

OM NAMO VENKATESAYA



23- 03-2026
Total pilgrims: 81,483
Tonsures: 30,777
Hundi kanakalu: 5,12CR
Waiting Compartments..Out side line at Krishna Teja guest house.

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens) : 12-15H

TO BOOK YOUR ADS CALL

99484 80279, 73307 78889

CONGRESS FLAGS ‘SETBACK’ IF PAKISTAN MEDIATING IN US-IRAN TALKS



AUSTRALIA AND EU AGREE SWEEPING TRADE DEAL IN FACE OF GLOBAL UNCERTAINTY



YUKI BHAMBRI, MICHAEL VENUS LOSE TIGHT FIRST ROUND CONTEST IN MIAMI OPEN



MAMATA MEETS CHRISTIAN CLERGY, COMMUNITY LEADERS AHEAD OF EASTER AND BENGAL POLLS

Siliguri, March 24 (TSIT) West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday held a closed-door meeting with leaders of the Christian community at Chalsa in the northern part of the state, signalling an aggressive outreach to minority and tea-garden populations ahead of the Assembly elections. She also visited St. Lucy Church in Jalpaiguri district, and interacted with the leaders of the Christian community. Banerjee, who arrived at Chalsa in the Dooars region earlier in the day, was received by locals and members of the clergy, including church fathers from across the tea belt. During the interaction, Banerjee engaged with representatives of multiple churches from the plantation region, home to large tribal communities and thousands of women tea workers. Political observers view the meeting as a calculated move to consolidate support in a region that has traditionally witnessed intense multi-cornered contests. “I also had the opportunity to visit St. Lucy Church in Batabari, where I interacted with members of the community and the (church) fathers, and offered my prayers for peace, prosperity, and the well-being of all. I pray to the Almighty to guide us, protect us from forces of division and discrimination, and keep us united as one family,” she later said in a Facebook post.

INDIA 6TH MOST POLLUTED COUNTRY; UP’S LONI WORLD’S MOST POLLUTED CITY

New Delhi: India is the sixth most-polluted country when it comes to levels of fine particulate matter, a major air pollutant, while UP’s Loni is the most polluted city across the globe and Delhi is at the fourth spot, according to the World Air Quality Report, 2025. The eighth edition of the report published by IQAir, a Swiss air quality technology company, analysed data from monitoring stations across 9,446 cities in 143 countries, regions and territories. According to the report, Pakistan is the most polluted country, followed by Bangladesh, Tajikistan, Chad and Congo, with India at the sixth spot. Among the ten most polluted cities across the globe, five are from India—Loni, Byrnihat, Delhi, Ghaziabad and Ula. “The world’s 25 most polluted cities were all located in India, Pakistan and China, with India home to three of the four most polluted. Loni, India, was the most polluted city, recording an annual average PM2.5 concentration of 112.5 µg/m³—a nearly 23 per cent increase from 2024 and more than 22 times the WHO guideline,” the report said. Comparing this year’s report to the previous year, 54 countries experienced a rise in the annual average of PM2.5, 75 saw a drop, two remained unchanged and 12 were newly represented in this year’s dataset. “Only 14 per cent of global cities met the World Health Organization (WHO) annual PM2.5 guideline of 5 µg/m³, down from 17 per cent the previous year. Only thirteen countries/territories met the WHO annual average PM2.5 guideline—French Polynesia, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, Barbados, New Caledonia, Iceland, Bermuda, Réunion, Andorra, Australia, Grenada, Panama, Estonia,” the report said.

BRS mismanaged finances, Congress delivering welfare with accountability: Bhatti

Hyderabad TSIT BUREAU: Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, in his budget reply speech (Part-2) in the Assembly, launched a strong attack on the previous BRS government, accusing it of financial mismanagement, neglect of welfare schemes, and failure to support key sectors like agriculture, health, and education. He stated that the previous government failed to allocate adequate funds to Rajiv Aarogyasri and even delayed payments to hospitals. In contrast, the present Congress government has allocated 50,700 crore for welfare and is implementing schemes effectively without making “empty promises.”

On farm loan waivers, Bhatti Vikramarka said BRS had failed to fulfill its promise of 1 lakh waiver, releasing only partial amounts that covered interest but not the principal. He highlighted that the Congress government, immediately after assuming power, waived 2 lakh farm loans by depositing 20,600 crore directly into farmers’ accounts. The Deputy CM strongly criticized BRS for neglecting women’s empowerment, stating that the previous regime failed to support self-help groups. He announced that under “Indiramma Rajyam,” the government aims to create one crore women millionaires by extending 1 lakh crore in loans over five years, with 10,000 crore annually allocated



for interest-free loans.

He also pointed out that the previous government ignored centrally sponsored agricultural schemes, resulting in loss of central funds. The current government has deposited 3,000 crore to leverage 10,000 crore from the Centre and is ensuring the state’s 40% share to access remaining funds.

Highlighting financial discipline, Bhatti said the previous regime left thousands of crores in pending bills, including Rs.4,600 crore in employee dues. The present government has cleared an additional Rs.6,000–Rs.6,500 crore and is consistently clearing around Rs.730 crore every month. Medical reimbursements and

supplementary salaries have also been fully cleared.

In the education sector, he accused the previous government of neglecting students by delaying hostel and diet charges. The Congress government has increased diet charges by 40% and cosmetic charges by 200%, while ensuring timely fund releases.

Bhatti Vikramarka also criticized opposition members for disrupting Assembly proceedings, including tearing copies of the budget instead of engaging in constructive debate.

On housing, he said Rs.22,500 crore was allocated for Indiramma Housing Scheme, urging MLAs to speed up construction works,

assuring timely release of funds directly to beneficiaries.

