor.

"The digital census is not just a collection of statistics; it is the preface to our city's future development. We hope citizens make full use of the self-enumeration facility," said the Principal Census Officer and Commissioner of Bengaluru South City Corporation.

## Citizens Enabled for Self-Enumeration for Census-2027 House Listing and Housing Census - D.S. Ramesh

Bengaluru: Commissioner D.S. Ramesh informed that, in connection with the National Census-2027, the House Listing and Housing Census will commence from April 1st within the jurisdiction of the Bengaluru East City Corporation. Necessary steps are being taken to ensure that the census is conducted efficiently and in a timely manner. As per the directions of the State Government, preparatory activities for the first phase of Census-2027, namely House Listing and Housing Census, have been expedited. The Commissioner emphasized that it is extremely important for citizens to accurately provide basic information about their households and families.

Provision for Self-Enumeration

The Ministry of Home Affairs has planned to conduct Census-2027 in two phases. In the first phase, citizens are provided an opportunity

for self-enumeration of house listing and housing details for a period of 15 days, from April 01, 2026 to April 15, 2026, through the web portal: <https://se.census.gov.in>

Accordingly, any one member of the household can complete the self-enumeration process within approximately 15-20 minutes and submit the household details. A Self-Enumeration ID will be generated and shared via mobile/email upon completion.

In the second phase of Census-2027, from April 16, 2026 to May 15, 2026, enumerators will visit households to collect and verify house listing and housing census data. During this visit, citizens are required to share their Self-Enumeration ID with the enumerator for verification and final submission of data.

The Commissioner stated that the self-enumeration process enhances transparency, speed, and accuracy in census operations.

## Affordplan Partners with AHPI-Tamil Nadu to Boost Procurement Transparency for Hospitals

BENGALURU, March 30, 2026 - Affordplan, a healthcare fintech and procurement solutions provider, has entered into a strategic partnership with the Association of Healthcare Providers (India) - Tamil Nadu Chapter (AHPI-TN) to enhance procurement transparency and efficiency for hospitals across the state.

The collaboration, formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), grants AHPI-TN member hospitals access to Affordplan's Procurement Optimization Platform, Procalyx™, a digital solution designed for product and price discovery in the pharmaceutical and medical device sectors.

The healthcare industry has long faced challenges with fragmented



procurement data, resulting in price disparities for identical pharmaceutical products and medical consumables. Procalyx™ addresses this by providing a standardized framework that enables hospitals to evaluate products and market rates in real time, facilitating more informed purchasing decisions.

This allows hospital owners to optimize procurement budgets without compromising on clinical quality. Speaking on the partner-

ship, Anand Nevatia, Co-Founder of Affordplan, said, "The primary objective of this partnership is to replace information asymmetry with data-driven decision-making. By utilizing Affordplan Procalyx™, hospitals can verify market benchmarks for pharmaceuticals and consumables in real time. This structural improvement in the supply chain is a necessary step toward long-term operational sustainability for healthcare providers."

## SPIRITUAL SCIENTIST, RASHMI AIYAPPA, RECEIVES LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR HER PIONEERING WORK IN WELLNESS INDUSTRY (INDIA)

Bangalore : Rashmi Aiyappa - Spiritual Scientist, Inventor, and Founder of Aashwasan®, was conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award - Wellness Industry (India) at the Udyog Yogdaan Puraskar 2026, in association with Karnataka Tourism. The evening was graced by celebrities, industry leaders and renowned social personalities. The Udyog Yogdaan Puraskar is a distinguished industry recognition that honours an individual whose exemplary contributions have left a lasting legacy in their fields. Rashmi Aiyappa was honoured for her exceptional contributions in the fields of Health & Wellness. Through her pioneering invention, Aashwasan Science®, she has introduced a transformative approach that enables holistic well-being



in physiological, psychological, and spiritual health, marking a significant breakthrough in how wellness is understood and experienced. A trailblazer, visionary and revolutionary entrepreneur, Rashmi Aiyappa was born with the experience of nature's phenomena: Lifeorce Mechanism® and Timeless Phenomenon®, which contain the knowledge of life's mechanisms,

and the cause-and-effect cycle of nature. Through these two phenomena, she brought forth a path-breaking spiritual technology - Aashwasan Science®. This science endorses the quantum phenomena that form the underpinning of all mechanisms of the universe. It is a bridge between universal science and the physical sciences. This science encompasses the mecha-

nisms of all life forms into a single dynamic format, demystifying the root cause of all unknown, be it disease, life situations, relationships, or not knowing oneself at all. Aashwasan Science® is spiritual in origin, scientific in approach, and experiential in nature.

To bring Aashwasan Science® to the world, on May 23rd, 2005, Rashmi Aiyappa founded Aashwasan®, the spiritual science organisation.

Over the last two decades, her inventions have brought about 100+ breakthroughs across Health & Wellness, impacting millions of lives across 30+ countries. Her pioneering work has enabled lives all over the world to discover their infinite identities, and organisations to undergo profound metamorphosis.

Bengaluru : Opposition Leader R. Ashoka said, The Congress government has thrown a stone in the lives of children by scrapping Hindi as the third language.

This decision was not taken out of love for Kannada. It is purely politics. Speaking at a press conference, he said that the Education Department has suddenly removed Hindi as the third language. This decision has been taken even while students are in the middle of writing their examinations. Lakhs of students have been studying and preparing for Hindi. Taking such a sudden decision now has created a big problem.

In 1918, Mahatma Gandhi was the president of the Hindi Prachar Samiti. He himself started this committee in South India as well. Congress leaders, who are



unaware of this history, have suddenly scrapped Hindi. We must be sensitive when it comes to matters concerning children, he said.

English is a language of global communication and is used in all countries. Even Urdu is not originally our language, yet we have to learn it. Tamil, Malayalam,

and Telugu are all languages of our country. Students who were expecting to score high marks by studying Hindi are now disappointed by the government's decision. This shows the cowardice of the government and is an insult to Mahatma Gandhi, he added.

When Narendra Modi's government removed

Mahatma Gandhi's name from the 'Narega' scheme, Congress leaders had created a huge uproar saying something terrible had happened. But now, no one is speaking up. The country's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had brought the Three-Language Formula. Later, Indira Gandhi gave it even more importance. They are saying that whatever is done in Tamil Nadu, we will implement the same here. In Tamil Nadu, Muslims speak pure Tamil, and in Kerala, Muslims speak pure Malayalam. But in Karnataka, Muslims do not speak pure Kannada. They always say "our people" and "your people". The Congress government has no intention of making such people speak pure Kannada, he said.

## Info panel orders waterbody census across TN



CHENNAI: In a significant move to enhance transparency and strengthen water resource management, the Tamil Nadu Information Commission has directed all 38 District Collectors across the state to upload comprehensive data on waterbodies on official websites.

The directive aims to make detailed information on lakes, ponds, canals, and rivers accessible to the public on a single platform. The data is expected to include key parameters such as the area, location, present condition, and usage of each waterbody, thereby supporting conservation efforts and improving public awareness.

The directive was issued following a case pertaining to delays by District Collectors in uploading waterbody data for public access on district websites. Though the case hearing by State Information Commissioner Thamarai

Kannan took place on February 11, 2026, the official order copy has been released only recently.

According to the Commission's findings, most District Collectors had failed to upload the required data, limiting transparency and public oversight. The Commission has now made it mandatory for districts to publish detailed records, including the size of waterbodies, land ownership details, and the status of encroachments.

The Commission has also directed authorities to provide information on the impact of the 2015 floods, post-flood conditions, and the remedial actions taken thereafter.

Further emphasising that all uploaded data must comply with existing High Court guidelines, the Commission warned that failure to adhere to the directive would result in action against the District Collectors concerned.

## RESTORED KAKKALUR LAKE IN TIRUVALLUR OPENS NEW RECREATIONAL SPACE

CHENNAI: Residents of Tiruvallur and its neighbouring panchayats now have access to a dedicated recreational space, with the restored Kakkalur Lake opened to the public on March 14. The project, completed at a cost of Rs 3.52 crore by the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, has begun attracting hundreds of visitors for morning and evening walks.

Over the past two



weeks, residents say the lakefront has emerged as a popular destination for families, with many gathering in the evenings to enjoy the view and walk-

ing pathways. Raj Kumar, a resident of Kakkalur, said, "The area used to be covered with weeds and bushes and was a hub for anti-social activities. But

now, my children have been eager to visit the lake since its inauguration. I'm surprised at the number of people from different age groups frequenting the space."

Another resident, Lakshmi, said she had visited the lake with her children. "The absence of parks in the locality has made such spaces necessary," she pointed out. "My kids love playing here, and I too find the walking path relaxing."

## Chennai youth killed, five injured as car plunges 1,000 ft in Kodaikanal

DINDUGUL: A 33-year-old man from Chennai was killed and five others were seriously injured after their car plunged nearly 1,000 feet into a gorge near Poomburai in Kodaikanal in the early hours of Sunday. The deceased was identified as Mohamed Aithidh (33) of Ellis Road, Triplicane. The injured — all his friends — were identified as Nobel (22), Harshad Ali Ahmed (28), Mohamed Kaif (23), Abrith (24), all from Chennai, and Hijaz Ahmed (29) from Tiruchy. Police said the group, who had recently



returned to Chennai from overseas due to the ongoing war, had travelled to Kodaikanal on a leisure trip. Mohamed Kaif, the car's owner, was driving. Around 2.30 am, while heading towards Kookal, where they planned to

stay, the car lost control near Palani View Point at Poomburai, rammed roadside barriers and plunged into a deep gorge. The impact killed Aithidh on the spot, while the others sustained severe injuries. On receiving informa-

tion around 3.45 am, a team led by police inspector Vasanthkumar and fire officer Gopal rushed to the spot along with fire and rescue personnel. Battling darkness and difficult terrain, rescuers descended nearly 1,000 feet using ropes from the nearby Mahalakshmi temple area. They found five persons critically injured and one dead. After a prolonged operation lasting over two hours, all victims were brought up using ropes.

# Synthetic drugs and fake pills deepen US drug crisis, lawmakers warn

Washington, Mar 29: US officials have raised alarm over a rapidly evolving drug crisis marked by a surge in counterfeit prescription pills and powerful synthetic substances, warning lawmakers that the threat is becoming increasingly complex and dangerous. During a hearing of a subcommittee under the US House Energy and Commerce Committee, legislators examined a set of 14 proposed bills aimed at tackling illegal drug distribution, regulat-

ing emerging substances, and expanding access to treatment.

Experts told lawmakers that the drug landscape has shifted significantly from traditional narcotics to synthetic mixtures often manufactured in illegal labs and disguised as legitimate medications. Scott Oulton highlighted counterfeit pills as the most immediate concern, noting that they are mass-produced by criminal groups without any consistency or safety controls.

He explained that pills appearing identical can contain vastly different quantities of dangerous substances such as fentanyl, nitazenes, and xylazine—making them highly unpredictable and increasing the risk of fatal overdoses. Law enforcement officials echoed these concerns. Dennis Lemma warned that modern drug supplies are "more potent, deceptive, and unpredictable" than ever. Many users unknowingly consume counterfeit medications laced

with lethal substances, sometimes resulting in death from a single dose. A growing concern is xylazine, a non-opioid sedative increasingly mixed with opioids. Because it does not respond to naloxone, commonly used to reverse overdoses, emergency treatment becomes more complicated. Officials also pointed to a rising synthetic compound known as 7OH, which is being marketed as a natural product despite posing serious risks of addiction and overdose.

