



PUBLIC RESENTMENT GROWING AGAINST ANDHRA GOVT: JAGAN REDDY

ISRAEL SAYS IRAN'S SECURITY CHIEF ALI LARIJANI HAS BEEN KILLED IN STRIKE



ROHIT SHARMA ENGAGES IN HILARIOUS BANTER WITH MUMBAI INDIANS STAR AFTER HITTING HIM FOR A SIX: "CATCH IT"



SHORT TAKES

RBI WINS GLOBAL INITIATIVE OF THE YEAR AWARD

Mumbai, March 17 (TSIT): The Reserve Bank of India has been selected for the prestigious 'Initiative of the Year Award' by London-based Central Banking in recognition for its launching the 'bank.in' domain...

SIDDARAMAIAH SLAMS RAILWAYS FOR CANCELLING EXAMS OVER KANNADA ROW



Bengaluru, March 17 : Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday criticised the Railway Department for abruptly cancelling promotion examinations for railway employees after protests by Kannada organisations over the denial of an option to write the test in Kannada...

Women Empowerment a Top Priority: Bhatti



Hyderabad, March 17 (TSIT): Reaffirming the State Government's commitment to women's empowerment, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu stated that the government is working with dedication to uphold the dignity, self-respect, and self-reliance of women...

healthcare, and family needs, thereby improving their quality of life. The Deputy Chief Minister emphasized that the overall development of the state is closely linked to the progress and empowerment of women...

President Murmu Serves Akshaya Patra's 5 Billionth Meal, Marks 25 Years of Service

New Delhi (TSIT): The Akshaya Patra Foundation marked a historic milestone of serving 5 billion meals while completing 25 years of dedicated service to humanity at a grand event held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre in New Delhi.



President Murmu served the 5 billionth meal, also interacting with and feeding children.

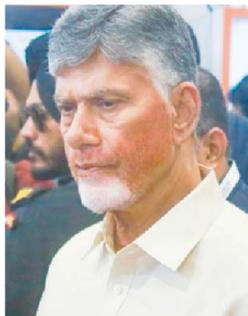
menting partner of the Government of India's PM POSHAN initiative, currently serves nutritious mid-day meals to over 2.35 million children across 16 states and 3 Union Territories.

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan praised the Foundation's contribution, calling it a powerful example of public-private partnership supporting the country's education system.

Founded in 2000, Akshaya Patra has grown into the world's largest NGO-run school meal programme, playing a vital role in improving school enrolment, attendance, and child nutrition.

Different-abled in Andhra Pradesh to get free bus travel facility

Amaravati (TSIT) : The Andhra Pradesh government is set to launch a scheme, offering free bus travel to differently-abled citizens across the state.



The government said that the scheme underscores its renewed focus on social equity, mobility, and last-mile dignity, while also reinforcing its governance narrative of "welfare with scale."

Chief Minister Naidu and senior leaders will travel alongside beneficiaries on RTC buses post-launch.

disabilities, reinforcing the administration's emphasis on empathy-led governance. The Divyang Shakti Scheme is expected to benefit over 12.76 lakh individuals, including 11.16 lakh persons with disabilities...

PAK KILLS 400 IN STRIKE ON KABUL HOSPITAL, INDIA TERMS IT 'COWARDLY ACT'

Kabul (TSIT) At least 400 people were killed and over 250 injured after a Pakistani airstrike hit the Omid Addiction Treatment Hospital in Kabul on Monday night, March 16, even as Pakistan denied targeting any civilian sites...

INDIA, CHINA SEEN AS KEY MEDIATORS AS HORMUZ TENSIONS DEEPEN, US ALLIES HOLD BACK

New Delhi, March 17 (TSIT) As the war in West Asia grinds on, with the failure of a decisive win and reluctance of USA's allies to be part of a naval fleet patrolling the Strait of Hormuz...



Washington and Tehran are trusted by both. US President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping have already spoken to each other on the crisis.

Centre releases over Rs 1,789 crore to strengthen rural local bodies in 5 states

New Delhi, March 17 (TSIT) : The government on Tuesday said it has released more than Rs 1,789 crore under the 15th Finance Commission grants to strengthen rural local bodies in five states.

(RLBs) in Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra during FY 2025-26.

amounting to Rs 232.60 crore has been released for all eligible 33 District Panchayats (DPs), 146 Block Panchayats (BPs) and 11,693 Gram Panchayats (GPs).

Sanju Samson felicitated by Kerala CM after T20 WC win



New Delhi, March 17 (TSIT): Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan honoured India wicketkeeper-batter Sanju Samson, who played a pivotal role in India's triumphant campaign at the ICC

Men's T20 World Cup earlier this month. Vijayan hosted the World Cup champion at his official residence, Cliff House, on Monday (March 16), to acknowledge his achievements.

NATO declined to join US military campaign against Iran: Trump

Washington, March 17 (TSIT) : President Donald Trump said Tuesday that most NATO allies have declined to join the US military operation against Iran, criticising the alliance and asserting that Washington does not need foreign support.

He added that despite their reluctance, "almost every country strongly agreed with what we are doing, and that Iran cannot, in any way, shape, or form, be allowed to have a nuclear weapon."

considered NATO, where we spend Hundreds of Billions of Dollars per year protecting these same Countries, to be a one-way street — We will protect them, but they will do nothing for us, in particular, in a time of need," he said.

He also claimed that US forces had significantly degraded Iran's military capability. "Fortunately, we have decimated Iran's Military — Their Navy is gone, their Air Force is gone, their Anti-Aircraft and Radar is gone, and perhaps, most importantly, their Leaders, at virtually every level, are gone," Trump said.

He said that because of those gains, allied support was no longer necessary. "Because we have had such Military Success, we no longer 'need,' or



desire, the NATO Countries' assistance — WE NEVER DID!" he said. Trump extended the same position to key US

partners in Asia. "Likewise, Japan, Australia, or South Korea," he said, adding: "WE DO NOT NEED THE HELP OF ANYONE!"

The comments build on remarks Trump made a day earlier in the Oval Office, where he expressed frustration that some US allies were not willing to contribute militarily.

Referring to Britain, Trump said: "When I hear the UK, which was sort of considered the Rolls Royce of allies," he had asked that "it would be really helpful if you'd send over a couple of ships and if you have some minesweepers,

which they do, be very helpful." He said the response fell short of expectations. "He says, well, I'd like to ask my team," Trump said. "I said, you don't have to worry about a team. You don't have a team. You're the prime minister, you can make a decision."

Trump said later offers of support did not carry weight. "I said, I don't want them anymore. I don't want them any more. I don't want them before we win, I want them before we start. I don't need your aircraft carriers after we've already won." He also linked the issue to long-standing US troop deployments abroad.

FOR ADVERTISEMENT PLEASE CONTACT: 9948480279, 7330778889

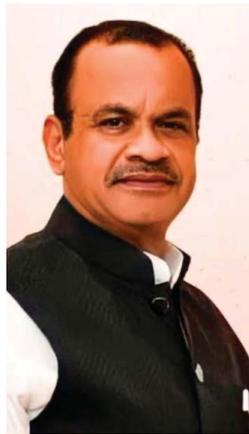
TPCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud Makes Sensational Remarks on Drug Testing



Hyderabad: Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud made sensational remarks in the Legislative Council, challenging political opponents on the issue of drug usage and testing.

B-forms to drug testing. He questioned whether other parties would be willing to do the same for their candidates. He alleged that during the previous ten years of governance, the spread of ganja and drugs had increased significantly, pushing youth towards addiction.

JAGGAREDDY AS TPCC CHIEF CAN HELP CONGRESS WIN 100 SEATS KOMATIREDDY VENKAT REDDY



Congress stalwart P. Janardhan Reddy (PJR). Komatireddy Venkat Reddy emphasized that Jagareddy has the ability to unite leaders and party workers at all levels—from grassroots cadre to senior leadership—and said such leadership is crucial in the current political scenario.

Hyderabad: R&B Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Tuesday made strong remarks stating that the Congress party could win as many as 100 Assembly seats in Telangana if senior leader T. Jagareddy is appointed as the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president. Speaking to media representatives in the Assembly lobbies, the Minister described Jagareddy as a mass leader with significant grassroots support.

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY Tender Notice No. : 06-2026 Dated : 16-03-2026 Senior Divisional Engineer / Coordination / Guntakal acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Open e-Tender Notice No. : DRM/Works/BZA/11/2026, Dated : 17-03-2026

For and on behalf of the President of India, the undersigned invites E-Tenders for the following works up to 15:00 hours and the date mentioned against each.

SI. No. : 1. Tender No. : E-08-Bridges-BZA-2026. Details of Work : Vijayawada Division Section - Replacement of exg. corroded / Perforated top flange plates and top flange main angles of sectional bridges under SSE/BR/IRJY section from RJY to DVD stations.

Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Vijayawada Tender Notice No. : CRS-E-10-25-26 Dated : 14-03-2026

Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer / Carriage Repair Shop / Tirupati acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No. : mentioned here under closing date as mentioned below up to 11:00 hours.

SI. No. : 1. : Description of work : Tender No. : CRS-E-10-25-26. Electrical arrangements for 'Replishment of facilities required for POH inside workshop' at Carriage Repair Shop, Tirupati.

Visarapu Pragathi Sripal Reddy Meets Ramasahayam Surender Reddy, Seeks Blessings

Mahabubabad, March 17: Newly appointed Maripeda Municipal Chairperson Visarapu Pragathi Sripal Reddy met former MP Ramasahayam Surender Reddy at his residence and sought his blessings after assuming office.



town under the leadership of Jathothu Ramchandra Nayak. Congress leaders Alaval Uppender Prajapati and Gandhasiri Bhikshapati were also present during the meeting.

Awareness Session on CCTV Cameras at Husnabad Bus Stand The South India Times Husnabad March 17 Husnabad: An awareness session highlighting the importance of CCTV cameras in enhancing urban security was organized at the Husnabad bus stand on Tuesday.

B. Shivadhar Reddy Hands Over Pattas to Balimela Maoist Attack Martyrs' Families



Hyderabad: Director General of Police B. Shivadhar Reddy on Tuesday distributed house site pattas to families of police personnel martyred in the Balimela Maoist Attack, ending an 18-year wait.

Training Programme for Farmers on Natural Farming as part of Public Governance Development Plan

WARANGAL, March 17, TSIT : As part of the 99-day programme of Public Governance - Pragathi Plan, which was ambitiously launched by the state government on Tuesday, a training programme was organized for farmers on natural farming at Rythu Vedika in Rajupeta village of Narsampet mandal.



Narender Reddy Hosts Grand Iftar in Karimnagar spiritual strength and success in life. Suda Chairman Komatireddy Narender Reddy attended as chief guest and praised the initiative, calling Narender Reddy's services inspiring.

Karimnagar, March 17: Congress leader and VNR Foundation founder Narender Reddy hosted a grand Iftar dinner in Karimnagar to mark the holy month of Ramzan. Speaking on the occasion, he highlighted the teachings of Prophet Muhammad, stating they promote peace, discipline, and human welfare.

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No. 14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guntur, Chennai-600032.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE Where as, the undersigned being the authorised officer of Shriram Finance Limited, (Formerly known as Shriram City Union Finance Limited, amalgamated with Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited, subsequently Shriram Transport Company Limited name changed as Shriram Finance Limited, by its Incorporation Certificate No. 30-11-2022) a corporate body registered and incorporated as a company under the Indian Companies Act 1956, is doing Non-Banking financial activities, having its Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No. 14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guntur, Chennai - 600 032 and having its administrative office at 6th Floor (level 2), Building No. Q2, Aarum Q Parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710.

Table with columns: Borrower Name and Address, Amount due as per Demand Notice. Includes details for Mohammad Khaja Miya, S/O Mohammad Javed Miya, etc.

TAMILNAD MERCANTILE BANK LTD. Suryapet Branch, Ground Floor, D.No.1-5-136 to 139, Poola Centre, Alankar Road, Suryapet -508213. Ph:08684-221666. Mobile: 7032712334. E-mail: suryapet@tmbank.in, CIN: L65110TN1921PLC001908.

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS UNDER THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY Item No.1: All part and parcel of Residential land to an extent of 106.66 Square Yards in Sy. No. 244, 245 and 246, Block No.1, Ward No.1, Plot No.12 Part of Bechiradacharam Village, Near to the House No. 1-1-388/2, Now under Suryapet Municipality Limits, Suryapet Town, Suryapet Mandal, Suryapet District standing in the name of Mr. Jamalpur Nareesh S/o. Mr. Ram Chanderji is being bounded by: East: House of Immedi Chandrasekharam, West: 33 Feet wide Road, North: Plot belongs to Kandibanda Sasikaala, South: Site belongs to Pamiesthy Suseelamma.

HINDUJA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED Corporate office at #167-169, 2nd Floor, Little Mount, Saidapet, Chennai-600 015.

NOTICE OF SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY TO BORROWER UNDER RULES 8(5) AND 9(1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 Date: 17-03-2026.

To, 1. Mr. Srikanth Reddy Neuvri 2. Mr. Narsimha Reddy Neuvri Both Also, R/o. D.No.2-69, Thoguta Mandal, E.G Kistapur Village, Medak Dist, TG-502301.

1. That further till date, you have not made payment to HHFL towards discharge of your liabilities in full and hence HHFL proposes to sell the below mentioned part of secured asset as per the provisions of the SARFAESI Act and the Rules framed there under. HHFL intends to sell the secured asset by public auction/Private Treaty. The secured asset will be sold to one of the intending purchasers who offers the highest bid/purchase price, which shall not be less than the Reserve Price fixed for Rs.11,00,000/- (Rupees Eleven Lakhs Only). The Date of Auction is 08-04-2026.

TAMILNAD MERCANTILE BANK LIMITED Rikabgunj Branch, D.No.21-1-525 to 527, Ground floor, Opp Lane to High Court Gate No.4, Rikabgunj, Hyderabad-500002.

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Description of the immovable properties to be sold All parts and parcels of residential plot to an extent of 100 sq.yards on Plot No. 115, in Sy. No. 20, Ahmednagar Village, Dammaiguda Municipality, Keesara Mandal, Medchal Malkajgiri District, Hyderabad and building constructed there to the extent of 1440.00 sq. ft. (as per the Valuation Report) (As per the approved plan 1304.16 sq.ft and as per the Document 1500.00 Sq. Feet) with plinth area in the name of Mr. Abdul Rahaman, S/o. Mohd. Mohamad. Boundaries: East: Plot No.122, South: Plot No.116, West: 207' wide road, North: Plot No.114.

Gopinagar, Bapunagar, and Nehrunagar Welfare Association has demanded urgent action to protect the land earmarked for the Backward Classes (BC) Boys Hostel in Gopinagar from encroachments.

SERILINGAMPALLY TSIT: The association submitted a petition to key officials, including the Deputy Collector, Serilingampally Mandal Tahsildar Mahipal Reddy, Serilingampally Zonal Commissioner Hemant, Rangareddy District BC Development Officer (Deputy Director) Keshuram, and Serilingampally Corporator Ragam Nagender Yadav. According to the representatives, although decades have



passed since the BC Boys Hostel was established in principle, no protective boundary wall (compound wall) has been constructed around the premises. The lack of fencing and security has left the

land vulnerable to repeated encroachments, they alleged. The welfare association expressed deep concern over the ongoing situation, stating that the unprotected site continues to face illegal occupation risks. They urged the concerned authorities and public representatives to respond immediately and take necessary steps to safeguard the land meant for the boys' hostel. Residents from the Gopinagar, Bapunagar, and Nehrunagar bastis actively participated in submitting the petition and voiced their support for the demand. The BC Boys Hostel land in Serilingampally Mandal's Gopinagar area is intended to provide residential facilities for backward class students, but delays in development and protection have hindered its full utilization. The association called for swift intervention to prevent further encroachments and ensure the site's preservation for its intended purpose.

MAIZE PROCUREMENT AT SUPPORT PRICE

- Farmers Need Not Worry
- Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar
- Maize Procurement Center Inaugurated in Husnabad
The South India Times

Husnabad, March 17: A maize procurement center was inaugurated on Tuesday at the Husnabad Agricultural Market Yard for the convenience of maize farmers. This was announced by the State Minister for Transport and BC Welfare, Ponnamp Prabhakar. He stated that he had held discussions regarding maize procurement with the State Minister for Agriculture, Marketing, and Cooperation, Thummala Nageswara Rao. Minister Ponnamp revealed that he had requested the establishment of procurement centers—purchasing at the Minimum Support Price (MSP)—to ensure that farmers face no difficulties in selling their harvested produce; in response, Minister



Thummala immediately acted on the request and granted permission for procurement operations at the Husnabad Market Yard. Consequently, the Minister noted that procurement activities were formally launched by Market Committee Chairman Kandi Tirupati Reddy, Municipal Chairperson Dandi Lakshmi, and Bolishetty Shivayya, joined by other public representatives and officials from the Agriculture Department and MARKFED. Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar further assured that comprehensive maize procurement measures would soon be implemented across the entire district and the state, emphasizing that farmers have no reason to be anxious.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public at large are hereby informed that my client SRI. PIDATHALA VENKATA RATNAM, intending to Mortgage House on Plot No.19, Area 113 Sq.yds, in Sy.No.354, Situated at Domadugu Village, Gummadiala Municipality & Mandal, Sanga Reddy District, with Canfin Homes Ltd., Kukatpally Branch, hereby Notify to the general public and claimants, that the link Original registered Sale Deed doc No.4382/04 dt.06/12/2004, read with the SRO Narsappur, executed by G. Narasimha Rao in favour of Sri.R.Srinivasa Rao and bounded on North : House of Malla Reddy/Plot No.18, South : 15' Wide Road; East : Place of Narsimha Rao/Vendor Land 15'; West : 15' Wide Road, was misplaced / lost and is not traceable. In case any person / claimants have come into possession of the same may be restored to us within 15 days, failing which it will be presumed that the property is free from encumbrances and any claim in respect thereof against my client as a mortgagor and Canfin Homes Ltd as Mortgagee shall be Null / Void and ineffective, or else it is deemed that no person has any claim, interest or demand in the said property.

B. NAGENDER RAO, B.Sc., DPM., LLB ADVOCATE & NOTARY
Office: 128/C, S.R.Nagar Colony Hyderabad-500038, (Mob): 9391011961

KITS Trophy-2026 Concludes at Kakatiya Institute of Technology and Science, Warangal

Warangal: The Department of Physical Education at Kakatiya Institute of Technology and Science (KITSW) successfully organised the Invitational Inter-Collegiate Tournament "KITS Trophy-2026" for men and women on March 14 and 15. The valedictory ceremony was attended by former MLA and KITSW Additional Secretary Vothihala Satish Kumar as chief guest. KITSW Chairman V. Lakshminantha Rao, Treasurer P. Narayana Reddy, and Principal K. Ashoka Reddy appreciated the organisers and congratulated the winners. Addressing students, Satish Kumar highlighted that participation in sports is more



important than winning, stressing its role in physical fitness, mental well-being, and holistic development. Guest of honour P. Ravikummar emphasized the importance of sports in building creativity, technical competence, and interpersonal skills. Around 800 players from various colleges participated. **Winners & Runners: Basketball (Men): National Institute of Technology Warangal (W), KITSW Alumni (R) Basketball (Women):**

KITSW (W), NITW (R) Badminton (Team): KITSW Alumni (W), KIRSW (R) Football (Men): NITW (W), KITSW (R) Kabaddi (Men): NITW (W), KITSW (R) Kabaddi (Women): Vaagdevi College of Engineering (W), Vaagdevi Engineering College (R) Table Tennis: NITW (W), KITSW (R) Volleyball (Men): SVS Engineering College (W), KMC (R) Volleyball (Women): NITW (W), KITSW (R) The event, sponsored by KITSW sports alumni, witnessed enthusiastic participation and concluded on a grand note.