The Deputy CM announced the establishment of Young India Integrated Residential Schools with Rs.200 crore investment per constituency, along with Telangana Public Schools to improve access to quality education. Skill development initiatives, including advanced technology centres and scholarships, are also being rolled out to boost employment opportunities.

He further noted that despite these initiatives, the opposition staged walkouts and protests, showing lack of interest in development and job creation.

Accusing the previous BRS government of burdening the state with massive debt due to reckless borrowing, Bhatti said debt servicing rose sharply from 7 crore in 2014–15 to 66,545 crore in 2024–25.

He emphasized that the Congress government is responsibly managing finances by repaying more than it borrows. Over two years, the government borrowed 1.59 lakh crore but repaid 1.85 lakh crore, reducing the debt burden.

Concluding his speech, Bhatti Vikramarka said the previous regime had weakened both the economy and governance, while the present government is committed to restoring fiscal discipline and delivering welfare with accountability.

CM Revanth Raises Concerns Over Delimitation, Seat Increase; Targets Centre and Opposition

Hyderabad TSIT BUREAU: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy made strong remarks on the proposed delimitation exercise and the reported 50% increase in Parliament seats, expressing concerns over its potential impact on southern states.

Chief Minister stated that any increase in Lok Sabha seats should be done in a manner that maintains balance between northern and southern states. He alleged that the Centre is showing discrimination against southern states and warned that increasing seats purely on a population basis would disadvantage the South.

Revanth Reddy said that a 50% increase in seats could allow northern states to dominate the formation of the Union government, thereby reducing the political significance of southern states. “This could lead to a situation where governments are formed without the need for support from southern states,” he remarked.

Calling the proposal a “final bullet,” the Chief Minister urged all political parties to come together and deliberate before moving forward with such a crucial decision. He also stated that the issue would be taken to the people during upcoming election campaigns in southern states.

On broader political issues, Revanth Reddy highlighted Telangana’s distinct historical and political identity, stating that its socio-political fabric differs from other regions. He recalled that people from the region had actively resisted oppressive



regimes in the past.

Commenting on national politics, the Chief Minister said that regional leaders from the South risk losing representation in national decision-making if current trends continue.

He also took aim at BRS leadership, describing former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao as only a political rival, while alleging internal conflicts within the BRS family over positions. He urged KCR to play an active role as Leader of the Opposition.

Referring to recent electoral outcomes, Revanth Reddy claimed that the BRS has suffered defeats in by-elections, panchayat, and municipal polls, and alleged setbacks even in key constituencies like Jubilee Hills. The Chief Minister expressed confidence that the Congress party would defeat both BRS and BJP in the upcoming elections and asserted that the people of Telangana would continue to support his leadership in the coming decade. On international matters, Revanth Reddy commented on India’s foreign relations, suggesting that stronger diplomatic engagement is needed to address global conflicts.

Women's reservation must ensure fair delimitation: CM Stalin



HIGHLIGHT POINT:

■ Stalin also expressed concern over the timing of the move, noting that introducing such a major policy decision when the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) is in force is unprecedented.

CHENNAI (TSIT): Chief Minister MK Stalin on Tuesday said that while he fully supports the implementation of women’s reservation, it must be carried out in a manner that ensures fair representation for all States. Referring to recent reports suggesting that women’s representation may be based on the 2011 Census, he said in a post on social media platform X that such a move would be contrary to the provisions of the Constitution (128th Amendment) Bill, 2023, which envisages implementation only after delimitation based on the Census conducted post-2026. He also expressed concern over the timing of the move, noting that introducing such a major policy decision when the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) is in force is unprecedented.

At the same time, Stalin reiterated that the DMK

has consistently supported women’s empowerment and would back women’s reservation without preconditions.

However, he stressed that the current proportional representation of States should not be altered under any circumstances.

“To ensure fairness, delimitation and redistribution of constituencies must include a constitutional safeguard guaranteeing the existing share of representation for at least the next 30 years,” he said. The Chief Minister also urged the Union government to convene a special session of Parliament in early June to take up constitutional amendments related to delimitation, increase in seats, and protection of States’ representation, alongside the implementation of women’s reservation.

Two LPG ships carrying 92,600 tonnes LPG on way to India from Hormuz: Govt

New Delhi, March 24 (TSIT): The government on Tuesday said that two LPG carriers, Pine Gas and Jag Vasant, have safely crossed the Strait of Hormuz and are on their way to India. Rajesh Kumar Sinha, Special Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, said during an inter-ministerial briefing that the Pine Gas vessel will arrive at New Mangalore port on March 27, which carries 45,000 metric tonnes of LPG. “Jag Vasant will arrive at Kandla port on March 26, carrying 47,600 metric tonnes of LPG. Twenty Indian-flagged vessels remain to the west of the Strait of Hormuz,” Sinha informed.

Earlier, ship-tracking data showed that the vessels Jag Vasant and Pine Gas were moving through the strategically important Strait of Hormuz after receiving approval for safe



passage. A full transit through the Strait of Hormuz typically takes around 14 hours, as per reports.

The development comes at a time when the Strait, a key global route for oil and gas shipments, has been severely affected by rising tensions following US and Israeli strikes in the region late February. Jag Vasant loaded LPG from Kuwait, while Pine Gas picked up its cargo from Ruwais in the UAE. They had remained stuck in the region due to the tensions before now being allowed to

move. Earlier this month, two other Indian-flagged LPG carriers successfully completed similar journeys through the Strait.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday emphasised the government’s plans and measures to insulate citizens from global oil shocks while highlighting the Centre’s endeavour to keep the global energy supply routes intact and operational. Briefing the Rajya Sabha on the West Asia crisis, PM Modi made a strong pitch for self-reliance in every sector, including global fuel transportation and maritime corridors. “Atmanirbharta is the only solution to insulate the country and countrymen from global shocks. Presently, about 90 per cent of Indian trade is carried out on foreign ships, making us dependent on foreign players,” he said.