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Whereas the Authorized Officer of Manappuram Home Finance Ltd. having our registered office at 8/596 A, Padmaprabha Building, Near Sreeram Swami Temple, Cherpu-Thiruprayar Road, Thiruprayar, Thiruvallur, Kerala-680567 and branches at various places in India (hereinafter referred to as "MAHOFIN") is a Company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 and a Financial Institution within the meaning of sub-clause (iv) of clause (m) of sub-section (1) of Section 2 of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as the Act) read with Notification No. S.O. 3466 (E) dated 18th December, 2015 issued by the Govt. of India, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi, inter alia carrying on business of advancing loans for construction and / or purchase of dwelling units and whereas the Borrower / Co-Borrowers as mentioned in Column No. 2 of the below mentioned chart obtained loan from MAHOFIN and whereas MAHOFIN being the secured creditor under the SARFAESI Act, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 2 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice calling upon the Borrower / Co-Borrowers as mentioned herein below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with further interest thereon within 60 days from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served upon some of them for various reasons. That in addition thereto for the purposes of information of the said borrowers enumerated below, the said borrowers are being informed by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower / Co-Borrower / LAM/Branch	Description of Secured Asset in respect of which interest has been created	NPA Date	Date of Notice sent & Outstanding Amount
1	SANTHI R. RAJENDRAN A. KAVINKUMAR RAJENDRAN / MHD01340045591/ SALEM	All The Piece and Parcel of Land is in Erode Registration District, Bhavani Sub Register District, Erode Taluk, Muttamasavipalayam village in P. No. Survey No.21/3 (New Survey No.226/25 in Patta No.825) measuring to the extent of 1890 square feet or 175.55 square Meter, TAMIL NADU, Pin:638316, EAST, Kalyanma's land, WEST-5 Feet of common pathway, SOUTH-Pappa's land, NORTH-Chinnasamy's land	14-03-2026	17-03-2026 & Rs.619960/-
2	RAJALAKSHMI M. KANNUSAMY T. SARATHA T. / MHD0018020297/ THANJAVUR	Thanjavur Registration District, Pappanadu Sub Registration District, Orathanadu Taluk, Chinnakurmai, Avdannaivijayaram Village, R. S. No.68/7 to an extent of 0.06 Area Equal to 15 cent equal to 45 kuzhi in Patta no: 229, TAMIL NADU, Pin:614626, EAST-THASUKANNI VIGNAYAR, WEST, KALYAPERUMAL PUNJAI, SOUTH-ROAD, NORTH-KALYAPERUMAL PUNJAI	14-03-2026	18-03-2026 & Rs.377664/-

Notice, is therefore given to the Borrowers / Co-Borrowers, as mentioned herein above, calling upon them to make payment of the total outstanding amount as shown herein above, against the respective Borrower / Co-Borrower, within 60 days of publication of this notice. Failure to make payment of the total outstanding amount together with further interest by the respective Borrower/Co-Borrower, MAHOFIN shall be constrained to take u/s 13(4) for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described above, steps are also being taken for service of notice in other manners as prescribed under the Act and the rules made hereunder. You are put to notice that the said mortgage can be redeemed upon payment of the entire amount due together with costs, charges and expenses incurred by MAHOFIN at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction or private treaty for transfer by way of sale, as detailed in Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act. Take note that in terms of S-13 (13) of the SARFAESI Act, you are hereby restrained from transferring and/or dealing with the Secured Properties in any manner by way of sale, lease or in any other manner.

Date: 31/03/2026, Place: TAMIL NADU Sd/- Authorized Officer, Manappuram Home Finance Ltd

## Effective exercises to build strong and stable shoulders

Mumbai, Mar 29: Strong shoulders are essential for daily activities and athletic performance. The shoulder joint, supported by muscles like the deltoids, rotator cuff, and trapezius, needs balanced strength and stability to function properly and prevent injuries. A consistent routine of strength training 2-3 times a week, along with proper rest and nutrition, can significantly improve shoulder strength, endurance, and mobility. The overhead press is a key compound movement that builds overall shoulder strength along with triceps and upper back. Stand or sit with weights at shoulder height and press them overhead until arms are fully extended, then lower

slowly. Perform 3-4 sets of 8-12 reps. It improves power and posture.

This exercise targets the side delts and helps create broader shoulders. Lift dumbbells out to the sides up to shoulder height with control, then lower slowly. Do 3-4 sets of 12-15 reps. It enhances shoulder width and stability.

Front raises focus on the front delts, which are important for pushing movements. Lift weights straight in front up to shoulder level and lower with control. Perform 3 sets of 10-12 reps. It supports strength in daily lifting tasks.

Reverse flies strengthen the rear delts and upper back. Bend forward slightly and raise your arms out to the

sides, squeezing the shoulder blades together. Aim for 3-4 sets of 12-15 reps. It improves posture and reduces shoulder strain.

Face pulls are excellent for shoulder health and stability. Using a cable or band, pull towards your face with elbows high and wide, then release slowly. Do 3 sets of 15-20 reps. It helps maintain joint health and correct posture.

A bodyweight alternative to overhead pressing, this exercise works the entire shoulder. Start in a pike position and lower your head toward the ground before pushing back up. Perform 3 sets. It builds strength without equipment.

Upright rows target the

## Smartphones fuelling silent rise in childhood obesity, warn experts

New Delhi, Mar 30: The growing dependence on smartphones among children is emerging as a key factor behind a silent surge in childhood obesity across India, with doctors warning that the trend is far more serious than many families realise. Health experts say the practice of using mobile phones as a distraction during meals is leading to unhealthy eating habits, reduced physical activity and long-term metabolic risks. According to Dr Vijay Yewale, even children as young as five are showing signs of weight gain due to excessive screen exposure and poor dietary patterns. A recent study conducted in Gujarat found that 43 per cent of children with more than four hours of daily screen time were either overweight or obese, often resorting to high-sugar and high-fat snacks due to boredom and

stress. Doctors identify children aged 8 to 14 as the most vulnerable group. Medical professionals note that parents often overlook early signs of obesity until complications arise. Dr Vimal Pahuja cited a case of a 12-year-old who developed fatty liver, insulin resistance and vitamin deficiencies after prolonged gaming and junk food consumption. Lifestyle changes, including reduced screen time and increased physical activity, helped reverse some of the damage. Experts say screen addiction is reshaping children's relationship with food. Dr Asmita Mahajan pointed out that excessive screen use reduces outdoor play and encourages sedentary habits, while nutritionist Sangeetha Aiyer noted that distracted eating prevents children from recognising hunger and fullness cues.

## Sathankulam case: Court pulls up CBI, State over delay on sentence; final views due April 2

MADURAI: Pulling up the CBI and the State for delay in stating their stand on sentencing, a Madurai court on Monday granted a final adjournment till April 2 to file comprehensive views on the quantum of punishment for nine policemen convicted in the Sathankulam custodial deaths case. Expressing displeasure, I Additional Sessions Judge Muthukumar said the case was grave and extensively reported, making the delay in furnishing inputs "unacceptable". The court noted that while a report had been filed on behalf of the



Thoothukudi Superintendent of Police, both the CBI and the State had failed to place detailed submissions on sentencing. The CBI counsel sought time, citing delays in receiving instructions from higher authorities. Rejecting the justification, the judge directed both the Centre and the State to file their final.

**BAJAJ FINANCE LIMITED**  
Registered Office: Bajaj Auto Limited Complex, Mumbai - Pune Road, Akurdi, Pune - 411035. Branch Office: Bajaj Finserv, Sener Rivera Building No.70 First and Second Floor, Spurtank road Chetpet, Chennai- 600031. Authorized Officer's Details: Name: Mr. Kesavan K, Email ID: kesavan.k@bajajfinserv.in Mob No: 8668030659

APPENDIX-IVA (See proviso to rule 8 (6))  
e-Auction Sale Notice Under SARFAESI Act 2002  
Sale of Immovable Assets Under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("ACT")

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the Borrowers/Mortgagor(s) in respect of below mentioned secured assets which is mortgaged with Bajaj Finance Limited ("BFL"), and possession of which had been taken by undersigned Authorized Officer of BFL under the provisions of the ACT will be sold by Auction for recovery of the amount mentioned hereunder and further applicable interest, charges, and costs etc.

The secured asset described below is being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS, AS IS WHAT IS AND WHATEVER THERE IS" under Rule No. 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules ("The Rules") for recovery of the dues detailed as under:

Particulars of E-auction	
Name & Address of Borrower & Co-Borrower's	Jayaprasad K (Borrower) At: - No 10/8 Yuvraj Kannan Flats 4th Main Road, Hindu Colony, Puzhuthivakkam, Madipakkam, Chengalpattu - 600091
Loan Account Number	403SHL32864879, 403SHL32864917, 403SHL95910461 & 403BHT0497227
Statutory Demand Notice u/s. 13(2) Date & Amount	Notice dated 22-Mar-22 Demand amount ₹.39,92,713/-
Outstanding Amount as on 20.03.2026	₹.64,86,549.21/- (Rupees Sixty-Four Lakh Eighty-Six Thousand Five Hundred and Forty-Nine and Twenty-One Paise Only) as on 23/03/26
Description of Immovable Property	All that piece and parcel of the non-agricultural property described as: Flat No. A1 and A2 in the Ground Floor of an area of 1138 sq. ft., (including common area), together with 718 sq. ft. of undivided share of land in the total extent measuring 2819 sq. ft., together with half share right in the passage out of 627 sq. ft., in all measuring 3132.5 sq. ft., comprised in S.No.10/8 of Puzhuthivakkam Village, bearing Plot No. A, Hindu Colony, 4th Cross Street, Puzhuthivakkam, Chennai 600091 and bounded on the North By: 30 feet wide Hindu Colony, 4th Cross Street, South By: Sub Divided Plot No. B, East By: 10 feet wide common passage, West By: Land belongs to Mr. Pitchaimani.
Reserve Price in INR	₹ 49,16,000/-
EMD	₹ 4,91,600/-
E-auction date and time	08/05/26 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm
E-auction Portal	https://bankauctions.in
Last date of submission of EMD	07/05/26
Bid Increment Amount in Rs.	₹ 25,000/-
Encumbrance Known to Secured Creditor	Not Known
Date of Inspection of Property	From 27/03/26 to 07/05/26 on working day between 9.30 AM to 5.30 PM with Prior appointment

Public in General and Borrowers in particular please take notice that if in case auction on date scheduled herein fails for any reason whatsoever then secured creditor may enforce security interest by way of sale through private treaty, at the discretion on the secured creditor. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link https://bankauctions.in and https://www.bajajfinserv.in/sarfaesi-auction-notice

Date: 31/03/2026 Place: - CHENNAI Sd/- Authorized Officer, BAJAJ FINANCE LTD

**Continuation of Partial Cancellation of some Mail/Express trains between Andal & Durgapur stations**

The locomotive reversal of the following Mail/Express trains at Andal station instead of Durgapur station will be continued upto 30.06.2026. Hence, these trains will be diverted via Asansol - Andal - Sainthia instead of their existing route Asansol - Andal - Durgapur - Andal - Sainthia and will remain partially cancelled between Andal & Durgapur stations.