'Amma Rakshitha' Transforms Maternal Care in Nirmal Under Abhilasha Abhinav



Hyderabad/Nirmal: The "Amma Rakshitha" initiative is bringing significant improvements in maternal and neonatal health-care in Nirmal district under the leadership of Collector Abhilasha Abhinav. Launched on December 14, 2024, the programme ensures end-to-end maternal care—from early pregnancy registration to institutional

deliveries and postnatal support—aimed at reducing preventable maternal and infant deaths. A high-power committee and dedicated help desks at MCH Hospital Nirmal and Area Hospital Bhainsa have been set up for real-time monitoring. Strong coordination between PHCs, CHCs, and hospitals, along with regular reviews, has improved service delivery. The initiative focuses on early registration, especially in the first trimester, with ASHA workers identifying high-risk pregnancies for timely referral. Emphasis is also placed on anaemia control, nutrition, diagnostics, and regular check-ups.

Khammam Journalists Launch Relay Hunger Strike for House Sites

Khammam (TSIT): Demanding immediate allotment of house sites promised by the government, journalists in Khammam launched a relay hunger strike at the Press Club. The organisers said the agitation would continue in the coming days. Journalist leaders Korakoppula Rambabu and T.S. Chakravarthi alleged that there has been undue delay in implementing the government's assurance. They demanded that the 23.02 acres of land earmarked for journalists in Khammam be distributed without further delay, allocating 200 square yards each to 320 eligible members of the journalists' society. The relay hunger strike witnessed participation



beyond union lines, with several senior journalists and representatives of public organisations extending their support. Speakers on the occasion said journalists, who act as a bridge between the public and the government, deserve timely justice in the allotment of house sites. They also called upon political parties, intellectuals, public representatives, and various organisations of employees, teachers, students, workers, women and civil society groups to extend solidarity to the journalists' cause.

TCF Warangal Announces New Office Bearers

Warangal TSIT: Tricity Christian Fellowship (TCF) Warangal has announced its new team of office bearers, strengthening its organizational structure and reaffirming its commitment to community service and unity. As per the announcement, Rev. D. R. K. Kurian, founder of Revival Christian Centre, Kazipet, has been appointed as the President of TCF Warangal. A Respected spiritual leader, Rev. Dr. Kurian has been actively associated with TCF since 1992, playing a vital and instrumental role in shaping and strengthening the organization over the decades.

Abhilasha Abhinav Warns Against LPG Black Marketing After Surprise Inspection



Nirmal (TSIT): District Collector Abhilasha Abhinav, along with SP Janaki Sharmila, conducted a surprise inspection of a gas cylinder godown at Sarangapur mandal headquarters on Tuesday. The Collector reviewed LPG stock registers, supply schedules, and delivery systems to ensure uninterrupted distribution to consumers. Storage conditions and safety measures at the godown were also inspected. Interacting with agency officials, she stressed transparency and timely supply, making it clear that there is no shortage of LPG cylinders in the district. She cautioned the public against rumours and warned of strict action against hoarding, artificial scarcity, and black marketing. Emphasizing safety, the Collector directed officials to ensure proper ventilation, fire safety equipment, and adherence to all prescribed norms. SP Janaki Sharmila assured strict monitoring of illegal activities related to LPG distribution.

Protium PROTIUM FINANCE LIMITED
(Erstwhile Growth Source Financial Technologies Limited)
Registered & Corporate Office Address: 7th Floor, Block B2, Phase - I Nirlon Knowledge Park, Panad Village, Old Western Express Highway, Cama Industrial Estate, Goregaon East, Mumbai - 400075. **Mumbai-400075**

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

WHEREAS, the undersigned, being the Authorized Officer of Protium Finance Limited (erstwhile Growth Source Financial Technologies Ltd.) (hereinafter referred to as "Protium Finance Limited"), under the provisions of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) (the "SARFAESI Act"), and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 14th Nov 2025, calling upon the Borrowers Saritha Dairy Farm Through Its Proprietor Chikaita Saritha W/o Chikaita Balakrishna, And The Co-Borrowers: 1. Chikaita Balakrishna S/o Rajaiya, 2. Chikaita Saritha W/o Chikaita Balakrishna, 3. Chikaita Komuramma D/o Narsaha, in respect of the Loan Account Bearing No. GS0595EE1848263, to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice, being INR 17,70,326.23/- (Seventeen Lakh Seventy Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Six Rupees and Twenty Three Paise Only) as on 14th Nov 2025, within 60 (sixty) days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described hereinbelow, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002, on this 16th March 2026. The borrowers and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property, and any dealings with the property shall be subject to the charge of Protium Finance Limited for an amount of INR 17,70,326.23/- (Seventeen Lakh Seventy Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Six Rupees and Twenty Three Paise Only) as on 14th Nov 2025, together with further interest thereon, and all costs, charges, and expenses incurred. The borrowers' attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (6) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY
Rooftop House With Open Place Bearing G.P. No. 2-91 And Measuring 123-50 Sq Yards Or 103-25 Sq. Mts. With Plinth Area R.C.C. 320-28 Sfts. And A.C.C. Sheets 267 296 Sfts. Out Of Survey No - 67/c, Situated At Gunapuri Village Within The Grampanchayat Board Ganapathy Kamalapur Mandal, Hanamkonda Dist. And Its Bounded As Follows: North: Remaining Part House Of Chikaita Rajitha H.No 2-91 South: House Of Chikaita Narsaha East: 12'-0" Ft. Wide Road West: Plot Of Others

Date: 16th March 2026
Place: Warangal, Telangana

Sd/-, For Protium Finance Limited
Authorized Officer

TAMILNAD MERCANTILE BANK LIMITED
Rikabgunj Branch, D.No.21-1-525 to 527, Ground Floor, Opp Lane to High Court Gate No.4, Rikabgunj, Hyderabad-500002. (Ph:0245745424,2479492, (M):9177701971. Email:hyderabad_rikabgunj@tmbank.in

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and 9(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited Rikabgunj Branch, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 02-04-2026 for recovery of: Rs.34,21,036.97/- (Rupees Thirty Four Lakhs Twenty One Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Nine Paise Only) as on 19-02-2026 due to the Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited, Rikabgunj Branch Secured Creditor from Borrower / Mortgagor / Guarantors : 1) Mr.Rayolu Naveen Kumar, S/o Rayolu Naga Raju and 2) Mrs.Rayolu Lalitha, W/o. Rayolu Naga Raju, both are residents of D. No. 110/21, Rajeev Gnahakalpa Colony, Ahmedguda, Keesara, Cherial, Medchal - Malkajgiri District.

The Reserve Price will be Rs. 28,50,000/- (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakhs Fifty Thousand Only) and the earnest money deposit will be Rs. 2,85,000/- (Rupees Two Lakhs Eighty Five Thousand Only)

Place of Submission of EMD and Auction: Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd., Rikabgunj Branch, D.No. 21-1-525 to 527, Ground Floor, Opp Lane to High Court Gate No.4, Rikabgunj, Hyderabad-500002. Mob. No. 9177701971. Email Id: hyderabad_rikabgunj@tmbank.in

Date and Time of Auction Sale: 02-04-2026 and 01:00 PM to 02:00 PM
Upset Price: Rs. 28,50,000/- (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakhs Fifty Thousand Only)

Description of Property
All parts and parcels of land to the extent of 100 sqyds situated at S.No.81, Plot No.282 (West Part), Sri Ram Nagar Colony, Nagarom Village and Municipality, Keesara Mandal, Medchal Malkajgiri District and residential house building constructed there in the name of Mrs.Rayolu Lalitha, W/o. Rayolu Naga Raju. Boundaries of the Property: East: Plot No.282 East part, South: 25' Wide road; West: Plot No.283; North: Plot No.259.

Note 1) The sale notice is also uploaded/published on website (www.tmb.bank.in) For terms and conditions of the auction, visit our website www.tmb.bank.in/Rikabgunj Branch.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in secured creditors website (www.tmb.bank.in)

Place: Rikabgunj, Authorized Officer,
Date: 16-03-2026 Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd., For Rikabgunj Branch

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE
Registered Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400015

Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai - 400059
Malkajgiri Office: Sarayu Plaza, Shop No.2-10-874/2/C, 1st floor, Waddepally Village, Subedari, Bank Colony, Hanamkonda, Warangal, Telangana - 506001

Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described below in execution of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited.
The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (6) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of property/ Date of Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Putta Sathish Kumar (Borrower), Putta Sravanthi (Co-borrower), H No 18 7 137 Ashoka Veedi Karimabad Warangal Telangana 506002. LHWNL0000157036 .	All that piece and Parcel of Residential/ Commercial Land Bearing D.No. 18-7-137 An Extent of 1310 Sq.Ft. In The Lay out Bommalgudia Karimabad, Warangal- 506002. Bounded By- North: H.No. 18-7-137, there is V.Roja, South: H.No. 18-7-138 Part, East: CC Road, West: House of D Narayana/Date of Possession- 12-Mar-26	11-12-2025' Rs. 11,84,626/-	Warangal
2.	Putta Sathish Kumar (Borrower), Putta Sravanthi (Co-borrower), H No 18 7 138 Telangana Karimabad Warangal Telangana 506002. LHWNL00001371673 .	All That Piece And Parcel of Residential/ Commercial Land Bearing D.No. 18-7-137 An Extent of 1310 Sq.Ft. In The Lay out Bommalgudia Karimabad, Warangal- 506002. Bounded By- North: H.No. 18-7-136 of V.Roja, South: Hno 18-7-138 Part, East: CC Road, West: House of D Narayana/Date of Possession- 12- Mar-26	11-12-2025' Rs. 12,12,294/-	Warangal

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/ guarantor(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: March 18, 2026 Place: Warangal Authorized Office ICICI Home Finance Company Limited

CLIX CAPITAL SERVICES PVT. LTD. Registered Office: WZ/14, 1st Floor, West Patel Nagar, Delhi, 110008

APPENDIX-IV-A [See proviso to rule 8(6)] Sale notice for sale of Immovable Properties

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Clix Capital Services Pvt. Ltd. (CLIX) (Secured Creditor), the possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Clix Capital Services Pvt. Ltd. (CLIX), Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 22.04.2026, for recovery of amount as mentioned below, due to the Secured Creditors from following Borrower(s), Guarantor(s) and Corporate Guarantor(s). The reserve price and earnest money to be deposited is mentioned below respectively.

Name of Borrower, Co-Borrower/ Guarantor(s) with address/es	Description & Owner(s) of Properties	Reserve Price & EMD & Incremental Amount
1. M/S Aditya Sathwika Reddy Educational Society Through Its Authorized Representative, 2. Mr. Katsuri Raji Reddy, 3.108C, 110B, 111D, Consisting Ground Floor Plinth Area 1500 Sq. Ft., First Floor Plinth Area 1500 Sq. Ft., & Second Floor Plinth Area 55-4-1048, Beernaram-2, Hasangarthy, Kts "X" 1500 Sq. Ft., Situated At Bharamaram Revenue Village Hasangarthy Roads, Warangal-506015. Also At: H. No. 8-Mandal, Warangal District And Bounded As Follow: Boundaries In 12/9, Plot No. 111/B And 111/A Part In Survey/Respect Of Property - North: Plot No. 68, South: Plot No. 66, East: No. 212, Boduppal Village And Gram Panchayat Of Baswa Reddy Township, West- 33 Road. Panchayat, Gaskera Mandal, Rangareddy Dist. Hyderabad 501301.	Property No. 1 - All That Piece And Parcels Being H. No. 55-4-409/5, Society Through Its Authorized Representative, 2. Mr. Katsuri Raji Reddy, 3.108C, 110B, 111D, Consisting Ground Floor Plinth Area 1500 Sq. Ft., First Floor Plinth Area 1500 Sq. Ft., & Second Floor Plinth Area 55-4-1048, Beernaram-2, Hasangarthy, Kts "X" 1500 Sq. Ft., Situated At Bharamaram Revenue Village Hasangarthy Roads, Warangal-506015. Also At: H. No. 8-Mandal, Warangal District And Bounded As Follow: Boundaries In 12/9, Plot No. 111/B And 111/A Part In Survey/Respect Of Property - North: Plot No. 68, South: Plot No. 66, East: No. 212, Boduppal Village And Gram Panchayat Of Baswa Reddy Township, West- 33 Road. Panchayat, Gaskera Mandal, Rangareddy Dist. Hyderabad 501301.	Rs. 1,00,00,000/- Rs. 10,00,000/- Rs. 1,00,000/-
Loan No. 00070897400020001 and 00070897400010001 and SHYK12000046692 (Along with future interest and charges accruing after 13.08.2025 till the total realization of the loan amount)	Property No. 2 - All The Part And Pieces Being H. No. 8-12/9, On Plot No. 111/B & 111/A Part, Land Measuring 120 Sq. Yds. In Survey No. 212, Having Plinth Area 600 Sq. Ft., Situated At Boduppal Village And Municipal Corporation, Medchal Mandal, Medchal Malkajgiri District And Bounded As Follow: North: Plot No. 112, South: 30' Wide Road, East : Plot No. 111/A Part, West: Plot No. 110	Rs. 55,00,000/- Rs. 5,00,000/- Rs. 1,50,000/-

Recovery Amount as per Demand Notice Date & Time of On-Site Inspection of Property Date & Time of E-Auction

Rs. 97,59,323.95/- as on 13.08.2025	20.04.2026 to 21.04.2026 From 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM	22.04.2026 11 Am to 1 Pm (with unlimited extensions of 5 Minutes each)
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EMD amount shall be remitted through NEFT/RTGS/Funds Transfer in favor of Clix Capital Services Pvt. Ltd., Account No. 34190500665 ICICIBANK_IFSC:ICICI003419

Last date for deposit of EMD and uploading Bid documents: 21-04-2026 Till 12.00 PM on www.bankauctions.in

The balance 25% of final purchase price minus EMD amount shall be deposited by the successful bidder, latest by the next working day by way of RTGS / NEFT in the E-Auction account of Clix, as detailed above. The balance 75% of the final purchase shall be deposited by way of RTGS / NEFT within 15 days from the date of auction in the same E-Auction account as above. The refund of EMD to the unsuccessful bidders shall be made only in the account number mentioned by such bidder in the Bid form within 5 working days.

Terms and Conditions: - E-auction is being held on "AS IS WHERE IS" and "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATSOEVER THERE IS" basis and will be conducted "Online". The auction will be conducted through Clix's approved service provider C India Pvt. Ltd. at the web portal www.bankauctions.in. Bid Documents, Declaration, General Terms and Conditions of online auction sale are available in www.bankauctions.in. To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorized Officer, there is no encumbrance on the properties. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of properties put on auction and claims/rights/ dues/ affecting the properties, prior to submitting their bid, in regard, the e-Auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any representation or guarantee. For any details with respect to any help, procedure and on-line training in respect of the auction process please contact +91-7291981124/25/26 and e-mail ID - delhi@clix.com. For any details regarding the property please contact Mr. Ayush Gupta, (M) 9999916811. It may please be noted that the sale of any discrepancy/ notices published in English and Hindi then the contents of the notice published in English shall prevail. The Authorized Officer/ Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in anyway for any third party claims/rights/ dues. The sale shall be subject to rules/ conditions prescribed under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

Date: 18.03.2026, Place: Warangal Authorized Officer, Clix Capital Services Pvt. Ltd.

IMMEDIATE ACTION NEEDED ON RISING REAL ESTATE FRAUDS DR. PALLEPADU DAMODAR



Hyderabad: Dr.Pallepada Damodar, President of the South India Consumers Coordination Committee, has demanded immediate intervention by the government and authorities to curb the increasing incidents of real estate fraud. Speaking at a meeting held in Hyderabad on Tuesday, he stated that although the Telangana Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) has been imposing penalties on fraudulent developers, affected consumers are not receiving adequate compensation. He emphasized that imposing fines alone is not a complete solution and stressed the need for proper approvals and strict regulation before the commencement of apartment constructions. Dr.Damodar also warned that misleading advertisements such as "Buy a plot and get a house free" are trapping innocent consumers, leading to severe financial losses. He called for stringent action against real estate companies issuing such deceptive promotions. On the occasion, National General Secretary of the Consumers Council, Sambaraju Chakrapani, highlighted that under the HMDA Act-2008, developers were earlier required to mortgage 15% of property as a security deposit to the government. This was later reduced to 10%, and there are now proposals to further reduce it to 5%. He cautioned that reducing the security deposit would benefit developers but could severely harm consumers.

CAN FIN HOMES LTD
Branch Office: PLOT No 28, 1st Floor, Bramarambika colony, Beernaguda Main Road Ramachandrapuram, Hyderabad - 502032 Tel: 08455-280777, Call:7625079184 CIN No. L3110KA1897L0008699
web: www.canfinhomes.com mail: Ramachandrapuram@canfinhomes.com

APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 readwith proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

NOTICE is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd., Ramachandrapuram Branch, will be sold by holding e-auction due to "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 22-04-2026 (mention date of the sale), for recovery of amount mentioned hereinafter due to Can Fin Homes Ltd. from respective Borrowers and Guarantors as on the respective dates, together with further interest and other charges thereon.

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrowers and Guarantors	liabilities as on 17-03-2026	Reserve Price	Earnest Money Deposit	Type of Possession	Description of the property
1	KASAGONI DEEKSHITH (Borrowers) and KASAGONI LAXMIPRASANNA (co-Borrowers),	Rs. 45,62,341/- (Rupees Forty Five Lakhs Sixty Two Thousand Three Hundred Forty One Only)	Rs. 32,60,000/- (Rupees Thirty Two Lakhs Sixty Thousand Only)	Rs. 3,26,000 (Rupees Three Lakhs Twenty Six Thousand Only)	Physical	All that the Residential Apartment No.3019, measuring built up area 777 Sft., along with common service area 183 Sft., in Ground Floor, Floor of Block No.III, which is including common area and amenities together with undivided land admeasuring 27.55 Sq.Yds., in "JANAPRIYA NILE VALLEY", Out of land admeasuring area Ac.24-25.5 Gts., in Sy.No.341 (P) & 342, 343(P) & 335(P), Situated at Ameenpur npur Village & Municipality, Sangareddy District is bounded as follows: BOUNDARIES OF FLAT NO.3019, IN GROUND FLOOR: North: Flat No.3018., South: Flat No.3020., East: Open to Sky., West: Passage to Staircase & Open to Sky., BOUNDARIES OF ENTIRE LAND: North: Neighbour's land in SY.No.331, 332 & 333., South: Owner's Land in Sy.No.341 (P) & 18.2 m existing road, East: Land in Sy.No.334(P) & 335(P), West: Neighbour's land in SY.No.343.
2	GAJULA SARITHA (Borrowers) and G LAXMI REKHA DEVI (CO Borrowers),	Rs. 35,46,270/- (Rupees Thirty Five Lakhs Forty Two Hundred Seventy Only)	Rs. 34,90,000/- (Rupees Thirty Four Lakhs Ninety Thousand)	Rs. 3,49,000 (Rupees Three Lakhs Forty Nine Thousand Only)	Physical	All The Piece And Parcel Of Semi Finished Residential Flat Bearing No 204 In Second Floor Of Vishnu's Maanya Residency" With Built Up Area Of 1375 Sft (including Common Area And Excl car Parking) Along With Undivided Share Of Land Admeasuring 38.5 Sq.yards, m, Out Of Total Land Admeasuring 1222.2 Sq.yards Constructed On Plot No 247 248 249/p 258/p 259 260 In Sy No 200 203 204 205 210 212 213 215/a 229 230 248 249 250 251 252 256. Situated At Sri Balaji Enclave/ampel Village And Gram Panchayth, Quthbullapur Mandal Ranga Reddy District, Hyderabad Telangana State And Bounded By: Boundaries Of Land: North: Neighbour's Land, South: Apartment Complex, East: 40 Feet Wide Road, West: 40 Feet Wide Road No. 203, Boundaries Of Flat: North: Flat No. 205, South: Apartment Complex, East: 40 Feet Wide Road, West:Open To Sky And Fla.