PM Modi and US President Trump discuss West Asia situation, Strait of Hormuz

New Delhi, March 24 (TSIT) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump spoke over phone on Tuesday, discussing the ongoing situation in West Asia and the importance of keeping the Strait of Hormuz open.

“President Donald Trump just spoke with Prime Minister Modi. They discussed the ongoing situation in the Middle East, including the importance of keeping the Strait of Hormuz open,” US Ambassador to India, Sergio Gor wrote on X.

The conversation between both leaders comes amid the ongoing conflict in West Asia which began following the February 28 strikes carried out



by the United States and Israel on Iran, which resulted in the killing of Iran’s Supreme

Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. In response, Iran launched drone and missile

attacks targeting the US and Israeli facilities, regional capitals, and allied forces in West Asia. The conflict has added pressure on global markets and energy prices remain sensitive to developments in the region.

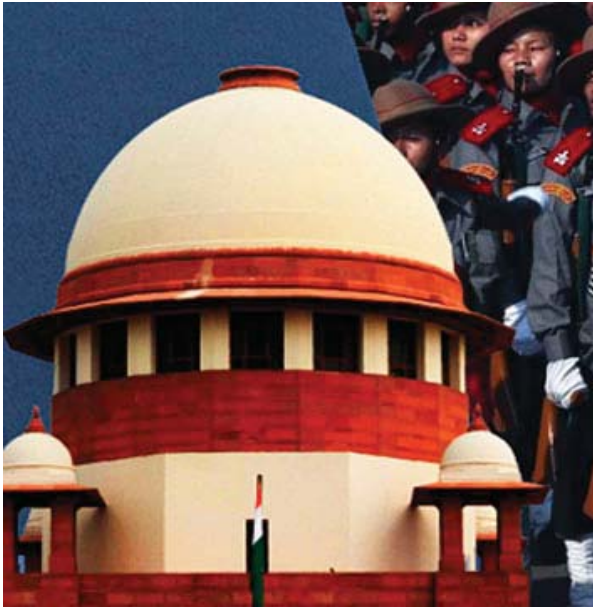
President Trump and PM Modi have shared a high-profile political partnership over the years, highlighted by large public events and diplomatic engagements. The two leaders have frequently praised each other publicly, emphasising cooperation in areas such as trade, defence, and strategic partnerships between the United States and India.

SC grants pension relief to women SSC officers denied permanent commission

New Delhi, Mar 24: In a landmark ruling, the Supreme Court of India on Tuesday held that women Short Service Commission (SSC) officers in the armed forces who were denied Permanent Commission (PC) due to arbitrary assessments are entitled to full pensionary benefits.

A bench led by Chief Justice Surya Kant, along with Justices Ujjal Bhuyan and N. Kotiswar Singh, invoked its extraordinary powers to ensure complete justice, ruling that such officers would be “deemed” to have completed the mandatory 20 years of qualifying service for pension, even if they were released earlier.

The verdict came on a batch of petitions, including those filed by Sucheta Edan and others, challenging denial of Permanent Commission following policy changes in 2019 and earlier decisions of the Armed Forces Tribunal.



The court observed that Annual Confidential Reports (ACRs) of women officers were often graded casually under the assumption that they would not be considered for long-term career progression. “This adversely affected their overall merit,” the bench

noted. Addressing cases across the Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force, the court found that criteria introduced in 2019—such as service length and performance benchmarks—were implemented hastily, particularly in the Air Force,

depriving officers of a fair chance.

Exercising powers under Article 142 of the Constitution of India, the court directed that, as a one-time measure, all SSC women officers considered for Permanent Commission by selection boards between 2019 and 2021 shall be deemed to have completed 20 years of service. Pension will be calculated accordingly, with effect from November 1, 2025. However, the bench declined to order reinstatement, citing concerns over operational effectiveness, while making it clear that such considerations cannot be used to deny financial benefits. The Centre had earlier defended its policy as gender-neutral, stating that elimination of officers is part of maintaining a youthful profile in the armed forces.

PDP MLA proposes new divisions, 16 districts in J&K reorganisation Bill



Srinagar, Mar 24: In a move that could reshape the administrative structure of Jammu and Kashmir, People's Democratic Party MLA Waheed Ur Rehman Para has introduced a Private Member Bill in the Legislative Assembly proposing the creation of two new divisions and 16 districts. The proposed Jammu and Kashmir Territorial Administrative Reorganisation Bill, 2026 seeks to establish a structured legislative framework for carving out administrative units, moving away from what it describes as ad-hoc executive decisions that have historically determined boundaries in the region. The Bill comes amid the Union Territory's ongoing

transition following the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019. At its core, the proposal calls for the creation of two new divisions—Chenab Division with headquarters at Doda and Pir Panjal Division with headquarters at Rajouri—potentially ending the long-standing two-division system of Jammu and Kashmir.

It also proposes 16 new districts, equally divided between Kashmir and Jammu regions. In Kashmir, the suggested districts include Tral-Awantipora, Ashmuqam-Pahalgam, Beerwah, Sopore, Handwara, Gurez, Tangdhar-Karnah and Norabad. In Jammu, eight “hill districts” have been proposed, including Nowshera, Bhadarwah,

Banihal, Thatri, Akhnour, Billawar, Kotranka and Mendhar. The draft emphasises the need to bring governance closer to people in remote and mountainous areas, citing challenges such as difficult terrain, scattered populations and poor connectivity. While framed as an administrative reform, the proposal carries political significance, as demands for separate divisions in regions like Chenab Valley and Pir Panjal have persisted for years, with local leaders alleging marginalisation under the current system.

The Bill also outlines a transparent process for reorganisation, including consultations with District Development Councils, inviting public feedback, and placing reasons for

changes before the Assembly. It empowers the government to reorganise sub-divisions and tehsils based on factors such as population, terrain and accessibility. Although the Financial Memorandum states that the Bill does not involve immediate expenditure, the creation of new administrative units would require substantial investment in infrastructure and staffing over time.