(1) 12551 SMVT, Bengaluru-Kamakhyas AC Superfast Express [JCO 04/04, 11/04, 18/04, 25/04, 02/05, 09/05, 16/05, 23/05, 30/05, 06/06, 13/06, 20/06 & 27.06.2026 (Saturday)]. **Stoppage timing at Andal:** Arr. 20.00 hrs., Dep. 20.01 hrs. (2) 12552 Kamakhya-SMVT, Bengaluru AC Superfast Express [JCO 01/04, 08/04, 15/04, 22/04, 29/04, 06/05, 13/05, 20/05, 27/05, 03/06, 10/06, 17/06 & 24.06.2026 (Wednesday)]. **Stoppage timing at Andal:** Arr. 06.45 hrs., Dep. 06.47 hrs. (3) 13417 Digha- Malda Town Express [JCO 02/04, 09/04, 16/04, 23/04, 30/04, 07/05, 14/05, 21/05, 28/05, 04/06, 11/06, 18/06 & 25.06.2026 (Thursday)]. **Stoppage timing at Andal:** Arr. 08.10 hrs., Dep. 08.11 hrs. (4) 13418 Malda Town-Digha Express [JCO 02/04, 09/04, 16/04, 23/04, 30/04, 07/05, 14/05, 21/05, 28/05, 04/06, 11/06, 18/06 & 25.06.2026 (Thursday)]. **Stoppage timing at Andal:** Arr. 12.43 hrs., Dep. 12.45 hrs. (5) 13425 Malda Town-Surat Express [JCO 04/04, 11/04, 18/04, 25/04, 02/05, 09/05, 16/05, 23/05, 30/05, 06/06, 13/06, 20/06 & 27.06.2026 (Saturday)]. **Stoppage timing at Andal:** Arr. 16.41 hrs., Dep. 16.43 hrs. (6) 13426 Surat-Malda Town Express [JCO 06/04, 13/04, 20/04, 27/04, 04/05, 11/05, 18/05, 25/05, 01/06, 08/06, 15/06, 22/06 & 29.06.2026 (Monday)]. **Stoppage timing at Andal:** Arr. 03.41 hrs., Dep. 03.42 hrs. (7) 15629 Tambaram-Silghat Town Nagaon Express [JCO 06/04, 13/04, 20/04, 27/04, 04/05, 11/05, 18/05, 25/05, 01/06, 08/06, 15/06, 22/06 & 29.06.2026 (Monday)]. **Stoppage timing at Andal:** Arr. 03.41 hrs., Dep. 03.42 hrs. (8) 15630 Silghat Town-Tambaram Nagaon Express [JCO 03/04, 10/04, 17/04, 24/04, 01/05, 08/05, 15/05, 22/05, 29/05, 05/06, 12/06, 19/06 & 26.06.2026 (Friday)]. **Stoppage timing at Andal:** Arr. 08.10 hrs., Dep. 08.11 hrs. (9) 15640 Kamakhya-Puri Express [JCO 05/04, 12/04, 19/04, 26/04, 03/05, 10/05, 17/05, 24/05, 31/05, 07/06, 14/06, 21/06 & 28.06.2026 (Sunday)]. **Stoppage timing at Andal:** Arr. 12.20 hrs., Dep. 12.22 hrs. (10) 15661 Ranchi-Kamakhya Express [JCO 01/04, 08/04, 15/04, 22/04, 29/04, 06/05, 13/05, 20/05, 27/05, 03/06, 10/06, 17/06 & 24.06.2026 (Wednesday)]. **Stoppage timing at Andal:** Arr. 02.21 hrs., Dep. 02.23 hrs. (11) 15662 Kamakhya-Ranchi Express [JCO 07/04, 14/04, 21/04, 28/04, 05/05, 12/05, 19/05, 26/05, 02/06, 09/06, 16/06, 23/06 & 30.06.2026 (Tuesday)]. **Stoppage timing at Andal:** Arr. 06.45 hrs., Dep. 06.47 hrs. (12) 15629 Tambaram-New Tinsukia Express [JCO 02/04, 09/04, 16/04, 23/04, 30/04, 07/05, 14/05, 21/05, 28/05, 04/06, 11/06, 18/06 & 25.06.2026 (Thursday)]. **Stoppage timing at Andal:** Arr. 03.41 hrs., Dep. 03.42 hrs. (13) 15930 New Tinsukia-Tambaram Express [JCO 06/04, 13/04, 20/04, 27/04, 04/05, 11/05, 18/05, 25/05, 01/06, 08/06, 15/06, 22/06 & 29.06.2026 (Monday)]. **Stoppage timing at Andal:** Arr. 08.10 hrs., Dep. 08.11 hrs. (14) 22611 MGR Chennai Central-New Jalpaiguri Superfast Express [JCO 01/04, 08/04, 15/04, 22/04, 29/04, 06/05, 13/05, 20/05, 27/05, 03/06, 10/06, 17/06 & 24.06.2026 (Wednesday)]. **Stoppage timing at Andal:** Arr. 16.55 hrs., Dep. 16.57 hrs. (15) 22612 New Jalpaiguri-MGR Chennai Central Superfast Express [JCO 03/04, 10/04, 17/04, 24/04, 01/05, 08/05, 15/05, 22/05, 29/05, 05/06, 12/06, 19/06 & 26.06.2026 (Friday)]. **Stoppage timing at Andal:** Arr. 06.45 hrs., Dep. 06.47 hrs.

Divisional Railway Manager, Asansol

**Eastern Railway**  
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# EDITORIAL

## Shadow Wars: The 'Inside Networks' Helping Israel Target Iran And Its Leaders

The assassination of the all-powerful Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' (IRGC) Navy chief, Alireza Tangsiri, is the latest addition to Iran's leadership falling prey to Israeli and American military campaigns. Tangsiri was reportedly killed in an Israeli airstrike on the port city of Bandar Abbas, on the coast of the contested Strait of Hormuz, and nearly 1,300 km from the besieged capital city of Tehran.

Targeting Tangsiri was to highlight that the centrality of the Hormuz Strait, now largely blocked and controlled by the IRGC, is core to the campaign's aims, while the larger clarity of the intended strategic focus of the war remains murky. Meanwhile, President Donald Trump, who continues to shift goal posts on the end game for the military campaign and is now dabbling with the idea of an on-ground incursion targeting critical islands peppered across the Persian Gulf, is looking for a final gut punch against Tehran, which can be used to exit the war. Over the past four weeks, with Tangsiri being the latest example, Israel has showcased that its war with Iran was being waged over the years in the shadows of espionage, intelligence, and covert operations. Conducting a precision strike in Bandar Abbas also highlights the spread of Israeli intelligence, a kind of reach that has been cultivated inside Iran and its institutions, both political and military.

For years, both Tehran and Tel Aviv have chased down each other's personnel and interests. The 2010 assassination of Mahmoud al-Mabhouh in Dubai, a co-founder of the military wing of Hamas, by Israel's external spy agency, the Mossad, garnered global attention given the agent's use of forged foreign passports predominantly from European countries. Attacks against Israeli diplomatic missions and officials blamed on Iran across global capitals, including New Delhi, have also been a regular fixture, albeit not as aggressively as the former's operations in comparison. What we witness today with the war in the Middle East and the 12-day war that preceded it in 2025 is only the public disclosure of a conflict fought in the shadows for a prolonged period.

However, while the decapitation strikes have caused not just significant damage to the Iranian regime's leadership structure, beginning with Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, whose killing in the largest failure in IRGC's history, they may not be enough to dismantle the system and its entrenchment that runs the state. The IRGC is not the deep state, as many through this conflict have alluded to, a political concept that has its roots in the chinks of the Ottoman Empire, which ended over a century ago, but is liberally used today to elude towards unseen influences and powers that direct certain states and their trajectories.

For Iran, Israel's reach within its borders, even during wartime, remains one of its biggest challenges. Since September 2025, Tehran has delivered execution orders against dozens of people accused of spying for Israel. The idea comes more from a sense of panic than betrayal, to instil fear amongst a very vulnerable population, both economically and politically, not heed advances by foreign agencies and work against the regime. Iran's own networks of clandestine operations, dwarfed by both audacity and breadth of that of Israel, are expected to be operationalised further on the other side of this conflict, as a collapse of the regime remains unlikely. In the past week, two Israelis, including a teenager and a military reservist, were arrested on allegations of spying for the IRGC.

The IRGC, despite its current depleted condition, cannot be easily counted out. In a recent interview with a British newspaper, Sir Alex Younger, former chief of the United Kingdom's external intelligence agency, the Secret Intelligence Service or MI6, said that Iran holds the upper hand in the conflict for the moment. Younger added that the strategy of "horizontal escalation", meaning firing projectiles at all accessible targets irrespective of their prior relations or affiliations with the Iranian state, seems to have worked.

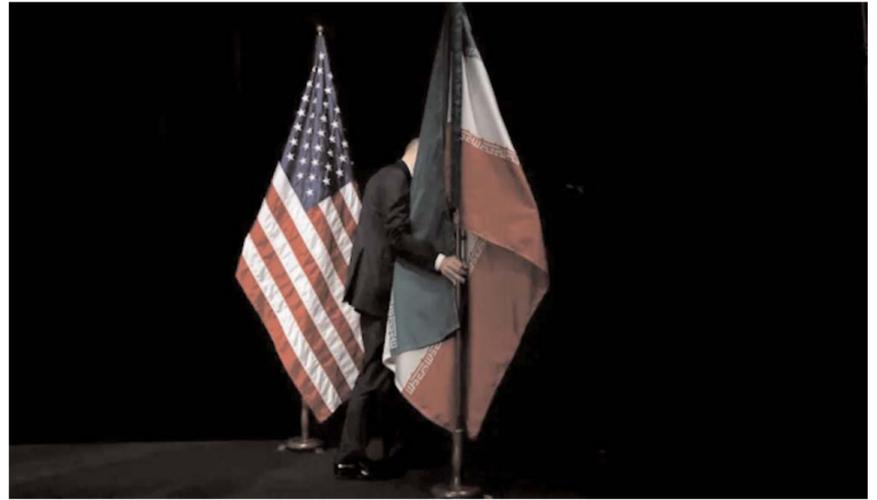
## Why This Is The Most 'Deceptive' Point Of The US-Iran War - Yet

A month into the war in West Asia, the crisis has entered its most deceptive phase. Talks are now visible. Peace is not. Every hint of talks briefly steadies markets, but the underlying crisis remains unchanged. Hormuz remains under pressure, Israel and Iran are still exchanging fire, and Washington is adding military weight even as it talks of negotiations. For India, this is now an inflation risk, a shipping risk, and a supply-chain risk. This is not peace approaching. It is coercive bargaining under continuing fire. Every side is trying to improve its position before the next move. Three things matter now: the battlefield, the bargaining gap and the economic squeeze. By the first two, peace remains distant. By the third, the cost of prolonging the war is becoming unmistakable, and the pressure for de-escalation is harder to ignore.

### The Battlefield

Start with the battlefield. On March 23, the United States postponed planned strikes on Iranian energy infrastructure for five days. On March 26, President Donald Trump extended that pause by another 10 days, until April 6. This was not a ceasefire. It paused one part of the war, not the war itself. It applied only to energy installations, not to the wider conflict. At the same time, the first contingent of US Marines has already arrived in the region, and the Pentagon is weighing additional troop deployments from the 82nd Airborne. That is not winding down. When a war pauses one set of targets while moving fresh forces into theatre, it is not ending, but recalibrating. The bargaining gap is just as wide. Washington still wants Iran pushed back hard, with an end to enrichment, tighter missile limits, stricter curbs on proxies, and the reopening of Hormuz.

Tehran is answering in equally hard terms, demanding guarantees against future attacks, compensation for wartime losses, and terms that preserve its leverage in Hormuz, while refusing to trade away what it sees as its main deterrent.



For now, Pakistan, Egypt, and Turkey matter more as channels than as mediators between adversaries that still distrust direct talks. The channels exist, but there is still no common ground.

### The Ever-Growing Split

Israeli thinking remains sceptical that Iran will accept the terms on offer. It wants any arrangement to preserve freedom for future pre-emptive action. In the Gulf, there is no single line. Some capitals want the fighting to end quickly because of the damage to trade and energy flows. Others insist that a mere ceasefire is inadequate and that any settlement must durably weaken Iran's missile, drone, proxy, and shipping leverage. The split is plain. Some want a ceasefire now. Others want one only after Iran is left weaker than before. Lebanon is no longer a side theatre. Israel is now openly discussing a security zone up to the Litani River and tying the return of displaced Lebanese to security in its north. Tehran, for its part, wants the Lebanon front folded into any ceasefire. That means even if

Washington and Tehran seek to expand the present pause, Israeli action in Lebanon could still determine whether the conflict broadens, freezes, or begins to ease.

Houthi missile fire on Israel raises the prospect of a wider conflict. More worrying still, it puts Bab al-Mandab and the Red Sea back in play even as Hormuz and the Gulf remain under strain.