The detailed terms and conditions of the sale are provided in the official website of Can Fin Homes Ltd., (https://www.canfinhomes.com/Search/Auction.aspx).
Link for participating in e-auction : www.auctionbazaar.com
Date: 17-03-2026
Place: Ramachandrapuram (Hyderabad)

Sd/- Authorized Officer, Can Fin Homes Ltd

No Inconvenience for Ramzan Prayers TGIC Chairperson Nirmala Jaggareddy



Hyderabad TSIT: TGIC Chairperson Nirmala Jaggareddy emphasized that all necessary arrangements must be made to ensure that devotees face no inconvenience during Ramzan prayers. She inspected the arrangements at the Eidgah ground located at Hostel Gadda in Sangareddy town on Monday.

As thousands of Muslim devotees are expected to gather at the Eidgah for special prayers on the occasion of Ramzan, she directed municipal officials to provide all essential facilities and ensure smooth conduct of the prayers without any disruption.

She instructed officials to make adequate arrangements for basic amenities such as drinking water, sanitation, and proper seating. She also directed the Sangareddy Rural

Circle Inspector to regulate traffic effectively and prevent congestion on the day of the festival.

Speaking on the occasion, Nirmala Jaggareddy said that proposals worth 3 crore have been prepared for the development of the Eidgah, adding that funds are expected to be sanctioned soon by Jaggareddy. She assured that the government is committed to providing all necessary facilities to ensure a hassle-free experience for devotees.

Congress leader Koonam Santosh, Municipal Vice Chairman Sheikh Shafi Hafeez, Councillors Nawaz and Faiz, Eidgah committee members Atiuddin, Babar, Shafi, and minority leaders Anwar and Babbu, along with others, were present during the inspection.

Koil Alwar Tirumanjanam performed



Tirumala: In view of Ugadi Asthanam on March 19, the traditional temple cleansing fete, the Koil Alwar Tirumanjanam was conducted as per Agama at the Tirumala Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple on Tuesday. Speaking to the media on the occasion, the TTD Chairman Sri B.R. Naidu said that participating in the Koil Alwar Tirumanjanam is a blessing earned through merits of previous births.

The TTD Additional EO Sri Ch. Venkaiah Chowdary stated that it is customary to conduct Koil Alwar Tirumanjanam on the Tuesday preceding major festivals viz. Ugadi, Anivara Asthanam, annual Brahmotsavams, and Vaikunta Ekadasi. He informed that the Moolavirat was covered with a cloth and the temple purification

rituals were performed.

As part of the ritual, a sacred aromatic mixture prepared using Namakoppu, Srichurnam, musk turmeric, camphor Kichiligadda (an aromatic tuber), camphor, sandalwood powder, kumkum, and other fragrant substances were diluted in water and sprinkled throughout the temple premises.

After the purification process, the cloth covering the Moolavirat was removed, and special pujas and Naivedyam were offered as per Agama procedures by the priests. Subsequently, devotees were allowed for darshan. Several Board Members, JEO (Health & Education) Dr. Sharath, CVSO Sri Muralikrishna, Temple Deputy EO Sri Lokanatham, and other officials participated in the programme.

GITAM ITBI Hosts Grand 'Founders Summit - 2026' in Visakhapatnam



Visakhapatnam : The Inclusive Technology Business Incubator (ITBI) at GITAM Deemed to be University, Visakhapatnam, in collaboration with the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, successfully organized the "Founders Summit-2026" on March 17, 2026. This prestigious event saw the participation of over 70 startup companies from across the country, providing a platform for young entrepreneurs to showcase their innovative solutions to various social challenges. The presentations high-

lighted advancements in AI-based agriculture, aquaculture, women's safety, cyber security, and healthcare. Following a rigorous review by an expert committee focused on innovation and scalability, winners were announced in two main categories. In the General Category, Farm Vaidya AI Tech Pvt Ltd secured the first prize, followed by Cryptopics (OPC) and Zenitop Beverages. In the Women and Social Category, Bharati Photon Irrigation Systems emerged as the winner, with Shankara Neuro Devices and Cytosky AI

Pvt Ltd taking the subsequent spots. During the valedictory session, GITAM Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Y. Gowtama Rao and Registrar Professor D. Gunasekaran emphasized the critical role of startups in achieving the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' vision. Additionally, Professor P. Bharani Chandra Kumar, Principal Investigator of ITBI, reaffirmed the institution's commitment to establishing Visakhapatnam as a premier startup hub by providing essential mentorship and funding to budding entrepreneurs.

Ensure Effective Implementation of Praja Palana Programme: Additional Collector P. Chandraiah.

Mancherial, March 17, TSIT : District Additional Collector (Local Bodies) P. Chandraiah directed officials to ensure effective implementation of the government's prestigious 99-day Praja Palana Pragati Programme. On Tuesday, he visited Devapur Gram Panchayat in Kasipet mandal and inspected nursery and sanitation works. He instructed officials to ensure systematic waste management by collecting wet and dry waste separately from every household and transporting it to the dumping yard. He also visited the Zilla Parishad



High School, Mandal Parishad Primary School, and Anganwadi centres in the village and reviewed the quality of mid-day meals. He directed that students be provided nutritious food as per the menu and safe drinking water on time. The Additional Collector inspected sanitation in the market area and suggest-

ed measures to maintain cleanliness. He also reviewed the progress of Indiramma housing works and directed officials to expedite construction. As part of voter list mapping, he instructed booth-level officers to speed up the process. He also examined the site for setting up an open gym and reviewed attendance registers under the employment guarantee scheme, directing officials to accelerate development works under the scheme. Tahsildar, MPDO, officials, and public representatives participated in the programme.

Natural Farming Promotes Healthier Living: Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao.



Mancherial, March 17, TSIT : State Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao stated that natural farming can significantly improve the quality of life of people by promoting healthier agricultural practices. He participated in a one-day training programme on Natural Farming conducted through video conference across all districts on Tuesday under the National Mission for Natural Farming. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that the government is giving top priority to the agriculture sector and is committed to the wel-

fare of farmers. He explained that by adopting organic inputs and natural cultivation methods, farmers can produce healthier crops, which in turn ensures better food for the public. The government is extending continuous support to farmers by providing necessary guidance to help them achieve higher yields, he added. He also mentioned that natural farming will be promoted over a long-term period of ten years.

District Collector Kumar Deepak attended the programme from the Rythu Vedika at Gudipet in Hajipur mandal along with District Agriculture Officer Surekha, natural farming farmer Kotte Ravinder, and other officials. The Collector informed that around 1,875 farmers from 15 Rythu Vedikas in the district participated in the video conference. He added that steps are being taken to promote natural farming in the district. Natural farming kits were distributed to farmers on the occasion.

P. Pravinya: AI Won't Replace Jobs, Stresses Fact-Checking at 'Vartalap'

Sangareddy, March 17: District Collector P. Pravinya asserted that artificial intelligence will not threaten employment but underscored the urgent need for fact-checking to combat rising misinformation in the digital era. She was speaking at the one-day "Vartalap" workshop for journalists by the Press Information Bureau in Sangareddy. The event was inaugurated by Pravinya along with PIB Additional Director General Shruti Patil, with around 130 media representatives in attendance. Highlighting the dangers of fake news, the Collector said even small misinformation can create panic and erode public trust. She urged journalists to play a proactive role in verifying AI-generated and digital content while maintaining ethical standards as the fourth pillar of democracy.



and implemented by Bandhan, the initiative focused on promoting self-employment and economic self-reliance among rural women. Around 100 women beneficiaries received certificates after completing their training. Participants shared that the project helped them overcome financial hardships, start livelihoods, support families, and ensure better education and nutrition for their children. Chief guests, including local officials and public representatives, highlighted that empowering women economically leads to overall social development. Local leaders appreciated the initiative for uplifting rural communities. Representatives from ITC and Bandhan, along with panchayat officials, attended the programme. The initiative stands as a successful model for sustainable livelihoods and women empowerment in rural areas.

National Lok Adalat on March 28 in Mancherial to Clear Pending Cases

Mancherial, March 17: District Principal Judge A. Veeraiiah announced that a National Lok Adalat will be held on March 28 to ensure speedy disposal of pending cases.



Speaking at a coordination meeting organised by the District Legal Services Authority at the District Court, he said the initiative is being conducted as per directions of the High Court. Lok Adalats will also be held in Bellampalli, Chennur

and Luxettipet. He stated that cases related to motor accident claims, cheque bounce, compoundable criminal cases and civil disputes can be settled amicably through the Lok Adalat. He urged police officials to create awareness among litigants to make maximum use of the opportunity. Officials were directed to coordinate at the village level by engaging both parties to ensure more cases are resolved. Free legal aid and guidance will be provided through the Legal Services Authority. District Legal Services Authority Secretary A. Nirmala, along with police officials and public representatives, attended the meeting.

Women Empowerment Project Concludes Successfully in Toopran



Toopran/Dandupally, March 17: A grand graduation ceremony marked the successful completion of the two-year "Targeting Hard-

core Poor Women Project" at the ITC MSK - Pratham VT Centre in Dandupally village of Manoharabad mandal. Supported by ITC Limited

and implemented by Bandhan, the initiative focused on promoting self-employment and economic self-reliance among rural women. Around 100 women beneficiaries received certificates after completing their training. Participants shared that the project helped them overcome financial hardships, start livelihoods, support families, and ensure better education and nutrition for their children. Chief guests, including local officials and public representatives, highlighted that empowering women economically leads to overall social development. Local leaders appreciated the initiative for uplifting rural communities. Representatives from ITC and Bandhan, along with panchayat officials, attended the programme. The initiative stands as a successful model for sustainable livelihoods and women empowerment in rural areas.

Google Udann India Fund to Spearhead Development in Visakhapatnam

The South India Times, Visakhapatnam: In an effort to foster social spirit within the Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region, the community engagement platform 'ChangeX' and 'Google' have jointly launched the 'Google Udann India Fund'. During an event organized at a private hotel in the city, Google representative Utkwa Allen and ChangeX representative Niamh McKenna stated that this fund is a testament to the trust of the people of Visakhapatnam. They emphasized that Google is working with the dedication of a "true neighbor" to turn local aspirations into reality. They further explained that the primary goal of this fund is to build future career paths through the establishment of AI-based labs, digital literacy, and the development of vocational skills. Alongside these initiatives, the program aims to achieve long-term sustainability by supporting local small businesses and investing in environmental conservation efforts, such as solar energy and rainwater harvesting. With the belief that solutions to local problems come from the local community itself, this fund provides an opportunity for local organizations to secure funding for their projects. These projects will be implemented at the ground level through coordination with schools and community groups.

British Deputy High Commissioner Visits Visakhapatnam Economic Zone

The South India Times, Visakhapatnam : With the aim of further strengthening trade relations between India and Britain, the British Deputy High Commissioner, Gareth Wynn Owen, visited the Visakhapatnam Special Economic Zone (VSEZ) on Tuesday. He was accompanied by several high-ranking officials and a team of industrial experts during this visit.



On this occasion, VSEZ Development Commissioner Srinivas Muppala extended a warm welcome to the British delegation. He explained the ongoing operations within the zone and the performance

of the prominent industries and exporters located there. Later, Gareth Wynn Owen spoke about the significance of the ongoing trade agreement negotiations between the governments of India and Britain. He expressed optimism that this agreement would provide great opportunities for business organizations in both countries. Similarly, the British delegation gave a comprehensive presentation

on the investment opportunities available there and the incentives provided by the British government for establishing industries. Subsequently, in an interactive meeting held with VSEZ exporters, they discussed ways for mutual cooperation and growth.

At the conclusion of the visit, as a symbol of environmental protection and sustainable development, Gareth Wynn Owen and other officials planted saplings on the zone premises. Officials expressed the opinion that this visit would breathe new life into the industrial and commercial connectivity between the two nations.

11 Months of Satisfactory Governance: Mayor Pila Srinivasa Rao

The South India Times, Visakhapatnam: Mayor Pila Srinivasa Rao expressed immense joy and satisfaction over his 11-month tenure, stating that the cooperation of the city's residents has been unforgettable.



Speaking to media representatives at his chamber on Tuesday following the conclusion of the GVMC administration term, he highlighted the key achievements of his period. With the cooperation of Commissioner Kethan Garg, international-level events such as IFR, MILAN, and the CII Summit were successfully organized. He noted that general development works worth approximately 760 crores were completed across the city. The Mayor emphasized that the 'Good Morning' program helped him stay closer to the public, and top priority was given to infrastructure, particularly praising the staff for their dedicated 'Night Cleaning' efforts on the Beach Road. He asserted that equal importance was given to resolving issues in every ward, remarking that providing people-centric governance is more significant than the duration of the term. Attributing this success to the collective efforts of the media, officials, and corporators, Mayor Pila expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all citizens on behalf of the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation.

Minister Narayana Inaugurates Alluri Sitarama Raju Park in Gajuwaka, Promises Solution to Garbage Woes

The South India Times, Visakhapatnam : Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development, P. Narayana, inaugurated the sprawling Alluri Sitarama Raju Theme Park in Gajuwaka's HB Colony on Tuesday, marking a significant addition to the city's recreational infrastructure. Developed over 4.75 acres at a cost of approximately Rs 10 crore, the park is equipped with modern amenities including an amphitheater, skating ring, cricket nets, open gym, and a walking track. During his visit, the Minister also inspected the Gajuwaka Garbage Transfer Station following representations from local MLA Palla Srinivasa Rao regarding the persistent foul smell affecting nearby residents. Addressing the gathering, Minister Narayana assured that a permanent solution would be implemented within the next few months by modernizing the facility and ensuring immediate waste transport to 'Waste-to-Energy' plants, thereby eliminating the need for a local dumping yard. Highlighting the state government's broader vision, the Minister stated that Rs 14,000 crore tenders have been called to provide tap water to every household within two years, alongside an allocation of Rs 5,000 crore for drainage systems in various cities. He further revealed that the RITES organization is currently surveying the Visakhapatnam Metro Rail project, and work will commence once the report is finalized. Plans to develop Dayal Nagar Hill on the lines of Kailasagiri and a new cultural arena in Samata Nagar were also mentioned. Gajuwaka MLA Palla Srinivasa Rao noted that the alliance government has spent Rs 250 crore on regional development in just 20 months, contrasting it with the previous administration's performance. The event was attended by Mayor Peela Srinivasa Rao, GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg, VMRDA Commissioner N. Tej Bharat, and other senior officials and public representatives.



Hyd: Cyberabad Police apprehend Man for Posting Abusive Comment on Social Media

Hyderabad, Mar 17 : The Cybercrime Police have apprehended a man for allegedly posting an abusive and offensive comment on a social media platform, the Cybercrime police said on Tuesday.

The accused, identified as Kotipalli Venkanna, a security guard by profession, was traced during an investigation into objectionable content posted online.

Police said he had posted the comment on a video of actress Renu Desai shared on Instagram.

According to police, the accused was taken into custody from Madhapur and brought to the Cyber Crime Police Station in Gachibowli.

During verification, he produced the mobile phone used to post the comment.

Police said the case was detected following monitoring of social media content and subsequent investigation to identify the individual responsible.

Issuing an advisory, Cyberabad Police urged citizens to maintain responsible behaviour on social media platforms and refrain from posting abusive, defamatory or offensive content. They warned that such actions could attract legal consequences under relevant provisions of law.

The police also encouraged the public to report cyber offences to the nearest cybercrime police station or through the 1930 cyber helpline.

Ashwini Vaishnav Highlights KAVACH Expansion, Railways Growth in Lok Sabha



New Delhi: Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav informed the Lok Sabha that KAVACH 4.0 was technically qualified and updated on July 16, 2024, following which work covering nearly 20,000 km has been taken up.

He emphasized that KAVACH is not just a device but a comprehensive safety system requiring a full telecom network, including optical fibre cables along railway tracks, data centres at stations, and telecom towers at intervals of 2.5 to 3 km. He described the efforts to implement such a large-scale system as highly

commendable. Highlighting the transformation of Indian Railways under the leadership of Narendra Modi, the minister noted a significant rise in cargo capacity. Freight movement increased from 1,055 million tonnes during 2004-2014 to 1,617 million tonnes last year, and is expected to reach 1,650 million tonnes by the end of March. He stated that with this growth, Indian Railways is set to become the world's second-largest cargo carrier, reflecting a decade of rapid modernization and infrastructure expansion.

Telangana: KTR accuses Congress of playing 'biggest fraud' after making 420 promises

Hyderabad, March 17 : Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K. T. Rama Rao on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on the Congress government in Telangana and remarked that the 'credit' for playing the 'biggest fraud' in the world after making 420 promises in the elections goes to the Congress party.

Speaking on the motion of thanks to the Governor's address in the Assembly, he claimed that nowhere in the world has a party made such a large number of promises in the elections and then failed to honour them.

He accused the Congress of failing to deliver on its promises despite claiming that the guarantees would be implemented within 100 days. "The Congress said each family would benefit to the tune of Rs 2.5 lakh. Even after over two years, can the government show a single family that has received such benefits?" he asked. KTR said that a Governor's address carries immense importance as it reflects the policy direction and commitments of the ruling government. However, he alleged that the present government had



reduced it to a mere formality devoid of accountability. He recalled that during the first Governor's address after the Congress came to power, then Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had publicly stated that the "six guarantees" promised by the Congress would be given legal status, and that the Chief Minister had even signed a file to that effect. KTR questioned what had happened to that file and demanded answers from the government. "Where is the file signed by the

Chief Minister granting legal status to the six guarantees? If such an important document has disappeared, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) must be constituted immediately to trace it," he demanded.

KTR further said that when the very first Governor's address lacked credibility due to unfulfilled assurances, the value of subsequent addresses also comes into question. "If the Chief Minister's signed file itself has no value, how can people trust this government? Every declaration made by the Chief Minister today carries zero value in the

eyes of the public," he remarked.

KTR also criticised ministers for making contradictory statements in the Assembly and urged the Speaker to ensure accountability. "If false statements are made even in the Assembly, what hope is there for truth outside?" he said, adding that the legislature must uphold truth and responsibility.

The BRS leader alleged that the state administration had deteriorated over the past 28 months. He accused the government of mounting debts, financial mismanagement, diversion of funds, and prioritising political propaganda over development. "All that remains today are debts, dues, diversions, commissions, bulldozer politics, and abuses," he said.

He also criticised the government for allegedly spending Telangana's resources on political campaigns in other states while failing to bring funds from the Centre. "You go to Delhi not to secure funds but to offer them. That is the difference," he said.

On the economic front, KTR pointed out that Telangana,

once among the fastest-growing states, was now witnessing a slowdown. He questioned the decline in revenues, including GST collections, registrations, and vehicle revenues, and attributed it to "negative policies and negative mindset." He further alleged that industries and IT employment were declining and dismissed claims made at investment summits as exaggerated propaganda. He also accused the government of attempting to erase the legacy of former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Reddy, stating that Telangana's development itself stands as a testament to his contributions.

On welfare measures, KTR criticised the government for failing women, farmers, pensioners, and unemployed youth. He questioned the status of promised schemes such as Rs 2,500 monthly assistance to women, interest-free loans, farm loan waivers, and unemployment benefits. The BRS leader also alleged that existing schemes introduced by the previous government had been discontinued or weakened.

India Post launches 24- and 48-hour premium delivery services across major cities

New Delhi, March 17 : In a move aimed at strengthening India's logistics network, Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia on Tuesday launched three new premium delivery services of the Department of Posts in the national capital. The services - 24 Speed Post, 48 Speed Post and 24 Speed Post Parcel - are designed to offer faster and time-bound delivery across key cities.

The launch event was attended by Minister of State for Communications Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani along with senior officials of the postal department.

The initiative is part of the government's broader effort to modernise India's logistics system and improve delivery efficiency. Speaking at the event, Scindia said the launch marks a major step for India Post as it looks to reinvent itself and provide better services to customers in India and abroad.