Private Member Bills rarely become law, especially in a Union Territory where key powers rest with the Centre. However, the move is seen as politically significant, signalling an attempt by elected representatives to assert a greater role in shaping governance structures in Jammu and Kashmir.

Delhi Assembly budget session begins with ‘Kheer Ceremony’



New Delhi, Mar 24: The budget session of the Delhi Legislative Assembly commenced on Monday with the traditional ‘Kheer Ceremony’, marking the formal start of proceedings.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta reiterated her government's commitment to the vision of a ‘Developed Delhi, Green Delhi’, stating that the upcoming budget would play a key role in meeting the

aspirations of nearly 30 million residents of the national capital.

She said the ceremony symbolises prosperity, good fortune, and a commitment to public welfare, values that would be reflected in the forthcoming budget.

The event witnessed participation from various sections of society, including farmers, students, teachers, doc-

tors, members of the transgender community, women drivers, and media personnel. Farmers also honoured the chief minister with a traditional turban. Addressing the gathering, Gupta said the government's second budget would accelerate development in Delhi, strengthening infrastructure and enhancing the overall quality of life for its residents.

Murder in Raidighi triggers political clash amid personal motive claims

Kolkata, Mar 24: The discovery of a BJP worker's body in Raidighi, located in South 24 Parganas, led to heightened tension across the region on Tuesday. While the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has alleged a politically motivated killing, police have taken a different stance, arresting the victim's wife and her alleged partner based on a family complaint.

The deceased, Kishor Majhi (39), held the position of vice-president of BJP's Booth No. 216. The incident occurred in Mena village under the Dighirpar Bakultala Gram Panchayat within the Raidighi Assembly constituency.

On Monday night, locals found Majhi's severely injured body near a pond close to his residence. He was immediately taken to the Raidighi Rural Hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

Police reached the scene soon after being alerted, recovered the body, and sent it for post-mortem. Early findings indicate that the killing may be linked to a personal dispute rather than political rivalry.

During the investigation, three individuals were initially detained. Later, authorities arrested Majhi's wife, Anima Das, along with her alleged partner, Gobinda Haldar. The arrests followed a formal

complaint lodged by the victim's father. A relative of the deceased stated that ongoing domestic conflict, allegedly due to an extramarital relationship involving Haldar, had created tension within the household. The family dismissed any political angle in the case. Bishwa Chand Thakur, Superintendent of Police for the Sundarbans district, confirmed that both accused are being questioned. Despite the police's findings, the incident has ignited a political confrontation. BJP leader Palash Rana visited Majhi's residence and accused authorities of attempting to downplay the case. He claimed that the police and local All India Trinamool Congress leadership were misrepresenting the murder as a personal dispute to suppress the truth.

In response, Bapi Haldar of the Trinamool Congress rejected the allegations, asserting that the incident stemmed from a “love triangle” and accusing the BJP of exploiting the situation for political gain. As investigations continue, the case remains at the center of both criminal inquiry and political debate in the region.

Congress flags ‘setback’ if Pakistan mediating in US-Iran talks



New Delhi, Mar 24: The Indian National Congress on Tuesday said reports suggesting Pakistan may be acting as an intermediary between the United States, Israel and Iran would be a “severe setback” for India if proven true.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said multiple international media reports indicate Pakistan's role in facilitating communication between Washington and Tel Aviv on one side and Tehran on the other. “If these reports are true, they represent a severe setback and rebuff to India,” Ramesh said, criticising the government's foreign policy approach. He claimed that despite India's “undoubted mili-

tary successes” in Operation Sindoor, Pakistan has performed better diplomatically in the aftermath, gaining renewed global relevance despite earlier internal and external challenges. Ramesh also alleged growing proximity between Pakistan's establishment and US President Donald Trump, citing recent engagements with Pakistan's military leadership. The Congress leader further criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi, particularly over his recent visit to Israel shortly before the escalation of hostilities, calling it a “disastrous choice” that weakened India's potential role as a mediator.

Nitish Kumar re-elected JD(U) chief for fifth straight term



Patna, Mar 24: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has been re-elected as the national president of Janata Dal (United) for a fifth consecutive term. The election was held on Tuesday, March 24, where Kumar was elected unopposed as no other candidate filed nomi-

nations for the post. The party had set a deadline of 2.30 pm for withdrawal of nominations, and with no challengers in the fray, his continuation as president was confirmed. According to the party, national election officer Aneel Prasad Hegde was set to issue the official certificate of election to Kumar later in the day. Kumar's re-election comes just days after he was elected as a member of the Rajya Sabha. Several senior party leaders, including working president Sanjay Kumar Jha, Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh, and Bihar minister Shrawan Kumar, are expected to be present during the formal

PM Modi calls for state vigilance as West Asia crisis raises concerns

New Delhi, Mar 24: Narendra Modi on Tuesday urged state governments to strengthen monitoring systems for migrant workers and vulnerable communities, warning that the ongoing conflict in West Asia could pose serious challenges for India in the months ahead. Addressing the Rajya Sabha, the Prime Minister stressed the need for coordinated action between the Centre and states to effectively manage the potential fallout of the crisis.

He highlighted that during periods of uncertainty, economically weaker sections—including labourers and migrant workers—are often the hardest hit. To mitigate this, he called on states to ensure timely delivery of benefits under the PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana and to establish dedicated mechanisms for tracking and addressing the needs of vulnerable groups. Modi also raised concerns about the possibility of black marketing and hoarding, urging authorities to remain vigilant and respond swiftly to any such incidents to protect consumers. Emphasising the importance of unity, he called for a “Team India” approach to maintain economic stability and growth despite global uncertainties. He encouraged states to continue implementing reforms and take proactive steps to navigate the evolving situation.