### Money Is The Matter

Economics is now the strongest argument for de-escalation. Oil has stayed above \$100 a barrel. Gas markets have been hit even harder, with Asian LNG prices far above pre-war levels. Urea prices have jumped sharply, with Middle East export prices up about 40% from before the war, and fertilizer costs could rise much further if Hormuz disruption persists. This is when the shock starts moving through the wider economy. Higher fuel, freight, and fertilizer costs feed directly into agriculture, food inflation, aviation, chemicals, plastics, and factory input prices. When war begins to hit harvests, household budgets, and manufacturing margins at the

same time, the case for de-escalation grows stronger. India should read this without illusion. The issue is no longer simply imported oil. It is the full supply chain: energy, fertilizer, shipping, industrial inputs, inflation, and the safety of Indians in the Gulf. New Delhi has already had to secure shipping passage, reassure the public on fuel and gas availability, and cut excise duties to cushion domestic prices. For India, stepping the war down is not just a foreign policy preference, but an economic need. India should, therefore, back any sequenced approach that first reduces violence, opens up shipping and then tackles the larger questions of missiles, nuclear constraints, and regional order.

So, is this pause leading to peace? Not yet. It is leading to a more crowded and more anxious bargaining phase. There are more channels, more urgency, and more fear of the economic consequences of another month like this one. The battlefield is still active, the troop build-up continues, the Houthis have widened the war, and markets remain sceptical that a ceasefire is close.

## India-US trade agreement



PRIYANKA SAURABH

(Opportunities, Fears, and the Search for Balance)

The proposed bilateral trade agreement (2026) between India and the United States has emerged at a time when India, on the one hand, is moving towards expanding its participation in the global economy, while on the other hand, it faces the essential challenge of protecting its agriculture-based socio-economic structure. While the interim framework announced in February 2026 has opened new opportunities for Indian exporters in the US market, the potential import of cheap US agricultural products has created a sense of anxiety and insecurity among millions of farmers in the country. In this context, the question becomes extremely relevant: whether this agreement will establish India as a strong global agricultural exporter or will it cause economic crisis for small and marginal farmers.

India-US trade relations have historically been strategic and multifaceted. India has achieved a surplus in agricultural trade between the two countries in recent years, indicating the potential for global competitiveness of Indian agricultural products. The proposed agreement, under which the US would reduce or eliminate tariffs on Indian products—such as spices, tea, coffee, cashews, mangoes, papayas, and processed foods—could boost Indian exports. This would not only increase foreign exchange earnings but also boost value addition and processing industries in the agricultural sector.

But the other side of this agreement is far more complex and sensitive. The United States provides extensive subsidies to its farmers, making its agricultural products highly competitive in the international market. If such products—such as DDGS, soybean oil, and sorghum—enter the

Indian market on a large scale, domestic farmers could suffer serious price competition. This could lead to a decline in agricultural prices, creating even more challenges for farmers already struggling with income stress.

India's agricultural structure is largely based on small and marginal farmers, who constitute approximately 86% of the total. These farmers sustain their livelihoods amid challenges such as limited resources, volatile markets, and climate change. Policies such as the Minimum Support Price (MSP) provide a safety net for these farmers, but its reach is limited and does not benefit all crops and regions equally. If cheap imports increase in the domestic market, the effectiveness of the MSP could be weakened and farmers' incomes could be adversely affected.

Another important concern relates to biosafety and genetically modified (GM) crops. The United States is a major producer and exporter of GM crops, while India still maintains a cautious approach to the subject. India may face pressure to reduce non-tariff barriers under trade agreements, potentially increasing the import of GM products. This situation could pose long-term risks to the country's biodiversity, traditional agricultural practices, and food security.

Additionally, sensitive sectors such as dairy, poultry, and oilseeds could be affected by this agreement. India's dairy sector is not only a global leader but also supports the livelihoods of millions of rural families. If American dairy products enter the Indian market, local producers will face competition. Similarly, the oilseeds sector, in which India is striving for self-sufficiency, could be affected by cheap imports, hindering the promotion of domestic production.

Along with these economic challenges, the social and strategic dimensions of this agreement are also important. Potential income losses and competition in the agricultural sector could adversely impact rural employment, exacerbating social inequality and regional disparities. Strategically, this agreement symbolizes growing cooperation between India and the United States, which is also linked to the broader perspective of the Quad and

the balance of power in the Indo-Pacific. Therefore, it is not practical for India to reject this agreement outright; rather, it is necessary to adopt a balanced approach.

In this context, the biggest challenge facing India is how to protect its agricultural interests while taking advantage of global economic opportunities. This requires a multi-pronged strategy. First, trade protection measures—such as quantity limits (TRQs), minimum import prices (MIPs), and special safeguard measures (SSMs)—should be effectively utilized to protect the domestic market from sudden surges in imports.

Second, structural reforms are necessary to strengthen the domestic agricultural sector. This includes promoting Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), strengthening the supply chain, and encouraging processing and value addition. This will increase the competitiveness of Indian products and enable farmers to obtain better prices.

Third, an export-oriented agricultural policy should be strengthened. India has immense potential to capture global markets in spices, organic products, horticultural crops, and traditional food products. If attention is paid to quality standards, branding, and logistics in these sectors, India can not only maintain but also strengthen its trade balance.

Fourth, it is essential to adopt a clear and strict policy regarding biosafety and quality standards, so that the country's food security and environmental balance are not compromised. Additionally, a balance must be struck between traditional knowledge and modern science while embracing technological innovations.

Ultimately, this agreement is not just an economic document, but a crucial step in shaping India's development journey. Balancing its inherent opportunities and risks will be key to its success. India must adopt a "nation first" approach and develop a strategy that reconciles farmer security, food sovereignty, and global competitiveness.

If India succeeds in striking this balance through smart and sensitive policy-making, this agreement will not only become a vehicle for economic progress but will also pave the way for sustainable prosperity for crores of farmers in the country.

## Mamata, Abhishek, And TMC's 'Twin-Track' Strategy For Bengal

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Trinamool Congress's second-in-command Abhishek Banerjee have emerged as a coordinated political force in the 2026 election campaign. Their joint leadership marks a distinctive phase in the state's electoral politics, with a level of coordination not seen in previous elections. While Abhishek Banerjee played an active role in the 2021 Assembly and subsequent Lok Sabha elections, the current campaign reflects an unprecedented degree of synchronisation between the two.

Aggressive opposition politics is not new to the state. Similar intensity was visible during the Left Front era under Jyoti Basu and Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, when Mamata Banerjee led the opposition. After the Left's decline, she occupied much of the opposition space once held by the Congress, with the BJP gradually emerging as the principal challenger.

Even so, the BJP's current level of political aggression is among the sharpest seen in recent decades. Another key feature of this election is the visible role of the central establishment. Institutions such as the Election Commission have taken an active role, which the BJP argues is necessary to ensure free and fair polls in a state it claims has seen a breakdown of democratic norms. Mamata Banerjee and Abhishek Banerjee have responded with a coordinated counter-strategy. Despite earlier differences - Abhishek advocating greater space for younger leaders and Mamata relying on the party's traditional structure - the two now appear to have reached a balance. The party reflects a mix of continuity and change, blending its old ethos with a younger leadership base. Their campaign strategy is



carefully divided. The two leaders have coordinated their tours to maximise outreach without overlap. When Mamata campaigns in North Bengal, Abhishek focuses on the South, particularly his Diamond Harbour constituency. When she returns south, their movements are recalibrated to avoid duplication. This division of labour is part of a structured plan reportedly shaped by their media team, with inputs from the consultancy IPAC. They have also split campaign messaging. Abhishek focuses on youth-centric issues—employment, industrial growth, and the vision of a "New Bengal"—while Mamata emphasises welfare schemes, governance, and political attacks on the BJP. While both criticise the BJP, their tone and style differ.

On certain issues, however, they speak in unison. Both have criticised the Election Commission over voter list revisions, alleging "electoral atrocities". They also repeatedly target Suwendu Adhikari—often without naming him—referring to him as a "traitor."

Nandigram remains a politically sensitive battleground. Abhishek Banerjee has taken the lead there, campaigning for the Trinamool candidate against Adhikari. Mamata Banerjee, who lost the seat in the previous election and later described the result as influenced by irregularities, has not visited the constituency so far. Abhishek has actively campaigned in Nandigram, publicly backing the TMC's candidate—once an associate of Adhikari—and energising workers. He is also closely monitoring administrative functioning in the constituency, with the party conducting detailed, block-level electoral assessments.

Mamata Banerjee's campaign, meanwhile, remains rooted in emotional and cultural connect. She continues to focus on rural Bengal, projecting herself as a leader under attack and appealing particularly to women, including OBC, SC/ST, and Muslim communities. Abhishek, in contrast, is giving added emphasis to the Matua community. On 24 March, the Trinamool

Congress launched a major campaign phase from Pathar Pratima. Addressing a large rally, Abhishek Banerjee set a target of a 40,000-vote victory margin for party candidate Samir Kumar Jana. He highlighted development work and presented five key pledges: expansion of Lakshmir Bhandar, housing for all under Awas Yojana, accessible healthcare in every block, piped drinking water for all households, and universal old-age pensions. He also cited data to underline government performance, including beneficiaries under Yuvashree, Lakshmir Bhandar, and Swasthya Sathi, as well as infrastructure projects like rural roads built under Pathashree. At the same time, he accused the Centre of withholding funds for housing and drinking water projects. Mamata Banerjee's campaign style stands in contrast. Campaigning in North Bengal's Doars region the same day, she joined Adivasi dancers en route from Chalsa to Lataguri, reflecting her emphasis on spontaneity and cultural connection.

# Russian oil tanker reaches Cuba after Trump appears to loosen blockade

A Russian tanker carrying oil to Cuba has entered the waters off the Communist-run island, Russia's Interfax news agency reports. The oil shipment - the first to reach Cuba since January - comes hours after US President Donald Trump said that he had no problem with countries, including Russia, sending supplies to the island. Trump's remark appeared to signal a loosening of a de facto oil blockade his administration had imposed on Cuba since January. Cuba has been experiencing a series of nationwide blackouts as the blockade exacerbated existing shortages. According to Interfax, the Russian tanker Anatoly Kolodkin is carrying a "humanitarian shipment" of 100,000 tonnes of crude oil. Last week, the World Health Organization (WHO) had warned that severe fuel shortages meant that Cuban hospitals were struggling to maintain emergency and intensive care services. Cuba's situation has deteriorated rapidly since 3 January, when US forces seized Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro - a staunch ally of the Cuban government - who had been provid-



ing the island with oil under highly preferential terms. Trump also threatened to impose tariffs on any nation sending oil to Cuba. Russian Minister of Energy Sergei Tsivilev said on Wednesday that Cuba "had found itself in a difficult situation as a result of sanctions pressure". "That is why we are currently sending humanitarian supplies to Cuba," he added. Just over a week ago, the US Treasury department added Cuba to a list of countries barred from receiving oil deliveries from Russia. But in an apparent reversal of his strategy, Trump told journalists on board of Air

Force One on Sunday that he had "no problem" with Russia delivering oil to Cuba. "We have a tanker out there. We don't mind having somebody get a boatload because they need (...)" they have to survive," he said. It was not clear from Trump's comment if this represented a reversal of the fuel blockade policy or just a temporary softening. The Russian tanker is expected to offload the oil in Matanzas terminal in the coming hours. The oil it carries is expected to provide Cuba with a short-term lifeline. Its Communist government, led by President Miguel Diaz Canel, has been

in talks with the Trump administration to find a route out of the crisis. But both sides have publicly set out a number of political and economic red lines which make it hard to see where they could find common ground. President Trump recently said he could "take" Cuba while the island's leadership has said it refuses to accept any enforced changes to the personnel or political direction of its government. Cuba was already facing its worst economic and energy crisis since the end of the Cold War, because of a combination of a fall in tourism after the coronavirus pandemic

and government economic mismanagement. This crisis has been further worsened by the de facto fuel blockade. Trump's remarks on the Russian tanker arriving in Cuba Speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One, Trump, on 29 March, said, "If a country wants to send some oil into Cuba right now, I have no problem with that, whether it's Russia or not." Trump now seems to be softening his stance on Cuba, months after he threatened to impose tariffs on any country that would help Cuba by sending crude, compelling the likes of Mexico to halt all its shipments to the island nation. The Kremlin previously dismissed Trump's tariff threats, highlighting that Washington and Moscow don't have much trade now. However, he added, "Cuba is finished, they have a bad regime, and they have very bad and corrupt leadership, and whether or not they get a boat of oil, it's not going to matter." Speaking to reporters, he added, "I prefer letting it in, whether it's Russia or anybody else, because the people need heat and cooling and all of the other things that you need."