"On this day that we are announcing to millions of our customers worldwide that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India Post is committed to every single citizen across the length and breadth of this country and to every international customer," Scindia stated.



The Department of Posts introduced these services after conducting extensive pilot runs over the past three months.

The 24 Speed Post and 24 Speed Post Parcel services will offer next-day delivery between six major metro cities - New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Hyderabad.

These services will include features such as real-time tracking, OTP-based delivery confirmation and compensation in case of delays.

Deliveries will also be available on Sundays and holidays, except national holidays.

Meanwhile, the 48 Speed Post service will ensure

delivery within two days between these cities.

It is aimed at providing a reliable and time-bound solution for document delivery, supported by tracking and SMS alerts.

Initially, the services have been launched in the six metro cities and will be expanded to other Tier-1 and Tier-2 cities in phases.

The move is expected to benefit e-commerce firms, small businesses, start-ups and individual customers by enabling faster movement of parcels.

Sonowal felicitates crew of LPG ships Shivalik and Nanda Devi

New Delhi, March 17 : Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal on Tuesday interacted with the brave crew members of Indian-flagged LPG carriers Shivalik and Nanda Devi, expressing the nation's gratitude for their courage and unwavering sense of duty in ensuring the safe transit of critical LPG cargo here.

Addressing the seafarers via video conferencing, Sarbananda Sonowal said the interaction was a "heartfelt expression of the nation's gratitude" to the crew, who ensured the safe delivery of vital LPG supplies despite operating in a high-risk maritime environment.

"It is a matter of immense pride to recognise the courage, dedication and professionalism of the crew of Shivalik and Nanda Devi. Your efforts ensured the safe passage of critical LPG cargo, strengthening India's energy security," Sarbananda Sonowal said.

The minister noted that

both vessels remained stationed in a high-risk zone for nearly two weeks amid heightened security concerns before continuing their voyage to India. Sonowal said the crew demonstrated exceptional calmness, vigilance and professionalism under challenging conditions.

The interaction was attended by Vijay Kumar, secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shyam Jagannathan, director general of shipping; Capt. B.K. Tyagi, chairman and managing director, Shipping Corporation of India; Capt. Sukhmeet Singh and the crew of Shivalik, and Capt. Dhiraj Kumar Agrawal, along with the crew of Nanda Devi. Earlier, the two Indian-flagged LPG carriers safely crossed the Strait of Hormuz before arriving in India on March 16 and 17, as the government continues to closely monitor maritime operations in the Persian Gulf region amid the evolving geopolitical situation in West Asia.

INDIA'S FIRST 'SMART COCHLEAR IMPLANT' SURGERY PERFORMED AT KIMS HOSPITALS, SECUNDERABAD

Hyderabad, March 17, 2026: In a significant milestone for hearing healthcare in India, doctors at KIMS Hospitals, Secunderabad, have successfully performed the country's first Smart Cochlear Implant surgery on a three-year-old child suffering from severe hearing loss. The procedure marks an important advancement in cochlear implant technology and opens a new chapter in the treatment of profound hearing impairment.

Cochlear implantation is typically recommended for individuals with severe to profound hearing loss generally when hearing aids fail to provide sufficient benefit. In this case, the child had a hearing loss of more than 70 per cent, making the advanced implant a suitable option.

What makes the newly introduced Smart Cochlear Implant unique is its ability to receive future upgrades. In conventional cochlear implants, once the internal device is surgically implanted, it remains unchanged for life, and only the external sound processor can be upgraded. However, the new smart implant allows the internal implant firmware to be upgraded in the



future, enabling the integration of improved signal-processing technologies without the need for another surgery.

In simple terms, much like smartphone applications that receive updates over time and gain new features, the smart cochlear implant can be enhanced with technological advancements. This capability ensures that patients can continue to benefit from evolving hearing technologies, extending the long-term usefulness of the implant.

Doctors explain that cochlear implantation is not just a surgical procedure but part of a comprehensive rehabilitation process that includes audio-logical evaluation, device programming and speech

therapy. The surgery was performed by a team led by Dr. Janardhan Rao Jagini, Head of the ENT Department and Senior Cochlear Implant Surgeon at KIMS Hospitals, Secunderabad. The team also included Dr. Shivaprasad Boddupalli, Chief Audiologist and Cochlear Implant Clinical Specialist, and Dr. Divya, Audiologist.

Experts emphasize that cochlear implantation at an early age significantly improves a child's chances of developing normal speech and language skills. By receiving the smart cochlear implant at the age of three, the child is expected to have better hearing ability and improved language development in the future.

NTR Memorial Trust Award to GITAM

The NTR Memorial Trust honoured GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, with a Certificate of Appreciation on 17 March 2026, in recognition of its generous contributions and steadfast support towards the Trust's initiatives. The certificate highlighted GITAM's selfless commitment, noting that its efforts have played a vital role in bringing positive change to the lives of the underprivileged and continue to inspire the broader community. The award was presented by Nara Bhuvaneshwari,



Managing Trustee of the Trust, D.V.V.S.R. Varma, Resident Director, GITAM Hyderabad. Over the past four years, GITAM has been actively organizing voluntary blood donation drives, reinforcing the life-saving importance of blood donation while fostering compassion, social responsibility, and a spirit of service among students. The initiative has been widely appreciated, with organizers commending students for their generosity and selfless contributions that help save lives and encourage others to participate in such noble causes. The GITAM leadership, along with Prof. D.S. Rao, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Ambika Philip, Director - Hospitality & Campus Life, Heads of Institutions, Heads of Departments, and faculty members, lauded the initiative and reaffirmed their commitment to continuing such impactful community service programmes.

PUBLIC RESENTMENT GROWING AGAINST ANDHRA GOVT: JAGAN REDDY

Amaravati, March 17 : Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tuesday said there is widespread public resentment against the coalition government. Addressing YSRCF leaders and cadres from Ongole, he said he would embark on a padyatra to take up people's issues.

He said the coalition government had benefited no section of society. He added that discussions in every household were centred on how he had accomplished so much and why Chandrababu Naidu was not doing the same.

YS Jagan claimed he was driven by a noble intent to serve the people and said he implemented numerous welfare and development schemes in this spirit.

He alleged that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu wanted power only for corruption.

The YSRCF chief stated that in just two years, Chandrababu had incurred Rs 3.30 lakh crore without fulfilling any of his poll promises. He said all YSRCF schemes had been scrapped, while the government's own schemes had not taken off. He asked where all the money had gone and alleged ram-



pant corruption.

Stating that the coalition government had only three years left, Y.S. Jagan said he would embark on a padyatra in 1.5 years.

He said he planned to spend one-and-a-half years among the people through the padyatra. He urged party cadres to work together and expressed confidence that the YSRCF would return to power.

Jagan claimed the YSRCF stood for values and credibility. He said the party was built by its cadre and its strength lay in its value-based approach. He said the contrast between YSRCF governance and that of the coalition was clearly visible. He said the YSRCF had

inherited the state in shambles with just Rs 100 crore in 2019.

"Despite COVID, we took corrective measures and put the state back on track. Though there were pressing issues and obligations, we did not stop welfare activities and implemented our manifesto in both letter and spirit, which surprised many," he said.

The former Chief Minister said that out of the Rs 3.31 lakh crore loans taken by the YSRCF government, Rs 2.7 lakh crore was spent on welfare.

He claimed state revenues were falling and lands were being given away at throw-away prices. He also alleged that capital Amaravati works were steeped in corruption.

Jagan said the TDP was the only party whose MP had been caught in a drug case, referring to the recent arrest of TDP MP Putta Mahesh Kumar during a police raid on a farmhouse near Hyderabad.

Alleging that there was no security for women in the state, the YSRCF chief said Chandrababu Naidu had been trying to dilute issues whenever there was an atrocity against women by appointing committees and dragging matters.

EDITORIAL

Why A TVK-NDA Alliance Is Just A BJP Fantasy

Over the past week, speculation around a possible alliance between Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has dominated the political chatter in Tamil Nadu. But even at first glance, the idea has always seemed more fantasy than feasible strategy.

The BJP has certainly done its part to keep the conversation alive. A noticeably softer stance towards Vijay following the Karur episode and repeated public statements about "keeping doors open" also pointed to a calibrated effort by the party. The transfer of the stamped case to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) also led to the impression of Vijay being in the grip of the Centre.

It All Makes Sense...On Paper

The calculations are tempting. A consolidation of anti-DMK (Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam) votes - currently split between the TVK and the AIADMK (All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam) - could, in theory, tilt the scales decisively. However, the leaders of the parties and their objectives mean that this could be a long shot, even if not an impossible one, pre-poll.

Start with the AIADMK. Under Edappadi K. Palaniswami, Leader of the Opposition and former Chief Minister, the party cannot afford to cede leadership. Doing so would be tantamount to political self-destruction. Tamil Nadu's electoral history has long been defined by a bipolar contest between the DMK and the AIADMK. To surrender that position is to risk irrelevance.

Then there is Vijay. His political appeal is built entirely around himself as the central figure - he is the leader voters are meant to rally behind. He has explicitly framed his campaign in those terms, even declaring that he is effectively "the candidate in all 234 constituencies". This is not the language of compromise. Vijay cannot play second fiddle - not to Palaniswami, and certainly not within a coalition led by the BJP. His politics demands primacy. If these two factors explain why a TVK-AIADMK alliance has failed to materialise, the third obstacle is the BJP itself. Aligning with a national party carries electoral risks for Vijay, particularly among minority voters, who make up a significant share of Tamil Nadu's electorate. More importantly, such a move would hand the DMK a powerful narrative weapon - reinforcing its longstanding claim of being the sole defender of Tamil identity and state autonomy against the Centre. These are not minor tactical disagreements; they are structural incompatibilities rooted in the core political identities of all three players.

Reality Is Much More Complex

Yes, surveys suggest that the TVK could command close to 20% of the vote. On paper, adding that to the NDA's base makes for a formidable base - perhaps even enough for a sweep. But elections are not spreadsheets. Ground realities are fluid, and voter behaviour rarely aligns neatly with hypothetical projections. There is also growing speculation that the TVK could emerge as the principal challenger to the DMK, potentially displacing the AIADMK as the number-two force in the state. But this, too, remains uncertain. While Vijay's popularity is undeniable - arguably unmatched in Tamil Nadu today - translating star power into sustained electoral success is an entirely different challenge. Add to that the undercurrents of anti-incumbency against the DMK, and the electoral landscape becomes even more unpredictable. Tamil Nadu And Pre-Poll Alliances Of course, politics is no stranger to unlikely alliances. But such "strange bedfellows" typically emerge after elections, when numbers dictate necessity. Pre-poll alliances, especially in a state like Tamil Nadu, require ideological alignment, leadership clarity, and voter coherence, none of which exists in this case.

In Numbers: The Curious Reason Iran Eased Down Its 'Drone Swarms' After March 9

The recent Iranian strike campaign against the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has largely been viewed through images of drones striking skyscrapers and residential buildings. But it can also be understood through the dataset emerging from daily interception reports. Beginning on February 28, Iranian forces have launched nearly 1,800 drones and missiles towards the UAE, according to compiled data and interception timelines based on the daily releases shared by the UAE's Ministry of Defence.

While interception rates remained high and protected key locations, a closer examination of the data reveals a structured operational campaign. The pattern suggests that Iran's objective was not necessarily infrastructure destruction but imposing economic and operational strain on advanced air-defence networks. Based on the data compiled, we can bucket the strike pattern broadly into three distinct phases: an initial saturation attack, a sustained drone attrition campaign, and a sudden decline in attack intensity.

Phase 1: Shock Saturation

The campaign opened with massive waves of projectiles on February 28 and March 1. On February 28, approximately 346 incoming drones and missiles were detected, including 137 ballistic missiles and more than 200 drones. The following day saw an even larger wave of 362 projectiles, the highest of the campaign. This opening phase bears the hallmarks of reconnaissance-by-fire, a tactic used to map defensive systems by forcing them to respond.

Large multi-weapon combinations can force the defending nation to activate radars,



deploy interceptors, and thereby reveal its response patterns. The heavy use of ballistic missiles in this opening phase is particularly notable. Ballistic weapons are one of the most valuable assets in Iran's repertoire and their early deployment served both a psychological and operational purpose.

Phase 2: The Drone Swarm Campaign

After the initial shock phase, the nature of the attacks changed. Between March 2 and March 8, the number of incoming threats stabilised at roughly 120-160 projectiles per day. However, the composition shifted dramatically toward drones. Across this period, drones accounted for nearly 90% of incoming threats, while ballistic missile launches dropped to single digits on most days. This shift reveals the core logic of the campaign: drone swarm saturation. Iranian Shahed-type drones are relatively inexpensive compared with the sophisticated air-defence missiles used to inter-

cept them. Estimates place the cost of these drones at roughly USD 20,000 to USD 50,000 per unit, while the defending interceptor missiles can cost USD 3-6 million for Patriot systems and up to USD 12 million for THAAD interceptors. This asymmetry forms the economic centre of the strategy. Analysts estimate that Iran spent USD 11-27 million producing the drones used in one wave of attacks, while the defending side spent hundreds of millions of dollars on interceptors to destroy them. Across the broader campaign, the UAE may have spent between USD 1.45 billion and USD 2.28 billion on air-defence responses, compared to USD 177 million to USD 360 million worth of Iranian drones and missiles.

In other words, the defender may have spent five to 10 times more money defending than the attacker spent attacking.

Phase 3: Sudden Drop in Attack Intensity

The campaign entered a third phase with an abrupt decline

in attack volume beginning on March 9.

Incoming threats fell sharply:

March 8: 134
March 9: 93
March 10: 27
March 11: 52
March 12: 36

Several factors could explain this shift. One possibility is that launch infrastructure was disrupted, either through airstrikes or covert operations targeting Iranian launch sites and drone facilities, which we have seen happen. Another is that the early waves depleted forward-positioned drone stocks, forcing a temporary pause while logistics were reorganised. A third possibility is strategic restraint. Iran may have sought to demonstrate its ability to sustain drone pressure without triggering a wider regional war.

Defensive Performance

Despite all this, the UAE's defensive systems appear to have performed effectively. Across most days of the cam-

aign, interception rates remained between 95 and 99%, based on the data compiled here, suggesting the successful operation of a layered defence network likely involving systems such as THAAD, Patriot PAC-3, and shorter-range anti-drone defences. But, incoming projectiles will penetrate. Around 60 projectiles did penetrate and strike the UAE territory or nearby areas, representing a penetration rate of approximately 3-4%. In the context of things, this is a strong defensive outcome.

The Temporary Dip in Interception Rates

One of the more interesting signals in the data appears later in the campaign. On March 9 and March 10, the UAE's interception rates dipped to roughly 88%, the lowest levels recorded during the attack window, even if the absolute number of successful penetrations remained relatively small (the UAE's defence ministry stopped publishing interception rate data after March 11).

A Humbled Donald Trump Is Now 'Demanding' Help From Friends

US President Donald Trump's attempt to mobilise a broad-based multinational naval coalition to secure the Strait of Hormuz reflects a familiar tension in contemporary geopolitics: the gap between American expectations of burden-sharing and the willingness of partners to assume risk in crises not of their making.

Despite Washington's sustained exhortations - directed at key energy-dependent actors such as Japan, South Korea, European NATO members, and even China - there has been little by way of tangible response. No meaningful allied naval deployments have materialised. This hesitation is not accidental; it is rooted in both strategic calculation and political discomfort.

Iran's Calculated Moves

Iran, for its part, has avoided the escalatory optics of a formal blockade while effectively transforming the Strait into a selective chokepoint. By allowing relatively unhindered passage to countries it does not view as hostile - such as China, India, and Turkey - while complicating transit for US-aligned states through asymmetric tactics, Tehran has engineered a calibrated disruption.

The result is a partial paralysis of a waterway that carries nearly a fifth of global oil flows. This has driven up prices and disproportionately burdened Western economies.

Against this backdrop, Trump's emphasis on burden-sharing appears less a strategic innovation and more a necessity born of constraint. His argument, that countries reliant on Gulf energy should "protect their own interests", has been framed in transactional terms. Yet this framing has failed to resonate. Instead, it has reinforced perceptions of



an America seeking to externalise the costs of a crisis it helped precipitate. The reluctance of partners is also tied to the origins of the confrontation. The strikes against Iran - undertaken by the United States and Israel - were not preceded by extensive coalition-building or diplomatic groundwork. Consequently, many allies interpret the unfolding situation as a narrowly conceived strategic venture rather than a collective security challenge. European capitals, including Berlin and Paris, have been explicit in distancing themselves, underscoring that this is not a NATO mandate.

A Risk-Riddled Sea

Operational realities further compound the problem. The Strait of Hormuz is not merely a transit corridor; it is a highly contested maritime environment where Iran's asymmetric capabilities - mines, drones, missiles, and fast-attack craft - can impose high costs.

For many states, the prospect of deploying high-value naval assets into what could quickly become a "kill zone" is strategically untenable, particularly in the absence of overwhelming force or a clear political objective. Domestic politics also matters. In countries like Japan

and South Korea, heavy dependence on imported energy has not translated into strategic assertiveness. Instead, it has heightened sensitivities about entanglement in external conflicts. Public opinion remains cautious, if not outright resistant, to military involvement. European governments, still shaped by the legacies of prolonged interventions, are similarly disinclined towards escalation. Despite its deep energy stakes in the Gulf, China, too, has shown little appetite for alignment with the US-led initiative. Participation would not only risk entanglement in a volatile theatre but also signal strategic convergence with Washington at a time of intensifying rivalry.

Demanding, Not Asking For Help

Trump's rhetorical approach has arguably aggravated these structural constraints. Public admonitions about the "ingratitude" of allies, warnings of consequences for NATO, and ultimatums directed at partners have produced defensiveness rather than solidarity. In international politics, coercive persuasion rarely substitutes for prior consensus-building. Iran, meanwhile, has exploited these fissures with

notable dexterity. By ensuring that not all stakeholders are equally affected, it has reduced the incentive for collective action. Those less impacted see little reason to incur risks to restore flows that primarily benefit Western economies. What emerges is a picture of strategic misalignment. The US seeks coalition support for a crisis shaped by its own unilateral choices, while its partners weigh costs, risks, and political optics - and largely opt for caution. Trump's optimism about eventual support sits uneasily with the reality that, without a shift in approach, the burden will remain disproportionately American.

In that sense, this episode underscores a broader lesson: coalition-building cannot be improvised in the midst of a crisis.

It requires prior legitimacy, shared ownership, and a clear articulation of common stakes - elements that, in this instance, appear to be in short supply. Other major aviation hubs within the UAE also experienced disruption. Abu Dhabi International Airport saw traffic fall to roughly half of normal levels at certain points, while Al Maktoum International Airport experienced traffic fluctuations as flights were diverted.

THE SHADOW OF A TRUMAN MOMENT IN THE IRAN WAR

Wars often produce moments when leaders feel compelled to seek a decisive stroke that will end the conflict once and for all. History shows that such moments can generate choices that would have seemed unthinkable only months earlier. When Harry S. Truman authorised the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, the decision emerged from precisely such wartime pressures. As the conflict involving the United States, Israel and Iran intensifies today, the world must ensure that a similar moment of desperate calculation does not arise again.

The lesson of that moment in history is not that such weapons can end wars, but that once the logic of escalation begins to dominate wartime decision-making, even the most unthinkable options can enter the realm of strategic calculation. The mere possibility that such debates could arise is reason enough for policymakers everywhere to approach the present conflict with extreme caution. An Unravelling War

As the war drags on, both Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu will face mounting pressure to produce decisive results. Wars rarely remain confined to their original scope once expectations of rapid victory begin to fade. Political leaders must demonstrate progress, military planners search for breakthroughs, and public narratives increasingly revolve around the need for a conclusive outcome. In this environment, media speculation about "exit strategies" or "off-ramps" for Washington can unintentionally increase pressure on decision-makers. Even well-intentioned commentary can shape the cli-



mate in which leaders make decisions, potentially nudging them toward harder, more dramatic actions.