Drawing parallels with India's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Prime Minister said that cooperation between the Centre and states had previously ensured effective crisis management, from testing and vaccination to maintaining essential supplies. However, he noted that the current situation is dynamic and requires a different strategy. He urged both governments and citizens to remain patient, alert, and prepared, as the effects of the conflict could be prolonged.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE				
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Whereas				
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICI 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 herein below in exercise 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 ICI Home Finance Company Limited.				
The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.				
Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of property/ Date of Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Borra Venkata Anantha Lakshmi (Borrower), Borra Eswar Kumar Yadav (Co-Borrower), DNo 7-2-26/3 Kodeti Vari Street Narasayya Agraharam Bhimavaram Andhra Pradesh- 534201. LHRJY00001513902	All That Part and Parcel of D. No. 3-123/6A, Flat No. 202, Asmt No. 526, Hsc No. 000723 Double Bed Room, Admeasuring of 484 Sqyds at Sri Sai Residency, Approved By Gorgnanamudi GP Dt. 9-9-2016, Pr No. 13/2016 Approved Plan Proceeding No. Bps 2019. Wes/ pal/gor/ 37967 As Approved Plan Stilt+G+3Upper Floors Situated at Gorganamudi Village Palakoderu Mandal, Bheemavaram Municipality, West Godavari Andhra Pradesh 534123. Bounde By- North By: Common Corridor, South By: Open To Sky, East By: Open To Sky, West By: Flat No.201/ Date of Possession-20-Mar-26	01-01-2026 Rs. 30,74,620/-	Rajahmundry
2.	Borra Venkata Anantha Lakshmi (Borrower), Borra Eswar Kumar Yadav (Co-Borrower), DNo 7-2-26/3 Kodeti Vari Street Narasayya Agraharam Bhimavaram Andhra Pradesh 534201. LHRJY00001514340	All That Part and Parcel of D. No. 3-123/6A, Flat No. 202, Asmt No. 526, Hsc No. 000723 Double Bed Room, Admeasuring of 484 Sqyds At Sri Sai Residency, Approved By Gorgnanamudi GP Dt. 9-9-2016, Pr No. 13/2016 Approved Plan Proceeding No. Bps2019. Wes/ Pal/ Gor/37967 as Approved Plan Stilt+G+3Upper Floors Situated at Gorganamudi Village Palakoderu Mandal, Bheemavaram Municipality, West Godavari Andhra Pradesh 534123. Bounde By- North By: Common Corridor, South By: Open To Sky, East By: Open To Sky, West By: Flat No.201/ Date of Possession-20-Mar-26	01-01-2026 Rs. 1,28,208.06/-	Rajahmundry
The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(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 25, 2026, Place: West Godavari			Authorized Office, ICI Home Finance Company Limited	

EDITORIAL

The \$2 Trillion Wipeout: How The Market Exposed Gold's Biggest Lie

A recent collapse of gold and silver prices, erasing nearly \$2 trillion in market value within hours, appears to defy macroeconomic logic but should not be read as some market anomaly. It can be better understood as a structural inflexion point on how volatile markets are eroding trust and faith in secured instruments of investment. When geopolitical logic allows a surge in safe-haven demand amid one of the sharpest military escalations in West Asia seen in decades, precious metals witnessed a violent sell-off. This inversion of historical behaviour signals a deeper transition: the displacement of geopolitics by monetary liquidity as the primary driver of global asset prices. From War Premium to Rate Shock The immediate trigger was geopolitical. The February 28 US-Israel strikes on Iranian infrastructure, combined with threats to disrupt the Strait of Hormuz, which carries nearly 20% of global oil and LNG flows, pushed Brent crude above \$119 per barrel, a surge of around \$50 per barrel. Historically, such conditions would generate a "gold-to-war" rally. Instead, markets processed the shock through a different channel. Rising energy prices fuel inflation, prompting expectations of tighter monetary policy; this drives up real interest rates, increasing the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding assets like gold and consequently exerting downward pressure on its price. This transmission mechanism reflects a regime shift. Oil no longer drives gold directly; it operates through central bank reaction functions. Elevated crude prices reinforced expectations of a "higher-for-longer" rate environment, effectively neutralising gold's inflation-hedge appeal. Empirically, the divergence was stark: gold fell approximately 3.8% intraday despite escalating conflict, silver declined over 7%, reflecting both financial and industrial stress, gold posted consistent weekly declines throughout the escalation period. The safe-haven function did not merely weaken; it failed under conditions where it should have been strongest.

Yield-Bearing Safety Replaces Gold
The more fundamental driver lies in the transformation of global monetary conditions. The nomination of Kevin Warsh as Federal Reserve Chair introduced a credible expectation of aggressive quantitative tightening and sustained policy rigidity. Markets rapidly repriced. American 10-year yields rose to around 4.3% (more than half a year high), 30-year yields approached 4.8%, signalling long-term inflation persistence, rate hike probabilities re-entered forward curves for late 2026.

This redefined the concept of safety.
Gold, a non-yielding asset, must now compete against sovereign instruments offering 4-5% nominal returns. The opportunity cost is no longer theoretical - it is quantifiable and immediate. Safety has shifted from "store of value" to "store of value with yield". In such a regime, even geopolitical crises fail to offset the gravitational pull of real returns. Capital allocation becomes a function of yield differentials, not fear. The Mechanics of Collapse While macro conditions explain direction, they do not explain velocity. The scale of the \$2 trillion wipeout reflects market structure fragility, particularly the role of leverage. The 2025 rally during which gold rose over 60% was accompanied by elevated speculative positioning (over 60,000 COMEX long contracts in silver) and record ETF inflows of around 4,000 tonnes, as well as increased use of leveraged derivatives and algorithmic strategies. When prices began to correct, the system transitioned from equilibrium to cascade - technical breakdown below key levels (\$4,708 Fibonacci; \$4,400 psychological), margin calls on leveraged positions, forced liquidations across futures and ETFs, liquidity withdrawal, creating "air pockets" in order books. Exchanges amplified the process; margin requirements for silver were raised by over 15%, forcing additional deleveraging.