# Rs 10 Lakh Crore Lost In A Single Day, Rupee Crosses 95 For First Time



On the last trading day of this financial year 2025-26, the Indian equity benchmarks ended in deep red. At the close, the Sensex was down 1,635.67 points or 2.22 per cent. NSE Nifty50 closed at 22,331.4, down 488.2 points or 2.14 per cent. The rupee pared its initial gains and hit a historic low of 95.22 in intra-day trade on Monday, rising oil prices, ongoing geopolitical tensions, and a strong dollar environment continuing to keep pressure on the currency. The rupee, which opened on a strong note after the Reserve Bank brought down the net open position that banks can keep overnight at \$100 million, erased the gains and fell 160 paise from its opening level. FOLLOW LIVE UPDATES At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 93.62 and then gained further ground to 93.57 against the US dollar, regis-

tering a gain of 128 paise from its previous close. However, it failed to sustain the momentum and fell to an all-time intra-day low of 95.22 against the American currency. On Friday, the rupee slumped by a massive 89 paise to close at a historic low of 94.85 against the US dollar. Forex traders said the USD/INR pair is facing pressure from the elevated dollar index and crude oil prices. Safe-haven demand is keeping the dollar index firm above the 100 mark, limiting any meaningful recovery in the rupee. Moreover, rising geopolitical tensions quickly reflected in oil prices, and Brent crude surged as fears of supply disruptions increased, they added. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.15 per cent lower at 100.30.

# Zyduz Wellness forays into performance hydration segment; launches Glucon-D Recharge; appoints Milind Soman as brand ambassador

Zyduz Wellness expands the Glucon-D portfolio and forays into performance hydration with the launch of Glucon-D Recharge. Milind Soman joins as brand ambassador to promote the power of consistent, everyday movement in building a healthier, more active life. The launch reflects Glucon-D's evolution from pioneering glucose powders to supporting energy and hydration needs for modern, active consumers. Bringing the launch to life is a campaign led by Milind Soman, championing the brand philosophy of 'Move. Recharge. Repeat.' Hyderabad, March 2026: Zyduz Wellness today announced the expansion of its iconic brand Glucon-D into the fast-growing performance hydration category with the launch of Glucon-D Recharge. Led by Indian actor and fitness icon, Milind Soman as brand ambassador, the new launch underscores Glucon-D's evolution in line with shifting consumer lifestyles centered around everyday movement



and active living. The move also aligns with the rapid growth of India's performance hydration category, fueled by rising fitness awareness and a growing focus on everyday wellness. With Glucon-D Recharge, the brand builds on its trusted legacy to deliver science-backed energy and hydration solutions for active and fitness seeking consumers. Bringing this vision to life is Milind Soman, whose philosophy of consistent and mindful movement closely aligns with the ethos of Glucon-D

Recharge. Known for championing fitness as a lifelong journey rather than a short-term goal, Soman represents the idea that staying active can be simple, sustainable, and accessible to everyone. Tarun Arora, CEO, Zyduz Wellness, said, "India's fitness paradigm is undergoing a decisive shift. Movement is no longer an aspiration reserved for a few and is becoming a daily expression of how people choose to live healthier, more fulfilling lives. At Zyduz Wellness, we see this as a strategic inflec-

tion point to reimagine the role of Glucon-D from a trusted source of instant energy to a future-forward, science-backed brand that enables sustained, everyday movement. With Glucon-D Recharge, we are entering the performance hydration space in a bid to support millions of Indians in staying active, consistently and sustainably. In this journey, we are delighted to partner with Milind Soman, whose philosophy of mindful, everyday movement reflects the future we envision."

# MARUTI SUZUKI COMMENCES JAGRITI:

## A 5-day road safety and health awareness event for truck drivers



Maruti Suzuki conducts Jagriti event to enhance road safety and health awareness among truck drivers

New Delhi March 2026: Maruti Suzuki India Limited ("Maruti Suzuki") has commenced 'Jagriti', its flagship event aimed at enhancing awareness on safe driving behavior and health among truck drivers associated with its logistics service providers. The event, being held between 23rd to 28th March 2026, is a part of Maruti Suzuki's broader sustainability efforts. The five-day event is being conducted at Maruti

Suzuki's facilities in Manesar (Haryana) from 23rd March and Hansalpur (Gujarat) from 24th March onwards, covering drivers engaged in the movement of finished vehicles and spare parts. Nearly 4,000 truck drivers are expected to benefit from 'Jagriti'. Mr. Hisashi Takeuchi, Managing Director & CEO, Maruti Suzuki India Limited said, "Given the nature of their work, truck drivers spend long hours on the

road, travelling across the country. They drive large trucks and trailers, whose safe handling has a direct bearing on road safety. Therefore, it is essential to regularly train them and reinforce the importance of consistently following safe driving practices." He added, "During this five-day event, we will conduct focused sessions on key road safety aspects, such as defensive driving, dangers of over speeding, the importance of

adequate sleep to improve alertness on the road, refraining from driving under the influence of alcohol, the critical role of seat-belt usage in preventing serious injuries, and regular maintenance of carriers to avoid breakdowns. In addition, we are facilitating preventive health check-ups and eye-tests, along with medical consultations, yoga and meditation sessions for their physical and mental well-being."

# JDA and capital gains: What happens when family members co-own property

A landlord owns a property (comprising land and an independent house on that land) in Chennai as 100% owner now. He plans to retain 25% ownership and settle 75% of the said property to his wife and two children. Once the settlement happens, the said landlord, his wife and two children become joint owners of the said property with 25% ownership each. After the settlement, the four joint owners plan to enter into a Joint Development Agreement (JDA) with a developer, under which each of the owners will get one home in return from the developer. (Note: Two of the owners already own one or two properties each, whereas for the other two owners, this will be their first property ownership.) Under this JDA arrangement, each owner gets a home in kind from the developer which becomes their capital gains. However, the owner also has an option to reinvest those capital gains into another property to get



exemption from capital gains tax. In this case, the owners are reinvesting their capital gains in the same property by retaining one home each in the joint development. In such a case, would the taxable capital gains for each owner be zero, regardless of how much the cost of acquisition of the property was? The nature of exemption would depend on the nature of the asset transferred, which in turn would depend on the agreement entered into. If the JDA provides for transfer of the residential house by the owners to the developer and, in consideration, the owners

receive a residential house (with or without any monetary consideration) each, the exemption available would be under section 82 of the Income-tax Act, 2025 (erstwhile section 54 of the 1961 Act). In such a case, the exemption would be available irrespective of the fact that some of the owners may already own one or two properties other than the new property. The condition that the owner should not own more than one residential property other than the new property is applicable only if exemption is claimed under section 86 (erstwhile section 54F of the 1961 Act).

# Maruti Suzuki introduces 'Quickstop' service format, redefining service convenience for a fast-moving India

New Delhi, 30 March 2026: Maruti Suzuki India Limited ("Maruti Suzuki") has announced the introduction of 'Quickstop', a compact, prefabricated service touchpoint designed for rapid deployment and minimal space usage. Developed using a modified container, Quickstop is equipped with essential tools and equipment to carry out routine maintenance and minor repair services efficiently. These facilities are strategically set up at high-vehicle-density locations such as corporate campuses, airport zones, and fleet hubs, allowing customers to access Maruti Suzuki's service conveniently at places they frequently visit. The initiative aims to enhance service reach while reducing setup time and infrastructure requirements. In the pilot phase, Maruti Suzuki has established 10 Quickstop facilities across



Delhi-NCR, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Bagdogra, Calicut and Surat. Introducing the new service format, Mr. Hisashi Takeuchi, Managing Director & CEO, Maruti Suzuki India Limited said, "As workdays are getting increasingly busier and personal time is becoming more valuable, we recognise a growing need to make vehicle servicing even more convenient and accessible to customers.

This led to the creation of Quickstop, which brings our service facilities to places customers regularly visit, such as offices, airport zones, and fleet hubs. These compact, container-based units are easy to install and require very little time and space for set up, making them ideal for such locations." He further added, "Officegoers can simply drop off their vehicles at on-site Quickstop facilities and pick them up fully serviced

after work. Similarly, for fleet operators and commercial users, minimising vehicle downtime is essential, as time directly impacts earnings. Quickstop helps reduce vehicle downtime and increase availability. Our idea is to seamlessly integrate vehicle servicing into a customer's lifestyle, so that they don't have to go out of their way. Cars should serve the customers, not the other way around."

Quickstop facilities are set up and operated by Maruti Suzuki's dealer partners, while the required space is provided by corporate entities or fleet operators. This collaborative model makes Quickstop a highly scalable and cost-efficient service format. The facilities also adopt eco-friendly practices such as waterless car washing and battery-powered equipment, supporting resource conservation and reduced environmental impact.

# Trump threatens to 'obliterate' Iran's energy facilities if deal not reached 'shortly'

Diesel prices in the UK have reached their highest level since December 2022, while petrol has also hit a 28-month high. Average petrol prices are now 152 pence a litre, with diesel at 181.2 pence. RAC policy chief Simon Williams tells the BBC it now costs £10.55 more to fill up a typical petrol family car than it did at the start of the Iran conflict. For diesel cars, owners are paying £21.35 more. The war in Iran and the situation in the Strait of Hormuz have pushed global fuel costs up sharply - with some countries bringing in measures to cut usage. Sri Lanka has introduced fuel rationing, while two Australian states have made public transport free to encourage people not to drive. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) says it has struck the Iranian Imam Hossein University in recent days. In an update, the IDF says the university contained Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) infrastructure, and



that research and development for weaponry was carried out there. This comes after earlier strikes on the campus - on 7 March, the IDF gave a similar update saying it had struck the university. The university is in Tehran and is affiliated with the IRGC. It's still very difficult to reach people inside Iran because of the government-imposed internet outage. Some manage to connect using Starlink satellites and

other methods - but using or even possessing Starlink can lead to up to two years in prison in Iran. I've been asking some of them what they think about Donald Trump talking about the possibility of seizing Kharg Island. A man in his 30s who has visited the island before tells me: "Obviously I will not be happy, but I want to see what the Islamic Republic will do. They have been saying for years that they have a power-

ful navy, and I am sceptical. "I think the US wants to put economic pressure on the regime by doing this." A woman in her 20s who wants the war to end says: "I am very worried and anxious about it. The most important thing is that it is part of Iran's soil. I think it is going to put a lot of pressure on ordinary people if it happens." US President Donald Trump says Washington is in "serious discussions" with

a "new and more reasonable [Iranian] regime" to bring an end to military operations in Iran. But he also warns that if a deal is not reached soon, the US will target electricity-generating plants, oil wells and Kharg Island. Iran four days after Israeli forces said they had targeted Iran's naval commander Alireza Tangsiri, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has confirmed that Tangsiri was killed. Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei called Tangsiri "courageous". His funeral will be held tomorrow morning, according to Iranian state media. Lebanon Israel has launched air strikes in south Beirut, saying it was targeting Hezbollah's infrastructure. Pictures show destroyed buildings and debris, as rescue workers search for people in the affected area. Israel's Air Force (IDF) soldier was killed while fighting in southern Lebanon on Sunday, the Israeli military

says. Iran launched missiles at northern Israel. The Israeli fire service says an industrial building and a fuel tanker in Haifa were hit by debris from an intercepted missile aimed at the Bazan oil refinery. As we've reported, Donald Trump now says that "if the Hormuz Strait is not immediately 'Open for Business', the US will be 'blowing up and completely obliterating' assets including electricity and oil plants. This isn't the first time he's posted something similar - the US president has been updating his deadline for Iran to open the Strait of Hormuz in various Truth Social posts. Here's a timeline: 21 March: Trump said he would 'hit and obliterate [Iran's] various power plants, starting with the biggest ones first' if Iran didn't reopen the Strait of Hormuz within 48 hours. 23 March: He then said the two countries had had "very good and productive conversations".