The Nuclear Threat Is Very Much There

Neither the United States nor Israel lacks the technological capability associated with advanced nuclear arsenals. The nuclear arsenals of advanced powers today are far more sophisticated than the devices used in 1945. While their existence is intended primarily as deterrence, prolonged wars have historically forced strategic communities to examine every available option. Even the discussion of such possibilities is deeply unsettling, yet ignoring the pressures that produce such debates can be dangerous.

A Leader Challenged?

For that reason, policymakers and societies on all sides must recognise the full range of choices that prolonged wars can place before leaders. For Iran's leadership and its wider strategic community, absorbing this reality may be essential if catastrophic escalation is to be avoided. From Tehran's perspective, the conflict may well be seen as existential. Yet history also shows that wars

framed as existential struggles can generate the most dangerous strategic decisions. The intellectual climate in Washington has also evolved. A number of influential voices in Washington now argue that the United States has become excessively risk-averse and that restoring global credibility requires a more assertive posture. Such arguments reflect a broader shift toward the language of renewed deterrence and strategic competition. Yet this very logic can make it politically harder for leaders to conclude conflicts without visible demonstrations of strength.

The 1945 Atomic Bombing

The outcome of this conflict will also be watched closely by other major powers. In 1945, the atomic decision was shaped not only by the desire to end a brutal war but also by the strategic message it sent to rival states observing the emergence of a new geopolitical era. Today, other significant powers will similarly draw lessons from how the United States manages both the conduct and the conclusion of this conflict. This is why cool judgment is essential at this stage of the war. Whether the origi-

nal decision to go to war was wise or ill-advised is now largely beside the point. Once a conflict has begun, the overriding priority must be to prevent escalation into something far more dangerous.

India's Unique Position

In such moments, the international system can benefit from the quiet diplomacy of actors that retain a degree of strategic autonomy. Among emerging nations, India stands out as a major emerging power in this regard. Despite its energy dependence on the Gulf and deep economic engagement with the United States, India has consistently demonstrated a capacity to maintain independent channels of communication across geopolitical divides.

This unique positioning may allow New Delhi to explore, discreetly and without public fanfare, avenues for de-escalation with Washington, Tel Aviv and Tehran alike. At moments of heightened tension in international politics, the world sometimes requires what might be called an "adult in the room": a state capable of engaging all sides while remaining aligned exclusively with none.

Bengaluru Gets a World-Class Electronics Co-Innovation Hub as Henkel Launches Advanced Application Center

Bengaluru, India, March 17, 2026: Henkel today announced the launch of its Customer Application Center in Bengaluru, reinforcing its commitment to India's rapidly expanding electronics manufacturing sector. The new facility will serve as a collaborative innovation hub where Henkel experts and customers can co-develop, test, and validate advanced adhesive and thermal management solutions for next-generation electronics manufacturing.

The new facility represents one of Henkel's most significant application engineering commitments in the India Middle East and Africa (IMEA) region, and is designed to address a critical gap in India's electronics value chain: the absence of

localized, world-class application testing and validation infrastructure that allows manufacturers to develop, qualify, and scale advanced materials solutions without the time and cost of sending work overseas.

India's electronics manufacturing sector has grown nearly six-fold over the past decade. The momentum is accelerating, driven by the rapid build-out of data center and AI computing infrastructure, 5G and fiber network expansion, electric vehicle charging systems, industrial automation, and advanced medical devices. Each of these sectors depends critically on high-performance adhesives, thermal management materials, and protective coatings, and each demand fast-

er, more localized application engineering support than India's ecosystem has traditionally been able to provide.

Bengaluru was a natural choice. The city's concentration of semiconductor design talent, electronics R&D centers, and global OEM engineering teams makes it the single most important node in India's electronics innovation ecosystem. Locating the center here puts Henkel's application expertise directly alongside the engineers and manufacturers who need it most.

"India's electronics manufacturing ecosystem is at an inflection point, and Bengaluru is at the center of it," said S. Sunil Kumar, Country President - India, Henkel. "What manufacturers across our focus sectors increasingly need is not just world-class materials, but a local partner who can co-develop, test, and validate those materials under real production conditions, and help them move from concept to market faster. That is precisely what this center is designed to do. It is our most tangible expression yet of Henkel's long-term commitment to India's electronics future."



Advanced electronics lab bridging materials and applications at Henkel Adhesive Technologies' Customer Application Center in Bengaluru.



Customers along with team members of Henkel Adhesive Technologies inaugurating the Customer Application Center in Bengaluru

R. Ashoka Slams Health Dept Chaos, Seeks Urgent Reforms

Bengaluru: Leader of Opposition R. Ashoka on Tuesday alleged that the Karnataka Health Department has plunged into disarray due to internal conflicts among senior officials, severely affecting governance and public services. Raising the issue in the Assembly, Ashoka said the department—crucial alongside Home and Revenue—has become "unhealthy," with persistent medicine shortages and administrative inefficiency. He criticized Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao for failing to address supply issues despite earlier assurances on immediate tenders.

Ashoka also targeted Principal Secretary Harsh Gupta, alleging he has not attended office for nearly eight months, leading to irregular file processing. He highlighted a serious rift between top officials,

with letters exchanged containing allegations of poor supervision, administrative lapses, and misconduct, further worsening the situation.

Questioning the government's credibility, he pointed out contradictions in statements regarding doctor transfers from Community Health Centres, demanding withdrawal of orders affecting 228 centres.

Citing budget concerns, Ashoka noted Karnataka's health spending stands at 4.9%, below the national average, and sought clarity on medicine procurement and expenditure.

He urged the government to resolve internal disputes, restore administrative discipline, ensure medicine availability, and immediately improve healthcare services, warning that continued neglect could cripple the system.

"Suvarna Sammelana" in Belagavi on March 24 to Address Jewellers' Issues

Belagavi: The Belagavi District Daivajna Jewellers Association (DJA) will organise "Suvarna Sammelana" on March 24 at the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha.

Association President Manik Anvekar and Honorary Secretary Vaibhav Vernekar announced that the conference will be held at 10:00 AM in association with the All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council.

The event aims to bring together traditional jewellers, traders, manufacturers and artisans to discuss challenges faced by the unorganised jewellery sector. With the rise of large corporate chains and machine-made jewellery, small and medium jewellers are facing increasing pressure on their livelihoods. Key discussions will focus on policy issues,



including the implementation of guidelines under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita to safeguard genuine jewellers and ensure fair protection in cases involving precious metals.

Over 500 jewellers from across the district are expected to attend. Industry leaders, including representatives from

GJC, Bengaluru Jewellers Association and Karnataka Jewellers Federation, along with public representatives, are likely to participate.

The Sammelana aims to unite stakeholders, highlight concerns of traditional craftsmen, and seek government support to strengthen the sector.

Cong MLAs meet Siddaramaiah, seek cabinet berths

Bengaluru (TSIT) MLAs and MLCs of the ruling Congress in Karnataka on Tuesday met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at Vidhana Soudha, pressing for ministerial berths for some legislators amid intensifying internal demands for a Cabinet expansion.

The delegation included senior leaders NA Harris, K Balakrishna, Naseer Ahmad, Appaji Nadagowda and Narayanaswamy, who urged the Chief Minister to accommodate more legislators in the ministry. The meeting comes against the backdrop of growing pressure within the party, with over two dozen MLAs recently pushing for a Cabinet expansion, citing the long wait since the formation of the government.

Party sources indicated that multiple factions — including first-time MLAs and community-based groups — have been lobbying for representation, with demands also emerging from Lingayat and Dalit leaders seeking a greater share in the Cabinet. In recent weeks, several legislators are learnt to have written to the Congress high command seeking ministerial berths, arguing for a balance between experience and younger leadership, even as the Chief Minister has indicated that first-time MLAs may not be prioritised.

The demand for expansion has also gained momentum ahead of upcoming bypolls and local body elections, with the party leadership keen to address internal aspirations and maintain unity. Despite mounting pressure, Siddaramaiah has maintained that any decision on Cabinet reshuffle or expansion would be taken in consultation with the Congress high command. There was, however, no official statement on the outcome of Tuesday's meeting.

Sexual harassment case: Woman alleges sister's attempt to defame Moodbidri PI over family dispute

Mangaluru, Mar 17: A press meet in city on Tuesday, March 17 took a dramatic turn as Beluvai resident Prafulla Naik accused her sister, Sumathi Naik, of attempting to defame Moodbidri police inspector Sandesh P G over a personal family dispute.

Addressing reporters at the Press Club, Prafulla Naik alleged that her sister, driven by personal enmity, has been making false accusations against inspector Sandesh P G, whom she described as an honest officer trying to resolve issues within their family.

Prafulla further made serious allegations against Sumathi Naik, claiming her involvement in alleged illegal activities, including prostitution cases reported in places such as Karkala, Beltangady, and even Tamil Nadu, where she allegedly served a jail term. She also accused her sister of forging their mother's signature in an attempt to seize ancestral property. Narrating a recent incident, Prafulla said she had approached the Moodbidri police station to file a complaint against her husband. Police officials reportedly contacted her husband and asked him to appear at the station. According to her, when her husband and sister arrived, Sumathi allegedly created a scene, verbally abused police personnel, and physically assaulted Prafulla using footwear.

Udupi: LPG tanker accident near Katapady - 16-hour operation clears highway, traffic restored

Udupi, Mar 17: An LPG tanker transporting cooking gas created tense moments on the national highway near Katapady in Udupi district after it overturned and began leaking gas on March 16, prompting authorities to suspend traffic as a precautionary safety measure.

The incident occurred when the tanker, which was carrying liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), lost control and overturned on the highway while travelling towards Udupi. Soon after the accident, a gas leak was noticed from the tanker, raising fears of a possible fire or explosion. Considering the potential danger, police immediately halted vehicular movement on the busy highway and diverted traffic to alternate routes. On receiving information about the incident, personnel from the Fire and



Emergency Services Department rushed to the spot along with police officials and other concerned authorities. Safety measures were immediately put in place and the area around the tanker was cordoned off to prevent any untoward incident.

A large-scale rescue and containment operation was launched to safely manage the leaking LPG. Fire service personnel worked continuously to ensure that the gas did not ignite and that the situation remained under control. The operation

continued for nearly 16 hours as officials carefully planned the safe transfer of the gas from the damaged tanker. As part of the rescue effort, two Bharat Gas tankers were brought from Mangaluru to facilitate the transfer of LPG from the overturned vehicle. The gas was gradually and safely shifted to the replacement tankers under strict safety protocols. The operation, which involved coordinated efforts from multiple departments, was finally completed successfully at around 1 am past midnight.

Mangaluru: Dr R K Nair to be conferred with 'Rotary Vandana Award 2026' on Mar 21

Mangaluru, Mar 17: Dr R K Nair, popularly known as the 'Green Hero of India,' has been selected for the prestigious state-level rotary 'Vandana Award 2026' in recognition of his significant contributions to green forestation in India.

A native of Kasargod district in Kerala, Dr Nair is a pioneering environmentalist who has transformed thousands of acres of barren land into dense forests using the Japanese Miyawaki method. His work has spread across 12 states, playing a vital role in combating pollution and restoring biodiversity. The award is jointly instituted by the Rotary Club of Mangalore Central and the Rotaract Club of Mangalore City. It will be conferred on Dr Nair in appreciation of his exemplary service in the field of environmental conserva-



tion. The award carries a citation, plaque, and memento. The award ceremony will be held on Saturday, March 21, at 7:30 pm at Hotel Sea View in Mangaluru.

Shivananda Tagaduru, president of the Karnataka Union of Working Journalists (KUWJ), will attend as the chief guest and felicitate the awardee. The function will be presided over by Rtn Bhaskar Rai Katta, president of the Rotary Club of Mangalore Central. Rtn PHF Prof Dr

Chinnagiri Gowda, assistant governor (Zone II, RI District 3181), and Rtn Prajwal, district Rotaract Representative (RI District 3181), will be the guests of honour. The Rotary and Rotaract clubs annually present the Vandana Award to individuals who have made remarkable contributions in fields such as sports, literature, industry, business, banking, music, medical science, engineering, art, culture, and community service as part of their vocational service initiatives.

KSRTC Wins Two Elets Mobility Excellence Awards 2026

Bengaluru: The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has been honored with two prestigious national awards at the Elets Mobility Excellence Awards 2026.

Under the "Innovation in Citizen Engagement and Inclusive Mobility" category, the award was conferred for KSRTC's Dhvani Spandana initiative.

Under the "Outstanding Public Transport Digitisation Initiative" category, the award was received for the AWATAR 4.0 project integrated with UPI payment facility.

The Dhvani Spandana project, implemented in 200 Mysuru City Transport buses in collaboration with GIZ Germany, is an on-board bus identification and navigation system designed especially for visually impaired passengers. This initiative has significantly reduced their dependency on others, while greatly enhancing their confidence, safety, and independence in



travel. AWATAR (Anywhere Anytime Advance Reservation) is KSRTC's flagship digital seat reservation system that enables passengers to conveniently book tickets anytime and from anywhere through web and mobile platforms. The system offers real-time seat availability, instant confirmation, and seamless journey planning, thereby improving passenger experience and enhancing operational efficiency.

Additionally, the integration of Dynamic UPI payment system enables

fast, secure, and completely cashless transactions, promoting transparency and simplifying accounting processes.

The awards were presented at a ceremony organized by Elets National Mobility on 17 March 2026 at Novotel Hotel, Hyderabad. On behalf of KSRTC, Smt. Gayithri K M, Director (P&V) received the awards from Shri K. Ilambarathi, IAS, Commissioner, Transport Department, Government of Telangana, and Dr. Ravi Gupta, Founder, CEO & Editor-in-Chief, Elets Technomedia.

Lack of foresight by the Central Government is the reason for cooking gas shortage: Dr. Anand Kumar

Bengaluru: National Coordinator of the AICC SC Department and in-charge of Maharashtra Dr. Anand Kumar alleged that, Even as the shortage of cooking gas is severely affecting many parts of the country, people are forced to wait for weeks to get a cylinder. A responsible government should anticipate international developments in advance and take necessary measures. However, the Central Government has failed to do so.

In his statement, he said that just two days before global conflicts escalated,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had visited Israel and held talks with its Prime Minister. Soon after, global conflict began. If so, what was the purpose of that visit? Did the Prime Minister already know about the future developments? Despite this, he did not give priority to addressing the problems faced by the people of the country. Therefore, the question arises whether the cooking gas shortage is solely due to global conflicts or a result of the Central Government's weakness and negligence, he said.



He warned that the Central Government must immediately take moral responsibility and implement clear and effective measures to

resolve the issue. Otherwise, this shortage will not remain just a household problem but may soon turn into a major political issue driven by public anger.

In his statement, he said it is true that global wars or political conflicts impact the fuel market. However, this cannot be used as an excuse to hide internal problems. The country is heavily dependent on foreign sources for cooking gas and other fuels. In such a situation, strengthening the supply chain, finding alternative sources, and improv-

ing storage systems should have been the government's priority. However, there appears to be a lack of proper planning and foresight in this regard.

The government also seems to have succumbed to pressures in price control and subsidy policies. Over the past few years, cooking gas prices have steadily increased, yet there has been no improvement in making it affordable for common people. Irregularities in the distribution system have further worsened the problem.

We will unite beyond party lines on issues of state, language, and water: MP Basavaraj Bommai

New Delhi: Former Chief Minister and Member of Parliament Basavaraj Bommai said that they will come together, setting aside party differences, in the interest of the state on matters related to land, language, and water. They will put pressure on the central government to resolve these issues. Speaking to the media in New Delhi on Tuesday, he said that the long-pending Yettinahole Project has now received clearance from the Forest Department. A meeting of MPs had been convened today regarding this. However, by-elections have also been announced in Karnataka,

and the project areas fall within those constituencies. There are technical constraints on how much can be discussed at this stage. Nevertheless, whatever needs to be done in the interest of the state will be done. He mentioned that he has already spoken in Parliament about all the projects. After the state government provides details on the current status of these projects, they will exert pressure on the central government to resolve them. Responding to a question about the selection of candidates for the two assembly by-elections in the state.

Actor Rajinikanth breaks silence on Aadhav Arjuna remarks, calls it 'untrue'

CHENNAI: Actor Rajinikanth on Tuesday (March 17) issued a statement condemning Aadhav Arjuna, General Secretary (Election Campaign Management) of Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), for making what he described as an "untrue comment" about him.

In the statement, Rajinikanth said Aadhav Arjuna had recently made a false remark about him, before expressing gratitude to leaders across parties, including Leader of Opposition Edappadi K Palaniswami, VCK chief Thol Thirumavalavan, PMK's Anbumani Ramadoss, MLA SP Velumani, Tamil Maanila Congress chief GK Vasan, Tamilaga

Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (TMMK) president John Pandian, and Pugazhenthii. He also thanked BJP leaders, including State president Nainar Nagenthran and K Annamalai, along with Union Minister L Murugan and Tamil Nadu Minister Raghupathi. In addition, Rajinikanth thanked members of the film industry, including Ameer and G Dhananjayan, media personalities Nakkheeran Gopal and Rangaraj Pandey, and his fans for their continued support. "Time does not speak but waits and answers. Long live Tamil Nadu! Long live the people of Tamil Nadu! Jai Hind!" he said, while concluding the statement.

Tamil Nadu sees major observer deployment as ECI strengthens election supervision

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu has emerged as a key focus in the ongoing Legislative Assembly elections, with the Election Commission of India (ECI) deploying a significant number of Central Observers to ensure smooth and transparent polling across the state. Out of the total 1,111 observers deployed nationwide, Tamil Nadu alone accounts for 136 General Observers, 40 Police Observers, and 151 Expenditure Observers, covering all 234 Assembly Constituencies. The high number of Expenditure Observers in particular reflects the Commission's emphasis on strict monitoring of campaign spending and prevention of inducements to voters.

The ECI's move is part of a broader effort to guarantee that elections are conducted in a violence-free and inducement-free environ-



ment. Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar has stressed that every voter must be able to cast their vote without fear or favour, with observers acting as the Commission's on-ground representatives to enforce these standards.

Observers assigned to Tamil Nadu have been instructed to reach their respective constituencies by March 18, 2026. Once deployed, they will make their contact details public and hold daily meetings with candidates, political party representatives, and citizens to address

complaints and election-related concerns. The deployment is being carried out under Article 324 of the Constitution and relevant provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. Officials noted that Tamil Nadu's extensive observance presence underlines the Commission's intent to ensure close scrutiny and efficient management of the electoral process at every stage. With polling approaching, the enhanced supervisory mechanism is expected to play a crucial role in maintaining electoral integrity across the state.

Jolarpettai signal maintenance to impact Bengaluru, Erode train services



CHENNAI: Southern Railway has announced changes in train services owing to signal maintenance work at Jolarpettai. According to a press release, the MEMU train departing from Bengaluru to Jolarpettai at 8.45 am on March 18, 19, and 24 will operate only up to Somanayakkanpatti. Services between Somanayakkanpatti and Jolarpettai will remain partially cancelled. Similarly, passenger trains leaving Erode for Jolarpettai on the same dates will be short-terminated at Tirupattur. Services between Tirupattur and Jolarpettai will be cancelled. The affected trains will return from their respective short termination points. Meanwhile, the Vande Bharat Express departing from Bengaluru Cantonment to Madurai will leave 45 minutes late on March 18 and 19, departing at 2.15 pm instead of its scheduled 1.30 pm.

Madras High Court order quashes Ramadoss's pre-poll bid to seize party

CHENNAI: In a major setback to Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) founder S Ramadoss in his bid to take over the reins from his son Anbumani, the Madras High Court has refused to vacate the interim stay imposed on the proceedings in a civil suit. In a further blow to the senior politician, the HC directed the civil court to hear all pending matters only after May 10, once the Assembly poll is over, dashing the senior leader's chances ahead of the election.