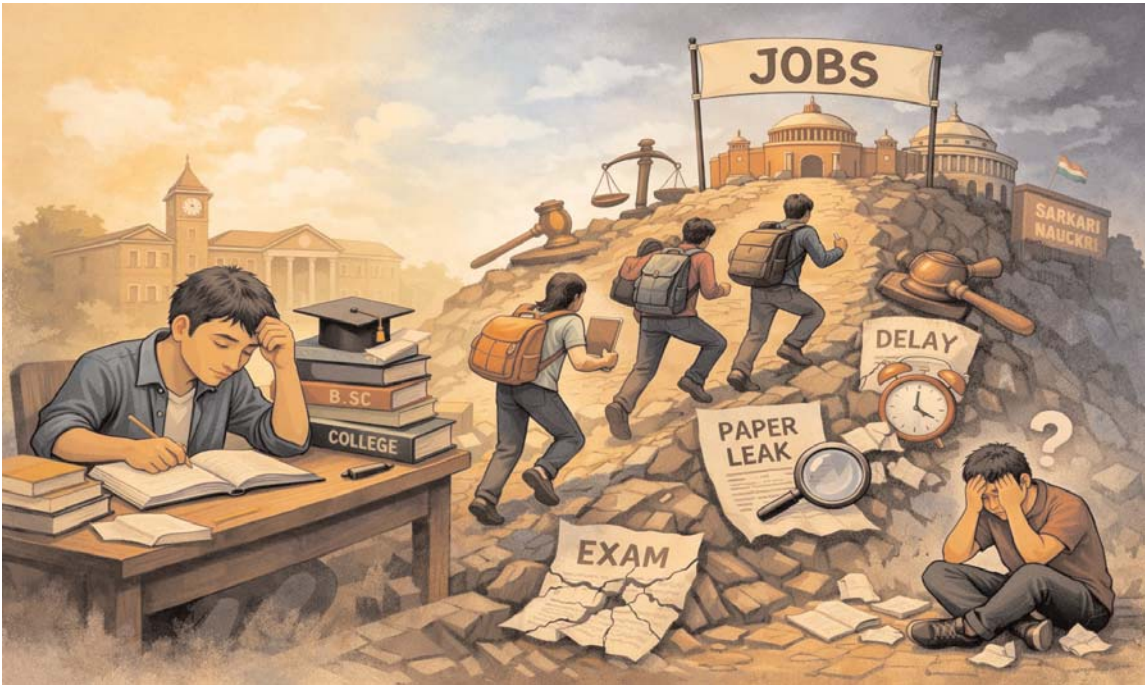
Edit

LOSING EDUCATION IN THE RACE FOR A JOB



PRIYANKA SAURABH

Today's youth is experiencing a time when opportunities abound, but the path to access them has become more complex and competitive than ever before. The increasing number of competitive exams, their lengthy procedures, and uncertain results, particularly for government jobs, have left both students and parents deeply confused. The CET (Common Eligibility Test) was presented as a major hope in this context, but the experiences of the past years raise serious questions about this hope. In Haryana, the examination process failed to gain the desired momentum during the five-year period between 2019 and 2024. As a result, only one examination was fully completed during this period, and some related recruitments are still entangled in judicial proceedings. Even in the 2024-25 cycle, only the preliminary examination has been conducted so far. Given the slow pace at which the entire process is progressing, it is not unfounded to fear that the final results may take a long time to be released. But this problem isn't limited to Haryana. The situation with government recruitment processes is more or less similar in almost all states. Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and even the northeastern states have consistently faced problems such as delayed recruitment exams, paper leaks, judicial disputes, and delayed results. In many states,



exams aren't held for years, and when they are, the process is so lengthy that it tests both the age and patience of candidates. This has a profound impact on the mental, educational, and social lives of young people. Every year, millions of students graduate and seek employment, but the number of available government positions remains extremely limited. For example, if millions of candidates across the country appear for a single exam, the number of those selected is limited to thousands. In such a situation, considering government employment as the ultimate goal and relying solely on it becomes an extremely risky decision. The most worrying aspect of this entire scenario is the rapid spread of a "non-attendance" culture. A trend is being observed in almost every state of the country, where students are avoiding regular college and university classes in the name of preparing for competitive exams. They assume that to achieve success, they must completely break away from the traditional education system. But this thinking is gradually proving detrimental to

their future. In fact, college life isn't just about earning a degree. It's a time when a student's intellectual, social, and emotional development takes place. Class participation, interaction with teachers, group discussions, presentations, and co-curricular activities—all of these contribute to the development of a person's personality. When students lose these opportunities, they lose out not only on subject knowledge but also on essential life skills. Another serious side effect of the non-attendance culture is that students' academic foundations weaken. They become focused solely on passing exams rather than delving deeply into the subject matter. Often, after failing competitive exams, they are left with neither a strong academic record nor any alternative career options. As a result, they lose confidence and suffer from mental stress. It's also worth noting that today's world is extremely technologically advanced. Digital platforms have revolutionized education. Online coaching, video lectures, digital notes, test series, and virtual classrooms are available in every corner of

the country. Therefore, the idea that it's necessary to drop out of college to prepare for competitive exams is completely misguided. Students can prepare effectively alongside their regular studies. By adopting a balanced and practical strategy, students can make the best use of the three years of their undergraduate education. In the first year, they should focus on their studies and engage with general knowledge, newspapers, and current affairs. This strengthens their intellectual foundation. In the second year, they can strengthen their grasp of subjects like mathematics, reasoning, and language. They can also clarify their basic concepts through NCERT books. By the final year, they should make a clear decision whether they want to pursue higher education or pursue competitive exams. Higher education and private sector opportunities are also rapidly expanding across various states in the country. New doors are opening for youth in fields such as IT, management, healthcare, startups, skill-based jobs, and freelancing.