## 48-HOUR CURFEW IMPOSED AFTER ATTACK ON BAR IN NIGERIAN CITY

A 48-hour curfew has been imposed in parts of the central Nigerian city of Jos, after gunmen opened fire at a bar, leading to deadly revenge attacks, local reports say. Twelve people were reportedly killed when attackers ambushed the drinking spot. A mob is then said to have retaliated, killing 10 more people. Announcing the curfew, Plateau state governor Caleb Manasseh Mutwang said an investigation had been opened and those responsible for the killings would be brought to justice. The state has long been considered one of the most volatile parts of Nigeria. Paul Mancha, chairperson of the youth council in Plateau state, suggested that the true number of casualties could be even higher. "People were here in the evening and unfortunately, wicked terrorists came and attacked our people," he told Reuters news agency. "We have counted scores of people who are now dead and then so many others

are also in the hospital receiving treatment." In a statement announcing the curfew, the Plateau state governor condemned the killings as "barbaric and unprovoked," and said security agencies had been directed to pursue those responsible and bring them to justice. Local residents said threats had been posted on social media before the attack. The curfew, which began at midnight local time, is due to remain in force until 1 April. Residents have been ordered to stay indoors as security personnel intensify patrols and maintain a visible presence across the affected areas. Security forces were deployed swiftly after the shooting, with troops and other personnel moving to secure the area and restore calm. Plateau state lies in central Nigeria, where there is often violence between different communities, especially mainly Muslim herders and largely Christian farmers over access to land and water points.

## MYANMAR JUNTA CHIEF MIN AUNG HLAING NOMINATED AS PRESIDENT



Myanmar's military chief Min Aung Hlaing has been nominated for the presidency as parliament convened on Monday, following a general election from which the biggest opposition parties were excluded. Min Aung Hlaing is certain to be chosen, as he was nominated in parliament alongside two loyalists who are very unlikely contenders for president. He has been sanctioned by many Western countries for leading a military coup five years ago. In the ensuing civil war, thousands of people have been killed and millions have been displaced. Large areas of the country remain under the control of armed opposition groups. The general elections, held between December and January, were touted by the junta as a pathway to peace. But the vote was widely viewed as a sham, with many popular parties banned from standing and large areas of the country not allowed to participate because of the civil war. The regime has rejected this criticism, maintaining that the vote was free and fair. Still, around 90% of the members of Myanmar's new parliament owe their loyalty to Min Aung Hlaing, either as serving officers in the armed forces - which are

guaranteed a quarter of the seats - or as elected candidates for the military's own party. They plan to spend most of this week debating the choice of the next president, but it is now inevitable that the coup leader will get the job. Min Aung Hlaing is known to have wanted the presidency for a long time. The prospect of not getting it after the military party's dismal performance in the 2020 election was a big factor behind the coup that ousted the elected government led by Aung San Suu Kyi. But there are trade-offs: the constitution states that Min Aung Hlaing must give up command of the armed forces if he becomes president. That carries risks. There are known to be senior commanders who are unhappy with his leadership. He has already chosen a staunch loyalist, General Ye Win Oo to replace him, who has a reputation for brutal treatment of dissidents. But the risk still remains that once Min Aung Hlaing no longer controls the military, he loses some of his power. He has also created a new consultative council which he will head, which could give him continued authority over both military and civilian affairs.

## Fugitive Dezi Freeman shot dead by Australian police after seven months in hiding

Australian police have shot and killed Dezi Freeman after the double-murderer spent seven months on the run. A well-known conspiracy theorist, Freeman gunned down two police officers on his property in the small Victorian town of Porepunkah last August, before fleeing into dense bushland and evading extensive searches. Victoria Police say a man was shot dead after an hours-long standoff at a rural property in the state's north-east on Monday morning. Chief Commissioner Mike Bush said the man is believed to be Freeman, 56, but formal identification is still underway. "Today an evil man is dead," said Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan. "It's over." Police say they sur-

rounded a building - described as a cross between a shipping container and a long caravan - on a rural property around 5:30 local time. After three hours and multiple police pleas, a man believed to be Freeman came outside and was shot dead. Details are still being confirmed, Bush told reporters, but he believes Freeman emerged wrapped in a blanket and armed with a gun, possibly one taken from one of the slain officers back in August. "Our ultimate goal was to arrest the person," Bush said. "There was an opportunity for him to surrender peacefully but he did not." No officers were hurt during the operation, police said, which will be investigated, as is standard in police shootings.

## WHY DOES THE US HAVE IRAN'S KHARG ISLAND IN ITS SIGHTS?

US President Donald Trump has warned of possible further American action against a small island off the coast of Iran - home to a major oil terminal that is considered the country's economic lifeline. In an interview with the Financial Times on Sunday, Trump said he wants to "take" Iran's oil and was considering seizing Kharg Island. But he added an operation "would mean we had to be there for a while". The US has already targeted the island earlier in the war. On 13 March, the US launched airstrikes on Kharg, with Trump saying US forces had "totally obliterated" every military target there. But it held off targeting the island's oil infrastructure. There has been speculation for some time



about whether US forces will at some point attempt to take over Kharg Island. In the interview with the Financial Times, Trump said: "Maybe we take Kharg Island, maybe we don't. We have a lot of options." He added: "It would also mean we had to be there [in Kharg Island] for a while... I don't think they have any defence. We could take it very easily." Sources told the BBC's

US partner CBS News that Pentagon officials have made detailed preparations to deploy ground forces into Iran. Adding to that speculation, US Central Command said on Saturday that a further 3,500 US sailors and marines arrived in the Middle East as part of a unit led by the warship USS Tripoli. Both the Pentagon and the White House have declined to comment on spe-

cific troop deployments or potential plans - but have repeatedly made clear that the option is available. Taking the island would effectively cut off the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)'s economic lifeline, affecting its ability to conduct the war, security analyst Mikey Kay, from the BBC's Security Brief, says. Taking the island could choke off Iran's oil exports and provide a platform for the US military to carry out attacks against the mainland. The US could use the island as leverage to compel the Iranians to keep the strait open. But any US operation to seize the island would be challenging, according to Aaron Maclean, host of the School of War podcast and a CBS News national security analyst.

## SPAIN CLOSES AIRSPACE TO US AIRCRAFT INVOLVED IN IRAN WAR

Spain has closed its airspace to US planes involved in attacks on Iran, Madrid's defence minister Margarita Robles has said. "We will not authorise the use of Moron and Rota [military bases] for any acts related to the war in Iran," she said, adding that Spain had "made this clear to the American government from the beginning". Foreign affairs minister José Manuel Albares stated the aim of the decision was to "not do anything that could encourage an escalation in this war". The US did not immediately comment but President Donald Trump has previously threatened to impose a full trade embargo on Spain over its opposition



to the Iran war. Since the start of the war in late February, the Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez has been one of the most vocal opponents of the US and Israeli attacks on Iran, describing them as "reckless" and "illegal". Earlier in March, Sánchez

said Spain had denied the US use of the two jointly run military bases at Rota and Morón, both in Andalusia. Last Wednesday, he also announced that "all flight plans that involved actions related to the operation in Iran were rejected - every single one of them, including

those of refuelling aircraft." "We are a sovereign country that does not wish to take part in illegal wars," he said. Some US bombers involved in operations in Iran are stationed at the RAF Fairford base in Gloucestershire in the UK, after Sir Keir Starmer announced on 1 March that the UK had agreed to the request from the US. Planes taking off from there will be forced to bypass much of the Iberian peninsula - either by flying over the eastern Atlantic or over France. Spanish newspaper El País reported that aircraft would only be able to transit through Spain's airspace or land at the bases in case of emergency.

## RUSSIA EXPELS BRITISH DIPLOMAT OVER SPYING ALLEGATIONS



Russia has ordered a British diplomat to leave the country over allegations of spying, the latest in a series of expulsions of embassy staff from both sides. The Federal Security Service (FSB) claims the man provided false information when applying to enter the country, as well as trying to obtain sensitive information during informal economic meetings, according to state media reports. The diplomat has had their accreditation revoked and has been ordered to leave the country within two weeks. A UK Foreign Office spokesman called the move "complete nonsense" and accused Russia of an "aggressive and coordinated campaign of harassment against British diplomats". In a statement, they said Russia has been "pumping out malicious and completely baseless accusations about their work". "The UK does not stand for intimidation of British embassy staff and their families," they added. The FSB claims the diplomat "intentionally provided false information" when obtaining a permit to enter Russia, and that there

were "signs of intelligence activities" detected, according to state news agency Tass. His name has also been shared in Russian state media. Following the expulsion, the UK's charge d'affaires Danae Dholakia was summoned to the Russian Foreign Ministry, which she reportedly left without comment. This is just the latest in what is a series of tit-for-tat responses from Russia and the UK. Diplomatic relations between the UK and Russia have worsened in recent years, with both countries expelling a number of each other's diplomats since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Earlier this year, Russia expelled a British diplomat from the country over spying allegations. In March 2025, Russia expelled two British officials over accusations of spying, with the UK Foreign Office accusing Moscow of "malicious and baseless accusations" against its staff. The UK, in response, revoked accreditation for a Russian diplomat and a diplomatic spouse, saying it would "not stand for intimidation of British embassy staff and their families".



Three Lebanese journalists killed in Israeli strike

## Latin Patriarch will have access to Jerusalem holy site after police stopped entry

Israel's prime minister has said the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem will now have "full and immediate access" to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, after police earlier prevented him from celebrating Palm Sunday Mass there. Benjamin Netanyahu said Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, who is head of the Catholic Church in the Holy Land, had been asked not to enter the church out of concern for his safety. He said Iran had repeatedly targeted Jerusalem's holy sites with ballistic missiles. The decision to block the cardinal from entering Christianity's most sacred site had been criticised by several Western nations. On Sunday Cardinal Pizzaballa and the Reverend Francesco Jelpo were stopped outside the church,



believed to be the site of Jesus Christ's crucifixion, as they were planning to hold a Mass to mark the start of Holy Week, Church authorities said. Cardinal Pizzaballa's office said it was "the first time in centuries" a Latin Patriarch had been turned away from the holy site on Palm Sunday, which marks Christ's return to Jerusalem.



## Carlos Sainz Leads F1 Drivers' Call For Safety Changes After Oliver Bearman's Japanese GP Crash

Formula 1 drivers called for changes to protect their safety after Haas's Ollie Bearman slammed into a barrier at high speed at Sunday's Japanese Grand Prix. The 20-year-old avoided serious injury after spinning off the track midway through the race, although he was limping heavily as he was helped off the course by stewards. Sweeping new energy-saving regulations in Formula One this year mean cars can be travelling at drastically different speeds on the track at the same time. Bearman was moving at high speed as he approached the slower Franco Colapinto and had to take evasive action to avoid hitting him. Williams driver Carlos Sainz called on racing authorities to make sure there was no repeat of the incident. "As drivers, we have been extremely vocal that the problem is not only qualifying, it's also racing, and we were warning this type of accident was always going to happen," said the Spaniard. "Here we were



lucky there was an escape road - now imagine going to Baku, Singapore, Las Vegas and having this type of closing speeds, crashes next to the walls." Motorsport governing body the FIA said after the race that "a structured review would take place after the opening phase of the season". "Any potential adjustments, particularly those related to energy management, require careful simulation

and detailed analysis," the FIA said in a statement. An X-ray revealed that Bearman had not suffered any fracture in the crash and he was cleared at the Suzuka track's medical centre. He said he was "absolutely fine". "It's a part of these new regulations that I guess we have to get used to, but also I felt like I wasn't really given much space given the huge excess speed that I was carrying,"

said the British driver. "I think we've as a group warned the FIA what can happen, and this has been a really unfortunate result of a massive delta speed that we've never seen before in F1 until these new regulations." Four-time world champion Max Verstappen suggested he could quit Formula 1 at the end of the season after enduring another frustrating race on Sunday in Japan. The Red

Bull driver finished eighth in Suzuka, ending his four-year reign as Japanese Grand Prix champion in ruthless fashion. He told the BBC that he was "not enjoying the whole formula behind" this season's championship, which has brought in sweeping new regulations. "You just think about, is it worth it?" he said. "Or do I enjoy being more at home with my family? Seeing my friends more when you're not enjoying your sport?" Verstappen has repeatedly railed against the new regulations, that see a 50-50 split between conventional and electrical power. He labelled his car "undrivable" after qualifying in a lowly 11th for the Japan race. When asked if he could walk away from the sport, he replied that he was "thinking about everything inside this paddock". "It's really anti-driving. Then at one point, yeah, it's just not what I want to do," he said. "And of course you can look at it and make a lot of money. Great.