The suit had been instituted before the civil court by Ramadoss seeking an injunction restraining Anbumani from using the name, symbol, and flag of the Pattali Makkal Katchi



(PMK). In response, Anbumani filed an application seeking rejection of the case. Additionally, Vadivel Ramanan, the party's general secretary aligned with Anbumani, moved an application seeking to implead himself as a party.

As no orders were passed on his impleading application, Vadivel Ramanan approached the Madras High Court seeking a stay on the civil court proceedings. The High Court had accordingly granted an interim stay.

Subsequently, Ramadoss filed a petition seeking to vacate the interim stay. When the matter came up for hearing before Justice TV Thamilselvi, counsel appearing for Anbumani asked the courts to refrain from intervening, as the electoral process had commenced.

During the hearing, the HC asked Ramadoss's counsel how the civil court could pass orders after the election schedule had been announced.

Counsel for Ramadoss argued that the dispute was an internal party matter and had no connection with the electoral process. After considering the submissions of both parties, the HC held that any order passed in the present proceedings would have a bearing on the ongoing electoral process. Consequently, the HC declined to vacate the interim stay on the civil court proceedings. Further, it directed that all pending interlocutory applications before the civil court shall also remain stayed, and that the matters be taken up for hearing only after the conclusion of the elections, and post the matter to May 10.

Thoothukudi: Pattinamarudur excavation starts after Budget announcement

THOOTHUKUDI: Archaeological excavation work commenced at Pattinamarudur near Thoothukudi on Tuesday, implementing the State government's 2025-26 Budget announcement to find proof of an ancient trading settlement in the area. A team led by the archaeology department director, Ajaykumar, began work after receiving official clearance. In the first phase, scientific measurements were undertaken to dig trenches approximately 20 metres by 20 metres at identified locations. The work is underway, and steps are being taken to establish an archaeological department



office at the site. The State government had announced the declaration of around 300 acres in Pattinamarudur as an archaeological site and allocated funds in the Budget, signalling its focus on heritage research and site-based development. The excavation marks the operational rollout of that announcement. The move

follows earlier recommendations from the Thoothukudi district administration, which had urged a detailed study of the area based on findings documented by archaeology enthusiast Rajesh Selvarathi. He had identified evidence suggesting Pattinamarudur functioned as an ancient trading settle-

ment, including a rectangular well, burial urns, potsherds, inscriptions, iron objects and marine fossils such as shells. Based on these findings, the district collector had referred the proposal to the archaeology department and also communicated with central authorities. A team of Debasree conducted a field study in January. Rajesh Selvarathi said, "The excavation at Pattinamarudur has begun. This marks a milestone in Tamil Nadu's archaeological history. The artefacts expected to be unearthed will strengthen the preliminary evidence already documented from the surface."

Madras High Court reserves verdict on pleas challenging CCTV tender for TN Assembly polls



CHENNAI: The Madras High Court on Tuesday reserved orders on writ petitions challenging the eligibility criteria in a major surveillance tender floated for the upcoming Tamil Nadu Assembly elections. The case has drawn attention due to concerns that the conditions could restrict fair competition in a high-value public contract.

The petitions, filed by Delhi-based Innovatiview India Limited and Chennai-based I-Net

Secure Labs Private Limited, alleged that the tender conditions imposed by the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) were excessively stringent and effectively excluded several capable bidders from participating in the process. The case has drawn attention due to concerns that the conditions could restrict fair competition in a high-value public contract.

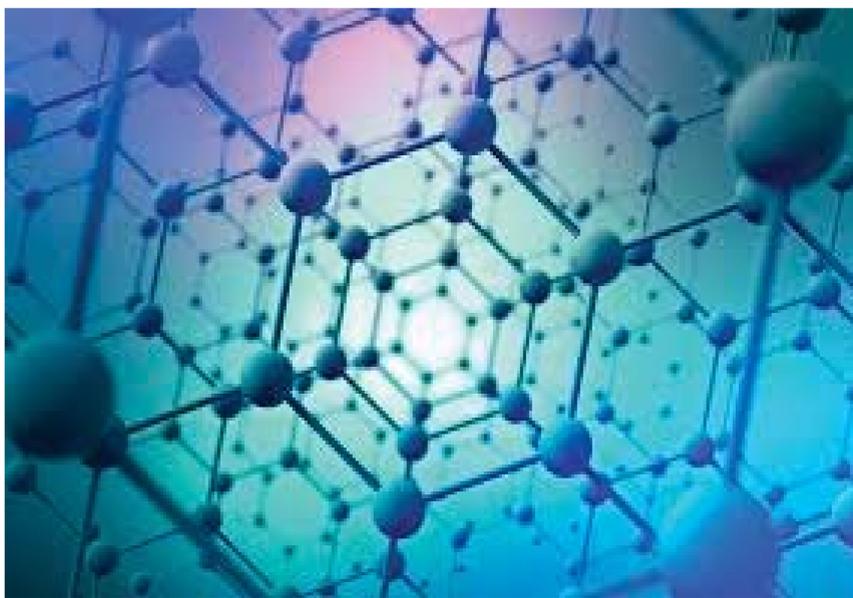
The petitions, filed by Delhi-based Innovatiview India Limited and Chennai-based I-Net

Quantum Transformation: TiS3 Nanoribbons Become Superconductors Under Pressure

A study has shown that compressing TiS3 nanoribbons transforms them from insulators to superconductors, enabling electricity transmission without energy loss. This discovery opens new possibilities for advancing energy-efficient technologies and material science. According to a study in the journal Nano Letters, compressing nanoribbons made of titanium and sulfur can significantly alter their properties, transforming them into materials capable of conducting electricity without energy loss. The authors have made the discovery during their painstaking search for new materials that can transmit electricity without loss of energy, a hot topic that has for long haunted the scientific community.

"Our research focuses on one such promising material: TiS3 nanoribbons, which are tiny, ribbon-like structures made of titanium and sulfur. In their natural state, TiS3 nanoribbons act as insulators, meaning they do not conduct electricity well," says Mahmoud Rabie Abdel-Hafez, an associate professor at University of Sharjah's Department of Applied Physics and Astronomy. "However, we discovered that by applying pressure to these nanoribbons, we could change their electrical properties dramatically," adds Abdel-Hafez, who is the study's main author.

Experimental Findings
The scientists exposed TiS3 to gradual pressure. As they increased the pressure, they found that the TiS3 system underwent a series of transitions, from being insulators to becoming metals and superconductors, for the first time. TiS3 materials are known to work as good insulators, but it is the first time scientists have discovered that under pressure they can function as superconductors, paving the way for the development of superconduct-



ing materials.
(A) Temperature-pressure phase diagram of TiS3. (B) Photograph and SEM image of quasi-1D microstructure. Credit: Nano Letters (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.nanolett.4c00824>

"Superconductors are special because they can conduct electricity with zero energy loss, which is incredibly valuable for technological applications," says Abdel-Hafez. "[But] imagine a world where electrical power could be transmitted without any energy being wasted as heat. This would revolutionize how we use and distribute electricity, making everything from power grids to electronic devices far more efficient." It is exactly this potential which the authors tout as a breakthrough: the potential of TiS3 to turn into materials causing no waste when transmitting electricity. By carefully controlling the

pressure applied to these materials, the authors identified the exact points where they changed from one state to another. "This is significant because understanding these transitions helps us learn how to manipulate other materials in similar ways, bringing us closer to discovering or designing new superconductors that can operate at higher temperatures and more practical conditions," notes Abdel-Hafez.

The study shows that TiS3 has the potential to become such materials when subjected to the right conditions. By gradually increasing the pressure on the investigated materials, the authors observed that they transitioned from being insulators (poor conductors) to metals (good conductors) and finally to superconductors (perfect conductors with no energy loss). Discovering that TiS3 materials can become superconductors under pressure is certain

to help scientists understand more about the conditions required for superconductivity. This knowledge is crucial for developing new materials that might be superconductors at higher, more practical temperatures, the authors maintain.

Collaborative Efforts and Future Prospects
"This research not only enhances our understanding of superconductivity but also demonstrates the power of international collaboration in achieving groundbreaking scientific results," affirms Sweden's Uppsala University Professor of Physics and Astronomy, a co-author. The project is part of the University of Sharjah's research quest to develop materials that can transmit electricity without energy loss, offering new insights into how pressure can transform the electrical properties of TiS3 nanoribbons.

Plant-based alternatives healthy for your heart than meat

Eating plant-based meat alternatives may have profound benefits against cardiovascular disease risk factors, such as cholesterol levels and blood pressure. Their analysis shows that on average, the plant-based alternatives tend to have a more heart-healthy nutritional profile than meat, although the high sodium content of some products may be of concern.

However, these alternatives do not raise blood pressure, but instead improve some cardiovascular risk factors, including cholesterol levels, in several randomised controlled trials.

"There is currently a lack of long-term research evaluating how these

alternatives, their contents, nutritional profiles, and their impact on cardiovascular disease risk factors, such as cholesterol levels and blood pressure. Their analysis shows that on average, the plant-based alternatives tend to have a more heart-healthy nutritional profile than meat, although the high sodium content of some products may be of concern.

However, these alternatives do not raise blood pressure, but instead improve some cardiovascular risk factors, including cholesterol levels, in several randomised controlled trials.

"There is currently a lack of long-term research evaluating how these



ket has experienced significant growth in recent years and more and more people are enjoying plant-based burgers, surprisingly little is known about how these meat alternatives may impact health and in particular cardiovascular disease risk," said lead author Matthew Nagra, from the University of British Columbia, Canada. "Thus, we sought to review the available literature on the topic to identify what is currently known and to provide direction for future research," he added. The researchers reviewed the research published from 1970 to 2023 on plant-based meat alterna-

alternatives may affect the risk of developing a heart attack or stroke," the researchers said. "For those looking to reduce their meat intake, especially if it's red meat, replacing that with plant-based alternatives is likely a heart-healthy choice," said Ehud Ur, Professor, from the varsity. "For those who already limit their meat intake, the alternatives can be incorporated into a healthy dietary pattern as an excellent protein source; however, it may be beneficial to choose options that are lower in saturated fat and sodium if consuming them regularly," Ur said.

IRAN HITS KEY UAE OIL PORT AND DUBAI AIRPORT

AGENCY
Tehran: The United Arab Emirates' (UAE) biggest port and oil storage facility, Fujairah, and Dubai's international airport have come under further drone attacks as Iran continues to target Gulf transport and oil infrastructure. Flights were temporarily suspended on Monday after a fire broke out near the airport after a "drone-related incident". A fire also raged after a drone attack on the strategically important port and industrial zone at Fujairah, one of the largest oil storage facilities in the region. And a rocket attack on a car killed a Palestinian national on the outskirts of the UAE capital, Abu Dhabi, the city's Media Office reported. The attack occurred in the Al Bahria area, it said. UAE air defence systems intercepted six ballistic missiles and 21 drones on Monday, the Defence Ministry said. Iran has launched over 1,900 missiles and drones at the UAE since the start of the war near Dubai's airport, which is the world's busiest for international pas-



sengers. Some flights were delayed, while others were cancelled altogether, in another hit to the UAE's image of safety and stability. The country's energy sector came under attack as a drone hit an oil storage tanker on Saturday, and another drone hit the oil facilities on Monday, causing a fire. Oil loading activities at the port were halted for a time while damage assessments were carried out. Fujairah sits on the UAE's eastern coast, on the Gulf of Oman - rather than the Persian Gulf - and so vessels do not need to navigate the Strait of Hormuz to reach it. The location means

the port plays a "crucial" role in "helping keep global supplies moving" when the Strait of Hormuz is blocked by Iran, Dubai-based Justin Harper, editor of CEO Middle East - who regularly speaks to Dubai's oil industry executives - told the BBC. "If tensions with Iran disrupt the chokepoint, the UAE can still export oil through Fujairah via pipelines from the oilfields in Abu Dhabi," he said. The port city is "ideally placed to bypass the Strait of Hormuz", said Dubai-based oil analyst Matt Stanley, who works for commodities data provider Kpler. "The UAE's state oil

company Adnoc have their oil tankers there, it is crude grade oil which is what the Asian buyers want. "Iran hitting a storage tanker and oil facilities at Fujairah "shows the vulnerability of Gulf infrastructure", Stanley told the BBC. "Iran wants to disrupt the flow of energy". The port city is close to India and the "first stop out of the Middle East on the way to Singapore and China", Stanley said. "Fujairah is on the old Silk Road, the maritime route, and it picked up a lot of business bunkering - that is providing fuel, food, water - for container ships that have

Highlights

■ The United Arab Emirates' (UAE) biggest port and oil storage facility, Fujairah, and Dubai's international airport have come under further drone attacks as Iran continues to target Gulf transport and oil infrastructure.

been at sea for 25 or 30 days." Fujairah is like a "huge vending machine" for ships, Stanley added. Despite the attacks on Dubai, Harper says the business community there is "resilient". Restaurants have been offering deals to get people back into restaurants and "the malls still seem to be busy". People "underestimate Dubai and its ability to survive a downturn", he added. Last week the UAE's Minister of State Lana Nusseibeh vowed in a BBC interview that her country would "bounce back" from the conflict, insisting that its economy was "resilient".

ISUZU MOTORS INDIA ANNOUNCES NATIONWIDE 'ISUZU I-CARE PRE-SUMMER CAMP'



AGENCY
Chennai, 17 Mar 2026: In a constant endeavour to reaffirm ISUZU's commitment to provide best service and ownership experience, Isuzu Motors India will be conducting a nation-wide 'ISUZU I-Care Pre-Summer Camp' for its range of ISUZU D-MAX Pick-ups and SUVs. This service camp is aimed at offering customers exciting benefits and preventive maintenance checks for a hassle-free driving experience during the season across the country. An initiative of 'ISUZU Care', the pre-summer camp will be organised across all ISUZU authorised dealer service outlets, between 23rd - 28th March 2026 (both days inclu-

sive). During this period, customers can also avail special offers & benefits for their vehicles. The Pre-Summer Camp will be organised at all authorised service facilities of ISUZU located in Agra, Ahilyanagar, Ahmedabad, Ambikapur, Anantapur, Baramulla, Bareilly, Barmer, Baruch, Bathinda, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Bikaner, Bilaspur, Calicut, Chatrapathi Sambhaji Nagar, Chennai, Chikkamagaluru, Coimbatore, Dhule, Delhi, Dibrugarh, Dimapur, Durgapur, Ernakulam, Gandhidham, Gorakhpur, Gurugram, Guwahati, Howrah, Hubballi,

Hyderabad, Indore (2), Jaigaon, Jaipur, Jalandhar, Jammu, Jodhpur, Kadapa, Kalaburagi, Karnal, Kayamkulam, Khammam, Kolhapur, Kolkata, Kottayam, Kurnool, Latur, LB Nagar (Hyderabad), Leh, Lucknow, Ludhiana, Madurai, Mandi, Mangaluru, Mehsana, Mohali, Mumbai (Nerul & Borivali), Mundra, Mysuru, Nagpur, Nasik, Nellore, Nizamabad, Noida, Patna, Pune, Raipur, Rajahmundry, Rajkot, Ratnagiri, Satara, Shivamogga, Sikar, Siliguri, Solapur, Surat, Theni, Thrissur, Tirunelveli, Tirupati, Trichy, Thiruvananthapuram, Vadodara, Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam.

AI FIRM ANTHROPIC SEEKS WEAPONS EXPERT TO STOP USERS FROM 'MISUSE'

The US artificial intelligence (AI) firm Anthropic is looking to hire a chemical weapons and high-yield explosives expert to try to prevent "catastrophic misuse" of its software. In other words, it fears that its AI tools might tell someone how to make chemical or radioactive weapons, and wants an expert to ensure its guardrails are sufficiently robust. In the LinkedIn recruitment post, the firm says applicants should have a minimum of five years experience in "chemical weapons and/or explosives defence" as well as knowledge of "radiological dispersal devices" - also known as dirty bombs. The firm told the BBC the role was similar to jobs in other sensitive areas that it has already created. Anthropic is not the only AI firm adopting this strategy. A similar position has been advertised by ChatGPT developer OpenAI. On its careers website, it lists a job vacancy for a researcher in "biological and chemical risks", with a salary of up to \$455,000 (£335,000), almost double



that offered by Anthropic. But some experts are alarmed by the risks of this approach, warning that it gives AI tools information about weapons - even if they have been instructed not to use it. "Is it ever safe to use AI systems to handle sensitive chemicals and explosives information, including dirty bombs and other radiological weapons?" said Dr Stephanie Hare, tech researcher and co-presenter of the BBC's AI Decoded TV programme. "There is no

international treaty or other regulation for this type of work and the use of AI with these types of weapons. All of this is happening out of sight." The AI industry has continuously warned about the potential existential threats posed by its technology, but there has been no attempt to slow down its progress. The issue has gained urgency as the US government calls on AI firms while launching war in Iran and military operations in Venezuela.

Anthropic is taking legal action against the US Department of Defence, which designated it a supply chain risk when the firm insisted its systems must not be used in either fully autonomous weapons or mass surveillance of Americans. Anthropic co-founder Dario Amodei wrote in February that he didn't think the technology was good enough yet, and should not be used for these purposes. The White House said the US military would not be governed by tech companies. The risk label puts the US company in the same boat as the Chinese telecoms firm Huawei, which was similarly blacklisted over different national security concerns. OpenAI said it agreed with Anthropic's position but then negotiated its own contract with the US government, which it says has not yet begun. Anthropic's AI assistant, called Claude, has not yet been phased out, and is currently still embedded in systems provided by Palantir and being deployed by the US in the US-Israel Iran war.

INFOSYS STOCK HIT 6-YEAR LOW, MARKET VALUATION DROPS BELOW RS 5 TRILLION

AGENCY
Mumbai, March 17: Shares of Infosys came under sharp selling pressure on Tuesday, with the stock hitting an over six-year low during intra-day trade. The stock slipped as much as 3 per cent to Rs 1,215.15 on the BSE, falling below its previous low of Rs 1,215.45 recorded in April 2023. This marks its weakest level since December 2020. The recent fall has been significant. So far in calendar year 2026, Infosys shares have declined around 25 per cent, much steeper than the 11.4 per cent drop seen in the Nifty 50. The correction reflects growing concerns over the company's revenue growth outlook amid an uncertain demand environment. The sharp decline in share price has also eroded the company's market value. During the session, Infosys' market capitalisation slipped below Rs 5 trillion, touching around Rs 4.93 trillion. However, by afternoon trade at around 1:35 PM, the stock recovered slightly to Rs 1,234, down 1.3 per cent from its previous close, with market capitali-



sation hovering near the Rs 5 trillion mark. In last five days, the shares have delivered a negative return of 4.69 per cent to its investors. In past month, the stock tumbled over 11.3 per cent. In last six months, the shares dropped nearly 19 per cent. On year-to-date (YTD) basis, Infosys fell more than 24 per cent. However, in last one year, the drop is nearly in the same range with dropping over 22.5 per cent. Meanwhile, the company has scheduled a board meeting on April 22 and 23, 2026. During the meeting, the board will consider and approve the audited financial results for the quarter

and full financial year ended March 31, 2026. It will also discuss the recommendation of a final dividend for the financial year. By 12:40 pm, at intra-day lows, all Nifty IT constituents extended losses, with several frontline names witnessing sharp declines on the NSE. Persistent Systems fell around 3 per cent to Rs 4,496.70, while Wipro dropped 3.5 per cent to Rs 188.25. Coforge emerged as the top loser, plunging 6.7 per cent to Rs 1,008.10. Other major IT stocks also traded lower, with Oracle Financial Services Software (OFSS) declining

2.79 per cent to Rs 6,234.50, Infosys falling 2.77 per cent to Rs 1,215.10, and TCS slipping 2 per cent to Rs 2,360. HCLTech dropped 2.32 per cent to Rs 1,297.70, while LTIMindtree and Mphasis fell 2.35 per cent and 2.43 per cent to Rs 4,108.10 and Rs 2,030.50, respectively. Tech Mahindra was relatively resilient but still declined 1.59 per cent to Rs 1,318.20.