What Iran Might Really Demand From Trump Before It Backs Down

As the fourth week of the US-Israeli military campaign against Iran unfolds in March 2026, what is emerging is not merely another episode of kinetic escalation in the Middle East, but a familiar interplay between coercion and diplomacy that has long defined Washington's engagement with Tehran. President Donald Trump, never one to shy away from grand declarations, has signalled movement toward what he calls a "comprehensive resolution" even as the fog of war continues to obscure both intent and outcome.

The trajectory to this moment has been predictable in its broad contours. Deadlines issued in 2025 demanding Iran's complete nuclear rollback - cessation of enrichment, dismantling of infrastructure, and abandonment of proxy networks - were never likely to be met on American terms. The subsequent resort to force, led by Israeli strikes and reinforced by US strikes on nuclear and leadership targets, reflects a classic escalation ladder: diplomacy first as an ultimatum, then as justification for military action. Tehran, for its part, has stayed consistent in its denials of nuclear weapon ambitions even as its regional posture and capabilities have drawn sustained scrutiny.

The Choreography Around The Talks
Trump's announcement on March 23 of "very good and productive conversations" with Iranian representatives, alongside claims of near-total agreement, must be read less as a breakthrough and more as a tactical pause. The much-touted 15-point framework, still shrouded in secrecy, appears to follow the logic of maximalist demands softened by the promise of sanc-



tions relief and normalisation. Nuclear disarmament remains non-negotiable in Washington's framing, with Trump underscoring that Iran "is not going to have a nuclear weapon" - a reiteration that collapses diplomacy into a singular objective. Yet, what is equally striking is the choreography around the negotiations. The emergence of Pakistan as a mediator, with a high-level summit in Islamabad reportedly involving figures such as Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, reflects a pragmatic widening of diplomatic channels. The involvement of familiar Trump-era interlocutors like Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner suggests that back-channel diplomacy remains central to this effort, even as public rhetoric oscillates between conciliation and coercion. At its core, this approach is vintage Trump: a fusion of "maximum pressure" with transactional deal-making. Iran is cast as a long-standing destabiliser, its nuclear ambitions framed as imminent and existential, particularly for Israel. Military action, in this narrative, becomes both punitive and preventative - degrading capabilities while forcing Tehran to the negotiating table before any potential "breakout" moment. The

subsequent offer of a deal is positioned as magnanimity, though it leaves little room for Iranian agency beyond capitulation.

What's At Stake
The proposed framework, if it indeed mandates the physical removal of enriched uranium, possibly with external facilitation, marks a significant escalation in demands compared to earlier nuclear agreements. It also raises questions about sovereignty and enforceability that Tehran is unlikely to concede easily. Iran's outright denial of formal talks underscores this tension, while scepticism in Israeli strategic circles points to fears of premature de-escalation that could dilute hard-won military gains. Should the framework hold - and that remains a considerable "if" - the implications would be far-reaching. A verifiable dismantling of Iran's nuclear programme, coupled with constraints on its proxy networks, would significantly alter the regional balance. Energy markets, long hostage to instability in the Strait of Hormuz, could stabilise, offering relief to a jittery global economy. For Washington, it would represent a reaffirmation of non-proliferation credibility

without the burdens of prolonged military engagement.

What Failure Could Look Like
But the risks are equally stark. Iran's strategic culture, shaped by resilience under pressure, suggests that any pause may well be tactical. Failure of talks could trigger intensified strikes on critical infrastructure, asymmetric retaliation across the region, and further volatility in energy flows. Divergences between Washington and Jerusalem, particularly if speed is prioritised over strategic depth, could complicate alliance dynamics. Moreover, the broader signal this sends to other aspirant nuclear states remains ambiguous: coercion may deter, but inconsistency could just as easily embolden. What is being witnessed is not a clean pivot from war to peace, but a continuation of conflict through different means. Trump's 15-point framework embodies this duality - an attempt to translate battlefield leverage into diplomatic closure. Whether it delivers a genuine reset or merely a temporary lull will depend not on rhetoric but on the hard realities of verification, compliance, and mutual distrust.

'UNDECLARED EMERGENCY' IN BENGAL



After you read this column, you may want to Google Article 356 (1) of the Constitution of India. To put it in a sentence, under this Article, the Union government can assume powers and responsibilities of a state legislature, take over the working of the state and govern it through the office of the President. Which is why it is also known as President's Rule. In June 2021, Narendra Modi had tweeted, "The Dark Days of Emergency can never be forgotten. The period from 1975 to 1977 witnessed a systematic destruction of institutions. Let us pledge to do everything possible to strengthen India's democratic spirit, and live up to the values enshrined in our Constitution".