## Tiger Woods' Partner Threatens To Leave Him After Car Crash, Ultimatum Given

A global sporting icon, Tiger Woods has been issued a stern warning by his partner, Venessa Trump, after the golfer was arrested for DUI (Driving Under the Influence) following a car crash. Tiger has reportedly been given a "final warning" by Venessa about changes he must make to his lifestyle, or she will decide to leave him. According to a report, Venessa was furious to see Tiger detained by police for about eight hours at Martin County Jail before being released on bail. The Daily Mail quoted an insider as saying that Venessa has drawn a clear line for Tiger, and another repeat offence could be the end of their relationship. "It's a definite red flag, and she told him that he's going to get this sorted out and that she's going to require that. He has to get things under control, or she's not going to stick around," the insider was quoted as saying. "They are good together as they both have golf in their lives. That propels the romance in a certain



sense," another insider said. "Still, it is not without its challenges. She does all she can, but some of it is out of her hands." While the two certainly share some common traits, the relationship reportedly hasn't been without challenges. An insider added: "They are an intense couple. It's serious, but Tiger has yet to look in the mirror and say, 'You're 50 years old and need to act

like it." Donald Trump on Tiger Woods US President Donald Trump also shared his thoughts on Tiger's crash, expressing concern for the golf legend. "I feel so badly. He's got some difficulties," Trump told reporters at a Miami airport tarmac. "There was an accident, that's all I know. He's a very close friend of mine. He's an amazing person, amazing man, but some difficulties."

## Mahieka Sharma Goes To Fight With Paps To Protect Hardik Pandya's Son Agastya

Mumbai Indian skipper Hardik Pandya's girlfriend Mahieka Sharma rose up as a protector for the cricketer's on Agastya after the franchise's opening Indian Premier League (IPL) match against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) on Sunday. Mahieka wasn't happy seeing too many photographers surrounding her and Agastya as the two walked towards their car, after exiting the stadium. Mahieka could even be seen warning photographers to not click pictures as the flashes from camera were hurting Agastya's eyes. "No lights, no flashes," she could be heard saying in a video that has emerged on social media. She even asked Agastya a few times if he was ok, warn-



ing photographers against flashing lights again. Some people even crowded the way towards the car, prompting Mahieka to say "raasta de do (please give way)". Hardik Pandya in awe of Mahieka Sharma, Hardik gave Mahieka a big credit for the positive changes in his life as the Indian team successfully defended the T20 World Cup

title last month. "I had been saying the same thing from the beginning that we are going to win. I already knew that we were champions and that we would come back with this trophy. I even told Mahieka the same thing, 'Don't worry, we've got this.' I want to play for the team for another ten years and win ten more titles. And I honestly want to say one thing:

ever since Mahieka came into my life, everything has been going right. There has been win after win." Working as both an actress and a model, Mahieka Sharma has established a versatile career spanning music videos, independent cinema, and high-profile commercial campaigns for brands including Tanishq, Uniqlo, and Vivo. Her presence in the fashion industry is equally notable, having walked the runway for premier designers such as Manish Malhotra, Tarun Tahiliani, and Anita Dongre. Beyond her creative pursuits, she holds an academic background in Economics and Finance and is known for her relationship with cricketer Hardik Pandya.

## CSK CEO Delivers Big MS Dhoni-Sanju Samson Update, Remark Triggers Buzz

As Chennai Super Kings (CSK) prepare for their opening game of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 season, the clash against Rajasthan Royals (RR) also offers the team a glimpse into the future. Samson was brought by CSK in a trade deal with RR before the IPL auction. For the franchise, Samson's recruitment isn't only an attempt to solve a current problem but also the future, as MS Dhoni's potential long-term successor. Ahead of the match against the Royals, Super Kings CEO Kasi Vishwanathan dropped a big update on Dhoni's unavailability for the opener, confirming



Samson will keep wickets. Since the time Samson was signed by the franchise, speculations over the wicket-keeper's role has been going rife. While it isn't yet known what the situation will be once Dhoni is fit, Samson is going to keep wickets, at the start at least. "See, obviously, Sanju will be

keeping because his MS Dhoni is not going to play. Sanju's form is great and he's been knocking well in the nets also. So we're hoping that he'll give the impact that CSK is looking for during the current season. Of course, we have Ruturaj, who is also capable of taking the team to higher levels, and his

captaincy is one which definitely will lift the team," Vishwanathan said. Vishwanathan also gave a little glimpse into the future, expressing confidence that the wicket-keeper from Kerala is going to be a great bet for the franchise in the future. "As far as Sanju is concerned, we don't want to put any pressure on him because we know his capabilities. I have not spent much time talking to Sanju, as I met him only a couple of days back, and during practice, I would never go and disturb him. I'm very confident that Sanju, with his abilities and his form, will be a great bet for us," he added.

## Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Draws Inspiration From Two Greats Before Facing CSK In IPL 2026

After a historic debut, the prodigious Vaibhav Sooryavanshi returns for his second IPL season with the Rajasthan Royals, aiming to dismantle bowlers and dominate the powerplay. Turning out for RR last season, the 15-year-old played seven matches, scoring 252 runs, including a blistering 35-ball century and maintaining a strike rate exceeding 200 - numbers that established him as the next big thing in Indian cricket. He said that after dominating the powerplay, he aims to value his wicket and push the total towards 200, making it tough for opponents to chase. "When I was picked, my only goal was to give the team a good start. I wanted to play my game in the powerplay, and if I got a good start, I wanted to continue



and play long without giving my wicket away," Sooryavanshi told JioStar. "I knew that if I played my shots, the scenario of the game would change, because chasing 200-plus runs would not be easy for any team. This season, the goal is to win the trophy for the team. My performances and the team's performances will automatically get highlighted if we win the trophy, and

that is the most important thing," said the youngest IPL debutant, who also smashed 175 in the 2026 U-19 World Cup final earlier this year. Sooryavanshi revealed that the two cricketers he admired most while growing up were West Indies legend Brian Lara and India's World Cup-winning great Yuvraj Singh - one renowned for crafting match-winning Test innings and the other for decimating opposition bowlers with fearless strokeplay. "I saw both Brian Lara and Yuvraj Singh finish matches single-handedly. If they were in, there was no chance for the opponent to come back into the game, and that was something I really liked about them. I made a lot of runs in domestic cricket for Bihar, in league games and probables," he said.

## SINNER RAISES ALCARAZ STAKES WITH HISTORIC 'SUNSHINE DOUBLE'

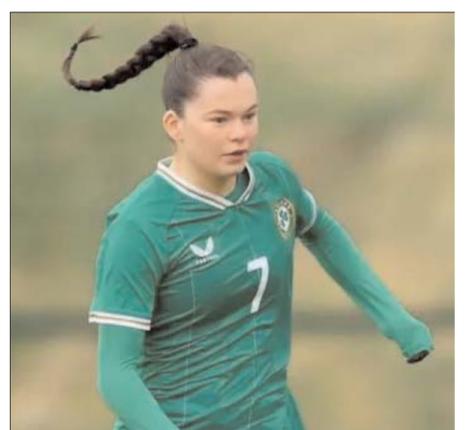
Jannik Sinner creating a moment of history by adding the Miami Open title to his Indian Wells victory will certainly not have escaped Carlos Alcaraz's notice. Sinner, 24, became the first man to complete what is known as the 'Sunshine Double' - scooping both trophies on the hard courts in California and Florida - without dropping a set. The imperious nature of the Italian's 6-4 6-4 win over Czech 21st seed Jiri Lehecka in a rain-interrupted Miami final was another illustration of how far Sinner and Alcaraz remain ahead of the chasing pack. It was also a reminder for Alcaraz - not that he needed one - how he must continue to find ways to further improve if he is



able to maintain his current status as the leading player on the men's tour. World number two Sinner has now won his past 34 sets at Masters events, enabling him to join Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal as the only men to claim three consecutive titles in the tier of tournaments below the Grand Slams. Securing another triumph

in Miami helped Sinner close the gap on Alcaraz, who was beaten in the third round, at the top of the rankings. The gap is down to 1,190 points as the season moves on to the European clay-court swing, where the pair will unquestionably spar again for the biggest prizes given the stratospheric level on which they operate.

## BOHS' BRENNAN EARNS FIRST REPUBLIC OF IRELAND CALL-UP



Teenage Bohemians midfielder Aoihe Brennan has earned her first call-up to the Republic of Ireland senior squad for their World Cup 2027 qualifying double-header against Poland in April. The 18-year-old has featured for the Republic of Ireland at under-19 level and has had an impressive start to the Premier Division season with Dublin club Bohs. There are returns to the squad for West Ham's Jess Ziu and Durham's Lily Agg, who is included for the first time since 2024 after recovering from a serious knee injury. Hayley Nolan and Jamie Finn are not included in Carla Ward's 24-strong contingent. The Irish will travel to Gdansk to take on Poland on Tuesday, 14 April before they host the same opponents at the Aviva Stadium four days later. Ward's side are of bottom of Group A2 after falling to narrow defeats against France and the Netherlands in their opening two qualifiers.

Republic of Ireland squad Goalkeepers: Courtney Brosnan (Everton), Sophie Whitehouse (Charlton Athletic), Grace Moloney (Sunderland) Defenders: Katie McCabe (Arsenal), Anna Patten (Aston Villa), Caitlin Hayes (Brighton & Hove Albion), Aoife Mannion (Newcastle United), Jessie Stapleton (Nottingham Forest - loan), Chloe Mustaki (Nottingham Forest) Midfielders: Denise O'Sullivan (Liverpool), Tyler Toland (Durham), Megan Connolly (Lazio), Marissa Sheva (Sunderland), Lucy Quinn (Birmingham City), Ruesha Littlejohn (Crystal Palace), Jess Ziu (West Ham), Lily Agg (Durham), Aoihe Brennan (Bohemians) Attackers: Saoirse Noonan (Celtic), Abbie Larkin (Crystal Palace), Leanne Kiernan (Nottingham Forest - loan), Emily Murphy (Newcastle United), Kyra Carusa (Kansas City Current - loan), Amber Barrett (Strasbourg).