AI disruption concerns weigh on sentiment

The sector is witnessing profit booking amid growing concerns that generative AI could disrupt core service lines such as application development, testing and maintenance, which account for a significant portion of IT companies' revenues.

Nvidia CEO signals shift in tech landscape

In addition, Jensen Huang, CEO of Nvidia, recently said that "physical AI has arrived" and that every industrial company will become a robotics company, signalling a shift in technology trends.

NMDC GMDC SIGN AN MOU Join Forces to Unlock Rare Earth Potential

Hyderabad, 17 March 2026: Indian mining powerhouses - NMDC Limited and GMDC Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding to explore collaborations in Rare Earth Elements and associated minerals on Monday. Guidance for this strength-based partnership is to develop an integrated and sustainable critical mineral supply chain for India. This partnership paves the way for exploration of rare earth deposits in the country, along with the expansion of RD capabilities and carbon conscious initiatives in this sub-sector. The two companies signed the Understanding in the presence of Shri Amitava Mukherjee, CMD, NMDC and Shri Roopwant Singh, IAS, Managing Director, GMDC



March 16, 2026 for a period of two years, the MOU recommends the formation of a Steering Committee and Working Group to evaluate and enrich the proposed collaboration. This tie-up is expected to boost the development of rare earth mining and downstream operations nationwide. Speaking on this move, Shri Amitava Mukherjee said, "India's interest in Rare Earth Elements is now a strategic national priority. These minerals sit at the heart of energy

security, defence capability, and the push for a truly self-reliant Bharat. Mining companies have been called upon to rise to the occasion. NMDC with GMDC is determined to build a resilient critical mineral supply chain for the country as soon as possible." NMDC and GMDC, with their respective momentum in critical mineral mission and rare earth corridor, are also looking at the possibilities of a Joint Venture, Special Purpose Vehicle and strategic business collaborations going forward.

Bank of America settles over Epstein claims

AGENCY
NYC: Bank of America has agreed to settle a lawsuit brought on behalf of victims of Jeffrey Epstein, who had accused the bank of facilitating his sex trafficking operation. Terms of the deal, which now goes to the court for approval, were not immediately disclosed. It marks the third such settlement by a major bank, after JP Morgan Chase and Deutsche Bank agreed to pay out \$290m (£218m) and \$75m respectively. Sigrid McCawley, a lawyer for the victims, said in a statement that the resolution was "one more step on the road to much deserved justice". Bank of America declined to comment. The proposed class-action lawsuit was filed in October by a Florida woman who says she was abused by Epstein "on at least 100 occasions" between 2011 and 2019 and held two accounts at Bank of America at the direction of his business team. It alleged that the bank had "a plethora of information regarding Epstein's sex trafficking operation but chose profit over protecting



the victims". It cites a record of "incredibly alarming and erratic banking behavior" in her own Bank of America accounts, which were used by Epstein's team. It also points to more than \$150m paid to Epstein by billionaire Leon Block, co-founder of Apollo Global, to Epstein for "purported 'tax and estate planning advice'", via Block's Bank of America account. Block, who stepped down from Apollo amid scrutiny of his Epstein ties, has denied wrongdoing. He was due to be questioned as

part of the case later this month. Bank of America had previously urged the court to dismiss the lawsuit, saying it had provided routine services to people who at the time had no known links to Epstein, and that any suggestion that it "was more deeply involved" was "threadbare and meritless." Rakoff ruled in January that Bank of America must face Doe's claims that it knowingly benefited from Epstein's sex trafficking and obstructed enforcement of the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act. Among the transactions Doe flagged were payments to Epstein by Apollo Global

Doe alleged merely that it provided routine services to people who at the time had no known links to Epstein, and that any suggestion that it "was more deeply involved" was "threadbare and meritless." Rakoff ruled in January that Bank of America must face Doe's claims that it knowingly benefited from Epstein's sex trafficking and obstructed enforcement of the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act. Among the transactions Doe flagged were payments to Epstein by Apollo Global

Management's (APO.N), opens new tab billionaire co-founder, Leon Block. Black stepped down as Apollo's chief executive in 2021 after a review by an outside law firm found he had paid Epstein \$158 million for tax and estate planning. He has denied wrongdoing and said he was unaware of Epstein's criminal conduct. Black had been scheduled on March 26 to be questioned under oath by lawyers for Doe and Bank of America. The deposition is not expected to go forward because of the settlement. A scheduled May 11 trial will also not take place if Rakoff approves the settlement. Doe's lawyers have also sued other alleged enablers of Epstein's sex trafficking, and in 2023 reached settlements of \$290 million with JPMorgan Chase (JPM.N), opens new tab and \$75 million with Deutsche Bank (DBK.G), opens new tab on behalf of his accusers. Epstein died in a Manhattan jail cell in August 2019 while awaiting trial on sex trafficking charges.

ISRAEL SAYS IRAN'S SECURITY CHIEF ALI LARIJANI HAS BEEN KILLED IN STRIKE

AGENCY
Tehran: Ali Larjani's death, if confirmed, is undoubtedly a massive body blow to the regime in Tehran. I first came across him in Geneva in the 1980s when he was involved in various negotiations taking place at the UN. Back then, he was a diplomat who you could see was intelligent and sought different angles on matters of discussion. In recent decades he has become a key figure inside the regime of the Islamic Republic, particularly since the killing of the former Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. But he was also seen as a pragmatic figure. While he said some tough, war-like things in recent weeks, over the years he's been seen as a man of flexibility, a man you can do business with. Israel's foreign minister, Gideon Saar, says "Iranians are safer" without top security official Ali Larjani and Basij commander Gholamreza Soleimani, after the Israeli military says it killed both of them in strikes. Speaking in

Jerusalem, Saar says Israel is weakening Iran's "repression mechanism". He adds that the regime can only be toppled by the Iranian people but that cannot be done without external help. In wide-ranging remarks, Saar also says Iran's effective blocking of the Strait of Hormuz is a "global problem" following US President Donald Trump's call for other countries to help stabilise the shipping channel. Israel says it has killed Iran's security chief Ali Larjani in a strike, and will "continue hunting down" the leaders of the country. As the graphic below shows, many of the country's pre-war senior figures have been killed. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's death was announced on 28 February, following the first day of US-Israeli strikes on Iran. Also killed in the first wave of strikes were security adviser Ali Shamkhani, defence minister Amir Nasirzadeh, Revolutionary Guards commander General Mohammad Pakpour, and armed forces chief of staff



Abdollah Mousavi. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) says Ali Larjani was "one of the most veteran and senior figures within the Iranian regime leadership" after announcing the Iranian security chief had been killed in a strike. After Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was killed, the IDF says, Larjani "functioned as the leader of the Iranian regime" and led its combat against Israel and neighbouring countries. The Israeli military also links

Larjani with a crackdown on anti-establishment protesters in Iran, suggesting he "advanced violent enforcement measures and repression operations". Iran is yet to confirm Larjani's death, and state media has published a photo of a handwritten message said to have been issued by him, which was also posted on his social media accounts. A statement from Ali Larjani, posted by Iranian media outlets earlier this morning, seems to be

nothing more than a message written to mark the funeral of Iranian sailors killed almost two weeks ago. In an earlier statement, issued hours before Israel claimed to have killed him, Larjani bemoaned the lack of support for Iran from fellow Muslim countries. "No Islamic government stood alongside the people of Iran," he complained, "except in rare cases and limited to political positions." The language of the message, addressed to Muslims worldwide, suggested that the top security official believed Iran's cause might resonate on the streets of Muslim nations, even if their governments had largely turned their backs. "The United States and Israel on one side and Muslim Iran and the forces of resistance on the other," he wrote. "Which side of this battle do you stand on?" Larjani reserved special scorn for Gulf countries which have hosted American forces or conducted rapprochements with Israel. "Is Iran expected to sit idly by

while American bases in your countries are used to attack it?" he asked. Iran's Ministry of Intelligence says in a statement that it has confiscated "hundreds of Starlink devices sent by the enemy" - referring to the US and Israel, Iranian news outlets are reporting. The statement says that according to law, acquiring and using Starlink is a "crime" and during the war anyone doing so will be dealt with at the "highest penalty". Using Starlink in Iran carries a punishment of up to two years in prison. It is still very difficult to contact those inside Iran during the internet outage that has been in place since the start of the war, but tech-savvy residents have been using SpaceX's Starlink devices and sharing their connections with others. A member of the United Nations Iran fact-finding mission says investigators are seeking access to the site of a deadly strike on a school carried out at the beginning of the conflict.

SUSPECTED SUICIDE ATTACKS KILL AT LEAST 23 IN NORTH-EAST NIGERIA



AGENCY
Nigeria: At least 23 people have been killed and 108 injured by a series of suspected suicide bombings in Maiduguri, marking one of the worst recent attacks on the capital of Borno state. A post office, a popular weekly market and the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital were hit within minutes of each other at around 19:30 local time (18:30 GMT) on Monday, police in the north-eastern state say. The sites, which are among the city's busiest locations, had drawn large crowds after the day's Ramadan fast was broken. Nigeria's military has

blamed the attack on militants from the notorious Boko Haram group. Boko Haram originated in Maiduguri and the city became the epicentre of the Islamist group's insurgency, which began in 2009. However, the state capital had been enjoying a relatively stable period after intensified military operations had pushed armed groups into remote border areas. "Preliminary investigation reveals that the incidents were carried out by suspected suicide bombers," Borno police said in a statement, adding that an investigation was under way to establish the identity of the attackers.

Trump says presidents 'should not have learning disabilities' as he mocks Newsom's dyslexia



AGENCY
White House: Donald Trump has said he believes people with learning disabilities should not be president, as he renewed his taunts at California Governor Gavin Newsom over his dyslexia. President Trump said Newsom, a potential Democratic White House contender, was "dumb". He also made fun last week of the California governor's difficulty with reading and spelling, prompting Newsom to call him "a brain-dead moron". The National Center for Learning Disabilities told the BBC it was "disturbed by and strongly condemns" the Republican president's remarks. Dyslexia, a learning condition that disrupts how the brain processes written language, affects as many as one in five Americans. "With a low IQ person, you know, because Gavin Newsom has admitted that he is a, that he has learning disabilities," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office on Monday. "Newsom" is Trump's nickname for the governor. "Honestly, I'm all

for people with learning disabilities, but not for my president. I don't want, I think a president should not have learning disabilities, OK And I know it's highly controversial to say such a horrible thing." He added: "The President of the United States, Gavin Newsom, admitted that he has learning disabilities, dyslexia. Everything about him is dumb." Newsom made fun of Trump for appearing to accidentally refer to the governor as president. "NO THANK YOU, WE BELIEVE IN FREE ELECTIONS!" he posted on X. During an on-stage conversation last month with the mayor of Atlanta, Georgia, Newsom discussed his dyslexia. "I'm like you," the governor told the audience as he cited his poor exam results and difficulty reading. "You've never seen me read a speech, because I cannot read a speech," he added. His remarks to a predominantly black audience sparked a chorus of conservative claims that he was talking down to African-American voters.

Columbia University protester released after one year in immigration custody



AGENCY
Gaza: A Palestinian woman who was detained during Gaza war protests at Columbia University has been released after a year in immigration detention in Texas, her lawyers say. Leqaa Kordia, 33, was among more than 100 demonstrators arrested out-

side the New York City college's campus in April 2024, but she was released. She was arrested again in March 2025 during a routine immigration check-in. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said she had overstayed her student visa, which was terminated in 2022 "for lack of attendance".

TRUMP SEEKS TO DELAY MEETING WITH XI IN CHINA

AGENCY
Beijing: US President Donald Trump said on Monday that he is planning to delay a high stakes visit to China later in March by about a month because of the Iran war. "We've requested that we delay it a month or so," he told reporters at the White House, adding that it was important that he remained available to oversee the war. The meeting between Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping is currently set to take place between 31 March to 2 April, following their last face to face talks in October last year. Chinese foreign affairs spokesman Lin Jian said on Tuesday that Beijing and Washington are in talks over "the timing and related



matters of President Trump's visit to China". China also rejected any connection between the delayed meeting and issues around the Strait of Hormuz - a critical waterway for global energy shipments from the Gulf. "We have noted that the US side has publicly clarified these false reports by the media, stating that

said he had proposed the delay solely to make sure he was around to manage the war. "I'm looking forward to being with him," he said, referring to Xi. "We have a very good relationship." "There's no tricks to it either," Trump added. "It's very simple. We've got a war going on. I think it's important that I be here." The Iran war has eclipsed most of Trump's other foreign policy priorities, faced with an intensifying conflict and disruptions to the global oil supply, which has threatened to raise prices in the US. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said on Monday that the meeting's delay would not be due to Washington's request that Beijing help in the Gulf, or any trade disagreements.

FROM TORNADOES TO BLIZZARDS, SEVERE WEATHER BATTERS PARTS OF THE US

AGENCY
Texas: Tornadoes, thunderstorms and blizzard conditions are forecast to pummel parts of the eastern US. More than 34 million people were under tornado watches from Florida to New Jersey. Nearly 3ft (0.9m) of snow has fallen in Minnesota, Wisconsin and northern Michigan since the storm began this weekend, according to the National Weather Service (NWS). The bulk of the storm is expected to churn off the east coast into the Atlantic by Tuesday, with abnormally cold weather to follow in its wake. Over 11 million people are under blizzard warnings, and another four million are



under winter storm warnings, according to the BBC's US partner CBS. By Monday evening, nearly 4,600 flights had been cancelled and almost 11,300 delayed, according to flightaware.com. The bulk of the flight cancellations and delays were at Chicago's

O'Hare International airport and LaGuardia in New York. More than 406,000 customers were without power, a third of them in Michigan, followed by Virginia and North Carolina. In Minnesota, over 25in (63.5cm) of snow fell in parts of the state by Monday morning. More snow and strong winds were forecast. "Whiteout conditions are expected and will make travel treacherous and potentially life-threatening," the NWS said. Minnesota Governor Tim Walz has authorised the state's National Guard to support emergency operations, CBS said. Severe thunderstorms were expected in parts of North Carolina, South Carolina and West Virginia, where NWS has predicted hail and "a tornado or two possible". Tornado warnings were issued between 10:00 and 11:00 local time in parts of northern Virginia. A similar warning was issued for parts of the Florida panhandle.

Utah bereavement author found guilty of fatally poisoning her husband



AGENCY
Utah: A Utah mother who published a children's book about grief after the sudden death of her husband has been found guilty of his murder. A jury found that Kouri Richins killed her husband in March 2022 by poisoning him with a fentanyl-laced drink. The jury deliberated the case for about three hours before reaching its verdict on Monday. During the trial, the court heard how Richins, 35, had racked up millions of dollars in debt, had taken out life insurance policies on her husband, and was having an extramarital affair. Prosecutors called more than 40 witnesses, including the woman who said she sold the drugs used to kill Eric Richins. Her defence team chose to not call any witnesses, and rested their case without having her take the stand to testify in her own defence. Richins was also found guilty of fraudulent benefits after her husband's death at their home outside the ski resort

town of Park City. Prosecutors said during the trial that she falsely believed she would inherit his estate worth more than \$4m after he died. They also said she was planning a future with another man, whom she had been having an affair with. Officials said Richins was found to have poisoned her husband's sandwich in an earlier incident, nearly killing him, before later increasing the dosage until he died. She was also found guilty of attempted murder over this incident. Richins pleaded not guilty to all the charges. The most serious, aggravated murder, carries a sentence of 25 years to life in prison. "She wanted to leave Eric Richins but did not want to leave his money," said Summit County prosecutor Brad Bloodworth. Richins was arrested in March, 2023 - two months after she published the picture book Are You With Me?, which she said was designed to help people - including her three children - cope with the death of a loved one.



Pakistan air strike kills at least 100 at Kabul drug rehab centre

Sri Lanka declares Wednesdays off as Asian countries try to conserve fuel

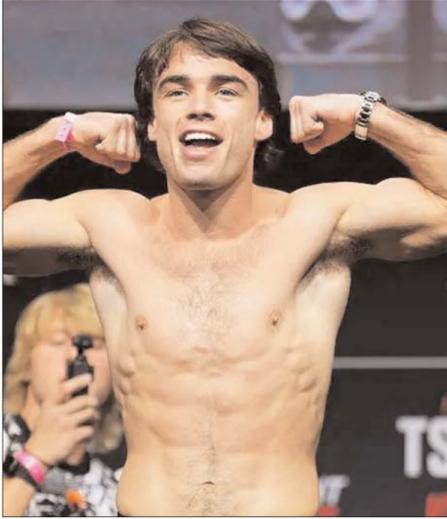


AGENCY
Dhaka: Sri Lanka has declared every Wednesday a holiday for public institutions to conserve fuel as the island nation grapples with possible shortages in the wake of the US and Israel's war with Iran. "We must prepare for the worst, but hope for the best," President Anura Kumara Dissanayake said at an emergency meeting with senior officials on

Monday. This is the latest in a series of belt-tightening measures undertaken by Asian countries since the war choked off the Strait of Hormuz, which used to carry millions of barrels of oil from the Gulf into the region. Nearly 90% of all the oil and gas flowing through the strait last year was bound for Asia, which is the world's largest oil-importing region.

Following Pimblett's footsteps - but Riley is 'different animal'

A team-mate of Paddy Pimblett, the 26-year-old signed with the promotion after winning the first 11 fights of his career, eight by knockout. Like some of the UFC's biggest stars before him - such as Pimblett, Conor McGregor and Tom Aspinall - Riley compiled his unbeaten record in Cage Warriors. Cage Warriors president Graham Boylan has overseen the development of each one of those stars, and in Riley he saw something different. Speaking to BBC Sport last year, Boylan described Riley as a "different animal" and "already a polished athlete", whereas "Paddy and Conor were still on their way up" while in Cage Warriors. It came as little surprise then, when faced with adversity after being out-grappled in the first round of his UFC debut against Bogdan Grad in November, Riley responded with a thundering left hook



to claim victory. Many fighters have crumbled in similar situations, joining the UFC with big reputations and finding the step up in competition too big - but not Riley. "I went through a lot of adversity in Cage Warriors. I feel like with some fighters it takes maybe 10 to 15 fights to

get a bit of adversity. I had it three fights in, where I'd been fighting the best," Riley tells BBC Sport. "So when that moment came against Grad it was nothing new, I've felt this before, it was easy work." On Saturday at UFC London, Riley faces American Michael Aswell Jr in a featherweight bout at O2 Arena. It is just Riley's second fight in the UFC but the contest serves as the co-main event, illustrating the star power the UFC believes the Liverpoolian can generate. For many fighters this could bring added pressure, but Riley is already acclimatising to the attention of being a star. Before his interview with BBC Sport, he jokes around with team-mates at his gym in Liverpool, throwing darts at a board he got a week prior during a social media skit at the PDC World Darts Championship. During his time in Cage Warriors, he was the face of the promo-

tion, headlining multiple shows for which fans would buy tickets mainly to watch him. He is already flourishing in the public eye, so performing at the 20,000-capacity O2 Arena does not bring added pressure. "I said to my coaches and people close to me, it feels no different to Cage Warriors in a sense," he says. "It could be in a park, on a street, in a little social club, in an arena with 20,000 people. Once the cage is shut, it doesn't feel any different." On Saturday at UFC London, Riley faces American Michael Aswell Jr in a featherweight bout at O2 Arena. It is just Riley's second fight in the UFC but the contest serves as the co-main event, illustrating the star power the UFC believes the Liverpoolian can generate. For many fighters this could bring added pressure, but Riley is already acclimatising to the attention of being a star.