## SHADES OF GASCOIGNE - THE RISE OF ENGLAND'S ANDERSON

Four years ago Elliot Anderson was helping Bristol Rovers win promotion from League Two. Since then his stock has continued to rise and this could be a defining year, with Anderson tipped to star for England at this summer's World Cup. The Nottingham Forest midfielder has quickly become a key man for England boss Thomas Tuchel, starting five of the past seven games - just three years after being called up by Scotland. He is due to face Japan at Wembley on Tuesday - after being rested for the game against Uruguay - as England's final countdown to this summer's

World Cup begins. Maturing to become one of Premier League top performers Anderson, 23, was eligible to play for Scotland due to his Glasgow-born grandmother and was selected by Steve Clarke for their Euro 2024 game with Cyprus. He pulled out injured before opting for England - and then helped the Three Lions win the European Under-21 Championship last summer. Liverpool's Harvey Elliott was named player of the tournament, scoring six goals including the opener in the final win over Germany, but Anderson also stood out and was picked in the best XI. Anderson featured along-

side Bournemouth's Alex Scott in midfield to provide England with a solid foundation - and the Forest player's tireless running was particularly impressive in the 3-1 quarter-final win over Spain. His injury-time penalty eased England into the semi-finals, where they beat the Netherlands, before defending their title in Bratislava. The summer was to be another platform for Anderson as he continued his form into Forest's chaotic season. Despite four managers and the club sitting 16th, embroiled in a Premier League relegation battle, he has been a consistent presence. In the crucial 3-0 win at

Tottenham, which moved Forest three points above the drop zone, Anderson created the most chances (three), completed more passes (38), won possession the most (nine) and made more tackles (six) than any of his teammates. He has impressed staff with his commitment and regularly talks to the coaches to discuss the best way he can improve and contribute to improve the team. His positional awareness has also earned praise although his work-rate and desire to cover as much ground as possible mean he often tires himself out - a potential backhanded compliment.



## Cinematic Titans Salman Khan, Vamshi Paidipally and Dil Raju join hands for a high octane action drama

In a landmark announcement that has instantly set the industry abuzz, Salman Khan, Vamshi Paidipally and Dil Raju took to social media to unveil their first ever collaboration. The film is set to go on floors next month. Bollywood superstar Salman Khan is all set to lead an ambitious new action drama that brings him together for the first time with acclaimed filmmaker Vamshi Paidipally and celebrated producer Dil Raju of Sri Venkateswara Creations. The announcement of this high-powered collaboration has already ignited immense excitement among fans and within the industry. The trio unveiled the project on social media, instantly positioning it as one of the biggest cinematic events slated for 2027. Planned as a grand theatrical spectacle, the film is scheduled to go on floors in April.

Director Vamshi Paidipally, known for his ability to strike a perfect balance between emotion and grandeur has consistently delivered impactful entertainers. Riding on a



strong track record. Having collaborated with leading stars across industries including Prabhas, Jr. NTR, Mahesh Babu, Ram Charan, Allu Arjun and Vijay, Vamshi has

established himself as a filmmaker with both range and mass appeal. His National Award winning film Maharshifurther stands as a testament to his vision. On the produc-

tion front, Dil Raju continues to back yet another ambitious project under Sri Venkateswara Creations. With over 60 films and a strong mix of content driven and com-

mercial successes, his banner has built a reputation for delivering films that connect widely. His National Award wins for Maharshi and Shatamanam Bhavati further underline that credibility. For Salman Khan, this marks a fresh collaboration with both Vamshi Paidipally and Dil Raju. Over the years, he has been at the centre of some of the biggest commercial entertainers in Indian cinema from Dabangg and Kick to Bajrangi Bhaijaan, Sultan and the Tiger franchise. With this film, there is clear curiosity around what new space the story will explore for him. Director Vamshi Paidipally and producer Dil Raju share a proven track record, having collaborated on five successful films- each emerging as a blockbuster. With Salman's massive screen presence, Vamshi's signature storytelling, and Dil Raju's grand cinematic sensibilities, this film is poised to deliver a powerful big-screen experience. With production set to begin next month, the makers are expected to unveil more updates very soon.

## "Carmeni Selvam" Creates a New Wave in the Music Industry: Music Director Ramanujan

"Carmeni Selvam" is a Heart-Touching Film: Music Director Ramanujan

"Carmeni Selvam" is a bilingual film made in Telugu and Tamil under the Pathway Productions banner, produced by Arun Rangarajulu and directed by Ram Chakri. The film features versatile actor Samuthirakani in the lead role, with Gautham Vasudev Menon playing a key role. Other important cast members include Lakshmi Priya, Abhinaya, Karthik Kumar, Badava Gopi, Kothandam, Karan Chakravarthy, Shankara Narayanan V, and Haritha Parakod. The film's music has been composed by Ramanujan MK through his company Musiccloud Studio & Technology under the concept of "Music as a Service." The already released song "Arere" was emotionally connected with audiences. The film is set for a grand theatrical release on April 3 in both Telugu and Tamil, distributed by PVR INOX Pictures. Speaking on this occasion, music director Ramanujan MK shared insights about the film: "We wanted the credit for composing music for a film to go not just to an individual, but to an organization. That's why I started Musiccloud Studio & Technology in Bengaluru in



2017. Initially, we took up corporate projects and gradually improved our capabilities. Later, we began collaborating with media companies, offering services like sound design, voice-overs, and dubbing. Now, we are ready to release 'Carmeni Selvam.' For this film, instead of an individual music director's name, we have credited Musiccloud Studio & Technology under the 'Music as a Service' model. Film production costs are increasing day by day, and to support good content, it's essential to reduce

expenses. One way to do that is by cutting down music production costs, which is what we planned for this project. Through this service, a revenue model has been created between producers and Musiccloud Studio. Under this model, everyone involved in the process, sound engineers, instrumentalists, programmers receives a share in the royalties. We are introducing a corporate structure into music production, which can be seen as a new wave in the film music industry.

Earlier, I worked with director Ram on the film 'Kurai Ondrum Illai,' starring Amrutha Srinivasan. Now, I got the opportunity to compose music for an emotional family film like 'Carmeni Selvam.' Meeting director Ram Chakri was a turning point in my life. For this film, I composed four songs, background score, and OST tracks. It was a team effort, with 4-5 members from our Music Cloud team working together. Music is never an individual effort; it's always teamwork. The song 'Arere Arere' is receiving a great response in Telugu. It appears in a father-son emotional sequence. Instead of using violin or flute, we chose to use the sarangi, which enhanced the emotional depth.

## PRIYA PRAKASH SETS RIVER SIDE ON FIRE



Priya Prakash Varrier first became a nationwide sensation with her viral wink, and since then, she has carefully built a unique image that blends glamour with creativity. From experimenting with dreamy concepts like saree-in-the-pool shoots to capturing aesthetic frames around water, she seems to have a clear fascination for mixing natural elements with bold styling. That signature touch has made her social media presence stand out, giving every photoshoot a distinct visual identity. In her latest pictures, she takes that obsession a step further, posing

gracefully on a rock beside flowing water. Dressed in an elegant off-shoulder top with deep red floral patterns paired with a sleek black skirt, she brings a mix of softness and intensity to the frame. The way the fabric drapes around her, combined with the calm yet powerful flow of the water, creates a striking contrast. Her relaxed pose, slightly wet hair, and subtle expressions add a poetic charm, making the entire look feel sensual yet artistic, like a moment frozen between nature and emotion. On the work front, Priya is now stepping into the OTT space with her debut web series Cousins and Kalyanam in Malayalam.

The action trailer of talented actor Legend Saravanan's film "Leader" has been released, and the movie is gearing up for a grand theatrical release on April 3



"Leader" is the latest film starring Legend Saravanan in the lead role. It is being produced on a grand scale by Legend Saravana Stores Productions. The film is directed by R. S. Durai Senthil Kumar, with Payal Rajput playing the female lead. The movie is all set for a grand theatrical release on April 3. The teaser released earlier has already received a huge response, and today, the makers unveiled the

action trailer. Talking about the trailer, it opens with a massive action sequence set on a train. A powerful dialogue, "In this world, God does not directly help anyone; all good happens through humans, and we must believe in him" reflects the protagonist's mindset and philosophy. High-voltage action episodes set in a train, port area, and forest showcase the film's grand scale and production values.

## THIS BEAUTY IS THE TRUE MALDIVES QUEEN

The one and only Maldives queen is this Tollywood beauty, Pragya Jaiswal, and she keeps proving why that tag fits her so well. While most people wait for summer to hit beach spots, she is already there, living that island life again and again. Her Maldives diaries never really stop, and every time she drops pictures, it feels like a fresh dose of vacation goals. This time though, she switched things up a

bit and went for a sleek ruched black look instead of the usual bright bikinis. The outfit hugs her body neatly, with the gathered detailing adding that extra shape and softness. It is simple, but not boring at all. The fit sits perfectly along her frame, and the way it falls gives a clean, elegant vibe. Paired with minimal styling, straight hair, and a small chic handbag, she kept it classy while still making sure all eyes stay on her.



## War impacts Shah Rukh Khan's film shoot in Dubai: Report

Shah Rukh Khan's much-awaited film 'King' has run into a sudden change in its shooting plans. The team has cancelled its Dubai schedule due to rising tensions in West Asia, putting safety first for the cast and crew. Why Dubai Shoot Was Cancelled The film, directed by Siddharth Anand, was supposed to film a major desert action sequence in Dubai starting April 9. The team had already received all permissions for the shoot. However, due to the ongoing geopolitical situation in the region, the makers decided not to take any risks. The safety of actors like Suhana Khan and Anil Kapoor, along with the crew, became the top priority. According to Mid-Day, the team had already secured permissions for the shoot. A source told the publication, "The team had procured the necessary permissions to shoot in the emirate. It was supposed to

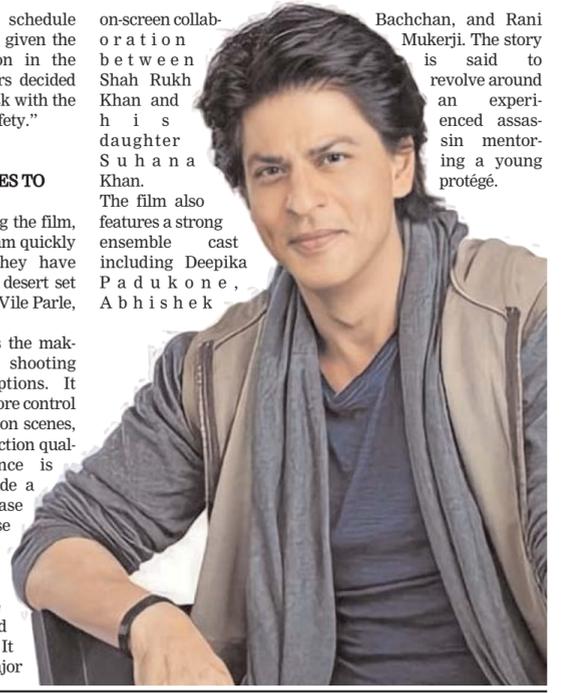
be a week-long schedule from April 9. But given the dynamic situation in the region, the makers decided not to take any risk with the cast and crew's safety."

### NEW PLAN, SHOOTING MOVES TO MUMBAI

Instead of delaying the film, the production team quickly shifted plans. They have now built a large desert set inside a studio in Vile Parle, Mumbai. This move allows the makers to continue shooting without interruptions. It also gives them more control over lighting, action scenes, and overall production quality. The sequence is expected to include a high-energy chase followed by intense combat scenes. Big Film, Bigger Expectations 'King' is one of the most anticipated Bollywood films. It marks the first major

on-screen collaboration between Shah Rukh Khan and his daughter Suhana Khan. The film also features a strong ensemble cast including Deepika Padukone, Aishwarya

Bachchan, and Rani Mukerji. The story is said to revolve around an experienced assassin mentoring a young protégé.



## Ustaad Bhagat Singh OTT: When to stream Pawan Kalyan's actioner



The much-anticipated collaboration between Power Star Pawan Kalyan and director Harish Shankar, titled Ustaad Bhagat Singh, is officially moving to digital streaming. Following its theatrical debut on March 19, 2026, the mass action entertainer is scheduled to arrive on Netflix. While the film generated significant hype due to the duo's previ-

ous success with Gabbar Singh, its box office performance was hindered by stiff competition. Digital giant Netflix secured the streaming rights for the film prior to its theatrical release. Although there was initial speculation regarding an April 16 or 17 premiere, recent updates confirm that the movie will likely begin streaming on April 23, 2026.