Sania Mirza Returns Home For Eid After Tense Days In Dubai

Former India tennis star Sania Mirza has returned to Hyderabad for Eid after spending tense days in Dubai, where she lives with her son, amid security concerns and uncertainty in the region. Mirza said she decided to travel to India after hearing fighter jets overhead and learning that debris from an intercepted projectile had fallen close to her home in Al Barsha. "We heard fighter jets above our house and saw interceptions," Mirza said. "There was debris that fell around 400-500 metres from where we live." While she said she never felt directly unsafe, the uncertainty - especially with a young child at home - prompted the decision to leave temporarily. "You don't want your child going through that. He was asking questions," she said. "It didn't feel unsafe, but it did feel uncertain and unsettling." Mirza lives in Dubai for much of the year, where her seven-



year-old son Izhaan goes to school. She said the family will decide when to return depending on how the situation develops. "School is supposed to start next week, but we'll monitor the situation," she said. "I'm lucky that I can come back to Hyderabad and still have a home here with family." Eid homecoming Mirza said returning to Hyderabad during Ramadan is along-standing tradition. "I come every Eid," she said. "We try to spend the last week of Ramadan in Hyderabad because Ramadan here has to be experienced. It's always nice to be around family."

Australian Players Warned Not To Travel To This Pakistan City For PSL After Air-Strike On Afghanistan: Report

With 400 people killed in Kabul, Afghanistan, after airstrikes from Pakistan, the future of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) is in doubt. The problems for the PSL have increased after travel disruptions caused by the Iran-Israel-US war. The question now is whether the PSL will see its entire foreign contingent play in the league. Several Australian players like Steve Smith, David Warner, Marnus Labuschagne and Glenn Maxwell are set to play the 2026 PSL. The league will start on March 26, two days before the 2026 Indian Premier League (IPL) begins. Australian coaches like Tim Paine and Jason Gillespie are also part of the league. Now, according



to a report by Australian publication CODE Sports, as quoted by Times Now, the Australian government has granted permission for the players to travel to Pakistan, but they have been advised to stay away from Peshawar. The city is set to host a PSL match, but the Australian government has labelled it

a "do not travel" zone due to the conflict between Pakistan and Afghanistan. This puts a question mark on the fixture between Peshawar Zalmi and Rawalpindiz at the Imran Khan Cricket Stadium on March 28. Both teams have Australian players. Aaron Hardie is with Zalmi, while Jake Fraser-McGurk

was picked by Pindiz. The report added that Australian players have been assured evacuation by private flights if needed. Afghanistan players withdrew their names from the first-ever players' auction held ahead of the 11th edition of the Pakistan Super League (PSL). A franchise owner confirmed initially that players like Mujeeb Ur Rehman, Seddiquallah Atal, Mohammad Nabi, Waqar Salamkheil and Fazal Haq Farooqi had registered for the auction held in Lahore on Wednesday. But they withdrew their names following backlash over the direct signing of Afghanistan opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz by Peshawar Zalmi.

Rohit Sharma Engages In Hilarious Banter With Mumbai Indians Star After Hitting Him For A Six: "Catch It"

Indian cricket team star batter Rohit Sharma engaged in hilarious banter with his Mumbai Indians teammate Shardul Thakur after hitting him for a six during practice. During the net practice ahead of IPL 2026, Shardul delivered a length delivery on the middle stump and Rohit dispatched it for a massive six over long-on. Following the shot, the star batter hilariously mocked the bowler by saying - "Catch it... in the stands". Mumbai Indians will begin their campaign on March 29 with a match against Kolkata Knight Riders at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. Rohit Sharma has won six IPL titles, including one with Deccan Chargers and five



as captain of the Mumbai-based franchise, making him the joint most successful captain in the tournament's history. The veteran opener joined Mumbai in 2011 and became captain in 2013. Sharma then took MI to their maiden IPL title in his first season as captain and went on to lead MI for 11 years before he

was replaced by star all-rounder Hardik Pandya for the 2024 season. Rohit is also MI's top scorer and one of only four batters with more than 6000 runs in the IPL. Sharma's best IPL season with the bat was in 2013, when he scored 538 runs in MI's title-winning campaign. In 2015, Rohit was the Player of pre-season. He led Mumbai to win their second IPL title. MI went on to win the IPL in 2017, 2019 and 2020 under Rohit's leadership. On Monday, MI officially commenced pre-season training, marking the first session of the upcoming 2026 campaign. Head coach Mahela Jayawardene led the session on the ground, joined by bowling coaches Paras Mhambrey and Lasith Malinga, fielding coach Carl Hopkinson, and the full strength and conditioning and physiotherapy support teams, according to a release. Mahela Jayawardene, Head Coach, Mumbai Indians, said, "There's always something special about the first day of pre-season."

Indorama Ventures Open Golf Championship Tees Off With Record Prize Purse

The greens of Kalhaar Blues & Greens Golf Club in Ahmedabad came alive as the second edition of the Indorama Ventures Open Golf Championship teed off with a record prize purse of 300,000 US dollars, making it the highest prize money event ever hosted in Gujarat under the Professional Golf Tour of India. Jointly staged by Indorama Ventures and DP WORLD PGTI, the four-day tournament featured 143 players competing over four rounds on the challenging par-72 course, known for its 14 water hazards that demand precision and strategy. The field included some of India's top professionals such as Yuvraj Sandhu, Veer Ahlawat, Manu Gandas,



and Shaurya Bhattacharya, alongside a smaller but competitive international contingent. The global lineup, however, was impacted by the ongoing Iran-Israel war, which disrupted travel plans for many international golfers. Originally, more than 70 foreign players were expected, but only 12 international professionals managed to reach Ahmedabad.

Among them were players like Matthias Schwab, Clement Sordet, and Jhared Hack, adding global competition to the tournament. "It will be a great event. The prize money has increased and although the tournament has been affected by the ongoing tensions, it will still be a fantastic competition. India has a great future in golf."

Belgium Cricket League: Zaheer Khan Joins Antwerp Anchors As Co-Owner

Antwerp Anchors, a franchise in the EUT20 Belgium Cricket League, on Monday announced that former India fast bowling legend and World Cup winner Zaheer Khan has joined the club as a Co-Owner. One of the most celebrated left-arm pace bowlers of his generation, Zaheer brings to the Antwerp Anchors not only his iconic cricketing stature but a deep passion for growing the game in new markets - a mission central to the EUT20 league's founding vision. The EUT20 Belgium Cricket League will be played from June 4 to 14 in Brussels, marking a historic milestone for cricket in continental Europe. The tournament brings together



some of the most recognizable names in global T20 cricket, playing for franchise teams that represent Belgium's rich multicultural landscape. Zaheer Khan will be formally introduced as Co-Owner and Partner of the Antwerp Anchors in all official league communications, marketing materials,

and media engagements. His involvement extends beyond ceremonial - as a stakeholder, he will play an active role in shaping the franchise's cricketing identity and long-term direction. "Europe is a big canvas for cricket, and I genuinely believe we are only at the beginning of what is possible here."

"It's A Starting Point": Kimi Antonelli Sets Sights On More F1 Glory After Chinese GP Triumph



Kimi Antonelli said Monday that he is eyeing further Formula 1 success after the teenage Italian announced himself on the world stage with victory in the Chinese Grand Prix. The 19-year-old won his maiden GP from pole position on Sunday and was greeted by media and enthusiastic fans as he touched down in his native Bologna. "I'm so happy for the win and to have brought the Italian flag back onto the highest step of the podium," Antonelli told reporters. "It's a starting point and I hope I can keep going because we're on the right track. It won't be easy." Antonelli, who took over Lewis Hamilton's old seat at Mercedes at the start of the 2025 season, is the first Italian to win an F1 GP since Giancarlo Fisichella 20 years ago. He finished in front of Mercedes teammate George Russell and Ferrari's Hamilton after becoming the youngest

pole sitter in F1 history. And Antonelli even hinted that he was aiming to become the first Italian to win the drivers' championship since Alberto Ascari in 1953. "I've removed a bit of weight from my shoulders, I'm more relaxed. It's the kind of result which gives you strength and more awareness of what you can do," he said. "There's another, bigger step, which is the most difficult. I'm sure that if I do everything well we can get there." Antonelli's win was huge news in Italy and led to tennis superstar Jannik Sinner dedicating his Indian Wells triumph to F1's rising star. "I was really surprised by Sinner's homage, I sent him a message because I really appreciated it, it was really nice of him," he said. Antonelli sits four points behind Russell in the world championship standings with the Japanese GP coming up on March 29.

RADUCANU WITHDRAWS FROM MIAMI OPEN BECAUSE OF ILLNESS

Emma Raducanu has withdrawn from this week's Miami Open as she continues her recovery from a recent illness. The British number one became unwell while playing in the Middle East last month, and is still suffering with post-viral symptoms. She had a first-round bye for the event at Miami Gardens in Florida from 17 to 29 March. Raducanu decided to play last week's event in Indian Wells, and reached the third round before losing in just 52 minutes to the world number six Amanda Anisimova. The 23-year-old has 215 ranking points to

defend from reaching the quarter-finals in Miami last year, but has decided it would be best to take a break to recover fully. Raducanu beat both Anisimova and the then top 10 player Emma Navarro before losing to Jessica Pegula in three sets in last year's quarter-finals. Raducanu had already decided not to play in Great Britain's Billie Jean King Cup tie in Melbourne next month, but is currently scheduled to return to the tour in three weeks' time. She has entered the WTA event in Linz, which would be her first clay-court tournament of the season.

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Prominent Director V.V. Vinayak released the song 'Makkulu Makkulu College' from the film 'Pithapuram lo'



Directed by the renowned filmmaker Mahesh Chandra, the movie 'Pithapuramlo' features a lead cast comprising Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Prudhviraj, Kedar Shankar, Mani Chandana, Annapurnaamma, Sunny Akhil, Virat, Sai Praneeth, Srilu, Prathyusha, and Rehana. The film bears the subtitle 'Ala Modalaindi' (Thus It Began). Produced under the banner of Mahesh Chandra Cinema Team, the movie was bankrolled by Dundigalla Balakrishna, Akula Suresh Patel, and F.M. Murali (Godavari Kittayya). With music direction by G.C. Krish, the film's song—titled 'Makkulu Makkulu College-u, Yavvana Markata Garage-u'—was officially unveiled by the celebrated director V.V. Vinayak. The lyrics for this song were penned by Sriram Tapasvi. Speaking on the occasion,

Vinayak remarked, "I previously worked as a co-director under Mr. Chandra Mahesh for the film 'Cheppalani Undi'. Subsequently, I made my debut as a director with the movie 'Aadi'. Mr. Chandra Mahesh is a person I hold in very high regard. He was, in fact, one of the favorite directors of the legendary producer D. Ramanaidu. With 'Pithapuramlo', he has crafted a youthful entertainer that weaves together three distinct love stories. I wholeheartedly wish for this film to become a massive hit. Furthermore, I hope that the producers reap excellent profits from this venture." Director Chandra Mahesh stated, "We are releasing the trailer for this film later this week." "We will release the film in April. This will stand out as one of the finest films of my career," he stated.

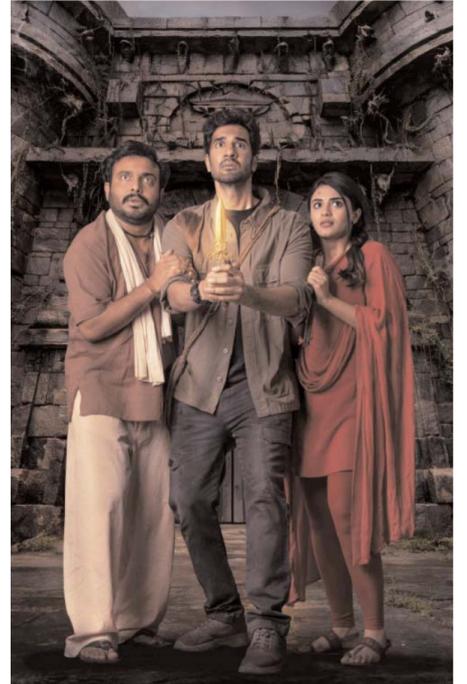
"RAKASA" TELUGU STATES RIGHTS BAGGED BY SRI LAKSHMI NARASIMHA MOVIE MAKERS IN A BIG-TICKET DEAL

The upcoming fantasy-comedy entertainer Rakasa has registered a major business milestone ahead of its theatrical release. The Telugu States theatrical rights of the film have been bagged by Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Movie Makers in a big-ticket deal, underlining the strong trade confidence the project has generated in the lead-up to its release. The development marks a significant step in the film's release journey, signalling that the industry sees considerable potential in the film's theatrical prospects. The deal further strengthens the film's expanding distribution network as the makers prepare for a wide global rollout. While Sri Lakshmi

Narasimha Movie Makers will be releasing the film across the Telugu States, RaaKaaSaa is simultaneously gearing up for a large-scale overseas launch. International distribution will be handled by Atharvana Bhadrakali Pictures, which is planning a release across more than 350 international screens, spanning key territories including the United States, the United Kingdom, Europe, Canada, and Australia. Distribution responsibilities for the crucial North America and United Kingdom markets will be handled by Prathyangira Cinemas, ensuring the film reaches audiences across major overseas hubs.

Overseas premieres are scheduled for April 2, 2026, a day ahead of the film's worldwide theatrical release. Beyond theatrical distribution, the film has also secured notable non-theatrical partnerships that further reinforce its market positioning. The digital streaming rights have been acquired by Netflix, while the audio rights have been bagged by Saregama Music, one of India's most reputed music labels. These alliances collectively add to the film's commercial ecosystem and underline the growing anticipation surrounding the project. The promotional campaign for Rakasa has also been generating strong digital traction. The film's

title glimpse has crossed 1.9 million views, while the teaser has moved past 2.8 million views, drawing considerable engagement online. The first single "Rapappa" quickly struck a chord with listeners, crossing 1.1 million views on YouTube. The recently released second single "Padhe Padhe", sung by Sindhuja Srinivasan, composed by Anudeep Dev, and written by lyricist Kittu Vissapragada, has also crossed the 1 million view mark. With both songs resonating strongly with listeners and continuing to gather views across platforms, the soundtrack of Rakasa is steadily emerging as a chart-buster album, reflecting the growing audience connect-



Deepthi Srirangam Crowned Miss Infinity of India 2026 at a Grand Finale Celebrating Beauty, Talent, and National Unity

Hyderabad, March, 2026: The much-anticipated Miss Infinity of India 2026 Grand Finale was successfully hosted in Hyderabad, marking the culmination of an inspiring four-month journey that began with nationwide auditions and witnessed participation from aspiring contestants across the country. The prestigious pageant received an overwhelming response with over 500-600 entries from across India. Following multiple rounds of auditions and screenings, the competition shortlisted the most promising participants, leading to the selection of exceptional finalists representing 30 states,

each embodying the culture, diversity, and spirit of their region. The grand finale featured multiple competitive rounds where contestants showcased their confidence, intelligence, talent, personality, and elegance, making it a spectacular display of beauty with purpose. After an intense and inspiring competition, Deepthi Srirangam from Andhra Pradesh was crowned Miss Infinity of India 2026, marking a remarkable milestone in her journey. Her victory stands as a testament to seven years of hard work, perseverance, and unwavering dedication, inspiring aspiring young women across the

country. The event was graced by renowned music composer Koti, who attended as the Chief Guest and extended his encouragement and support to the participants. The competition was evaluated by an esteemed jury panel comprising: Actress Mounika Kalapala, Actress Naksha Saran, Dr. Akshaya (Cosmetologist) J. Pranoo, Jawahar (Entrepreneur & Movie Producer) The visual grandeur and stage presentation of the evening were elevated under the creative direction of Show Choreographer Maneendra Kumar, whose expertise added elegance and

professionalism to the event. More than just a beauty pageant, Miss Infinity of India 2026 served as a powerful platform promoting women's empowerment, confidence, cultural diversity, and national unity. With participants from diverse backgrounds, the event beautifully reflected the essence of India—where diversity becomes strength. The organizing team expressed immense pride in successfully hosting the national-level event and reaffirmed their commitment to creating meaningful opportunities for young women to pursue their dreams with confidence and determination.



Universal Music India forms exclusive partnership with Anirudh Ravichander's new label Albuquerque Records

Universal Music India, a division of Universal Music Group, the world leader in music based entertainment, today announces an exclusive partnership with Albuquerque Records – the independent record label recently launched by singer-composer Anirudh Ravichander. The partnership will see Universal Music India and Albuquerque Records release future pop and hip hop music by Anirudh Ravichander, and future artists signed to the label. The first release under the label is planned to release early April featuring Anirudh. The global part-

nership will see Universal Music India work closely with Albuquerque Records to expand the influence of Anirudh's artistry. In time the label will become home to emerging pop and hip-hop artists from the region. Anirudh's track record over the last 15 years has been enviable and unparalleled. Debuting as a composer in 2012 with his global viral hit 'Why This Kolaveri Di', he has amassed over 13 billion audio streams across his over 770+ tracks, making him the No.1 South Indian artist on Spotify in terms of total streams. Additionally, he is one of the most coveted composers in the Tamil Original Soundtrack (OST)



space, with many global chart topping successes, including Hukum, Vaathi Coming, Arabic Kuthu, Monica, A23 Theme, Aaja Raja, Aya Sher and more.

Universal Music India has maintained a steady focus on the South Indian region, working closely with the rich artistry and culture which spans the four key

south language markets (Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada and Telugu). The arrangement with Anirudh, one of the region's most accomplished artists, will help further the presence of groundbreaking music from this region on the global stage. Additionally, it further expands Universal Music India's presence in pop and hip-hop, genres associated with some of the most influential names in the South Indian market. Commenting on the partnership, Devraj Sanyal, Chairman & CEO, Universal Music India, SVP Strategy, AMEA, said: 'Anirudh represents the future of Indian music bold,

original, and with enormous potential. At Universal Music India, identifying transformative talent is our superpower, and this partnership reflects that belief. We're proud to stand behind Anirudh as he embarks on his next chapter, and helps take more Indian music to the world.' Anirudh Ravichander commented: "Albuquerque Records was built to be an artist-backed, homegrown label focused on nurturing independent talent and taking their sound to the global stage. Universal Music India's leadership in pop and hip-hop made them the natural partner."

'VANAJEEVI RAMAIAH' BIOPIC INTO MULTIPLE LANGUAGES

The life story of Padma Shri awardee, Vanajeevi Daripalli Ramaiah, popularly known as 'Koti Plante Ramaiah', has come to the silver screen. The biopic 'Vanajeevi Ramaiah' based on the life of this great man who gave an environmental message to the society has been selected in the best short films category in the prestigious Gaddar Awards presented by the Telangana government. Produced by Nidigonda Naresh Kumar Prajapati, Bhusham Rabindranath and Lingampally Chandrasekhar, the film is directed by Nandi awardee Vemuganti and has music by Ballepalli Mohan. Recently ChitraUnit organized a special preview screening at Prasad Lab in Hyderabad. Telangana State Cultural Sarathi Chairperson Vennela, TJS Chief Professor



Kodandaram, political analysts V. Prakash, Tanneru Babu Rao, Naga Mahesh, film celebrities Tanikella Bharani, Tammareddy Bharadwaja and others were present and congratulated the film. The film team revealed that they have decided to release the film in Indian

languages as well. Director Vemuganti said, "We have made this film with the intention of serving the nature of Ramaiah who planted crores of plants to become an inspiration for the future generations. Soon we will bring this biopic in Indian languages as well." Music director

Ballepalli Mohan also expressed the same sentiment and said that the film is being dedicated as a tribute to nature lover Ramaiah. Daripalli Ramaiah of Reddypally village has earned special recognition for himself in environmental protection.

FARHANNA BHATT, AWEZ DARBAR'S DANCE AT IFTAR SPARKS OUTRAGE



PRIYA PRAKASH TURNS HONG KONG STREETS STYLISH



Priya Prakash Varrier, who has been waiting for a strong comeback for the last couple of years, is now gearing up for her upcoming Malayalam OTT web series Cousins and Kalyanams, which will stream on JioHotstar. While fans are curious about her next project, Priya is also keeping them engaged on social media with beautiful travel pictures from Hong Kong.