Empty words.
In the last week, a Chief Minister and two former Chief Ministers have spoken up. Omar Abdullah: "These sweeping transfers only happen in non-BJP ruled states & especially in West Bengal but that's no surprise. However, West Bengal will

once again prove what I have always believed to be true - officers don't win elections for political parties, the leaders of political parties do. No amount of effort by the Election Commission to gerrymander will change the results. Come counting day Mamata Didi will win a thumping majority". Akhilesh Yadav: "The co-spiracy the BJP is plotting by removing the DG of police, other senior officials in West Bengal, will not work. The people will vote for Mamata Banerjee". Arvind Kejriwal: "The BJP has turned the Election Commission into its weapon to win elections through deceit. What is happening today in West Bengal is exactly what happened in the Delhi elections as well. Names were struck off the voter list, the police administration gave free rein to the BJP's thuggery, and the entire administration was engaged in ensuring the BJP's victory. The very fabric of democracy was torn apart. Today, Mamata Didi too is fighting to save democracy. In this struggle, we stand with her". Then, on the

floor of Parliament, your columnist said: "The Home Ministry should ensure they perform (their duties) in Parliament. But currently, the Home Ministry is more interested in doing an 'undeclared Emergency' in Bengal". All this is not hollow rhetoric. Here is what is happening. Transfer of senior officials of the state government: Within hours of the announcement of the elections in Bengal, the Election Commission of India (ECI) issued unilateral directions to transfer senior officials, without any rationale or explanation. These included the Chief Secretary, the Home Secretary, the DGP, and hundreds of other officials from different departments at various levels. All this being done, without consulting the state government, is both unusual and unprecedented. Another example of the ECI being a law unto themselves. Electors, candidates under 'adjudication': At the time of writing, there is still no clarity on who is eligible to vote, and who is not. 60 lakh names in Bengal are up in

the air. Even some candidates are in this list of 'to be adjudicated'. With elections weeks away, when will all these pending claims be resolved? Why is the right of a genuine citizen to vote, or stand for election, under threat? Deployment of 2 lakh central forces: 480 companies of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) have already been deployed in Bengal. Indications are that the ECI will deploy another 2,000 companies. This will take the total number of CAPF personnel to over two lakh. 700 companies will be retained in the state, even after polling is completed. Unprecedented. Model Code of Conduct (MCC): The MCC comes into effect immediately after the announcement of election dates. Consider this: On 14 March, Narendra Modi visits Bengal and announces developmental projects. On March 14, Narendra Modi visits Assam and announces developmental projects. On March 15, the ECI announces the dates for the elections. What a glorious coincidence!

COMPLAINT FILED OVER FIFA WORLD CUP TICKET PRICES



Football Supporters Europe has filed a formal complaint against Fifa over "excessive ticket prices" at this summer's World Cup. FSE, along with Euroconsumers, said football's world governing body has "abused its monopoly position" in setting prices for the tournament, which begins on 11 June. In December Fifa introduced a small number of "more affordable" \$60 (£45) tickets for all 104 matches following widespread criticism

of its pricing structure. FSE has called on Fifa to abandon dynamic pricing - variability based on demand - and freeze prices for the April release of tickets. It also demanded greater transparency for fans when purchasing tickets, with at least 48-hour notice of availability in each category and where those seats will be. BBC Sport has contacted Fifa for comment. The complaint by FSE and Euroconsumers to the European Commission

says Fifa has taken advantage of its position "to impose excessive ticket prices and opaque and unfair purchasing conditions and processes on European fans". It said in a statement: "Fifa holds a monopoly over ticket sales for the 2026 World Cup and has used that power to impose conditions on fans that would never be acceptable in a competitive market." FSE and Euroconsumers alleged "six

Highlights

■ Football Supporters Europe has filed a formal complaint against Fifa over "excessive ticket prices" at this summer's World Cup. FSE, along with Euroconsumers, said football's world governing body has "abused its monopoly position" in setting prices for the tournament

specific abuses" of Fifa's position. They include accusing Fifa of bait advertising - illegal under EU consumer law - with its later release of cheaper tickets "so scarce" that it advertised a price "not genuinely available". About 400 £45 tickets have been made available for England and Scotland's group matches. FSE director Ronan Evain said the group had no option but to approach the European Commission because of Fifa's "failure to engage in meaningful consultation". "Fifa point to their unconfirmed sales figures as validation of their unfair

ticket practices, while the reality is they leave loyal fans with no other choice - pay up or lose out," Evain said. According to Fifa, almost seven million tickets have been made available for the tournament, which will be co-hosted by the US, Canada and Mexico. For one person to attend eight matches - one in each round - at the World Cup, it will cost about £5,225 in the lowest price range, £8,580 in the middle tier and £12,350 for the most expensive tickets. In 2022 it would have cost £1,466, £2,645 or £3,914 respectively, although that was for seven games.

WWE RAW, MARCH 23 RESULTS: OBA FEMI BEATS BROCK LESNAR AGAIN, SETH ROLLINS ARRESTED



The WWE Raw on 23 March 2026 produced another dramatic night of action and storyline twists, as the powerhouse Oba Femi once again outlasted Brock Lesnar to assert his absolute dominance. In a display of sheer physical force, Femi slipped out of an F5 attempt by Lesnar and clotheslined "The Beast Incarnate" out of the ring for the second consecutive week. This established Femi as a legitimate threat to Lesnar's legacy as they hurtle towards their inevitable clash

at WrestleMania 42. The biggest development from the night came in the form of Seth Rollins, who was arrested by local authorities after clashing with Paul Heyman. Despite a standing restraining order meant to protect the "Wise Man," Rollins bypassed security by appearing atop the commentary desk. After landing a swift punch on Heyman, "The Architect" was tackled by police, cuffed, and led out of the TD Garden in Boston, leaving his immediate future in a cloud of

legal uncertainty. In the mid-card, Penta successfully retained the Intercontinental Championship against Dominik Mysterio. The match was defined by outside chaos as Stephanie Vaquer attacked Liv Morgan at ringside, while a returning Finn Balor distracted Mysterio by brawling with JD McDonagh. This allowed Penta to capitalise on the confusion, securing the pinfall and ensuring the title remained firmly around his waist.

Who Is Kal Somani: US-Based Entrepreneur Who Bought IPL Franchise Rajasthan Royals In Record-Breaking Deal

A consortium headed by US-based entrepreneur Kal Somani acquired IPL franchise Rajasthan Royals for a record-breaking amount of 1.63 billions dollars (more than Rs 15,000 crore). According to reports, Somani was backed by American businessman Rob Walton, of the Walmart family, and the Hamp family. The sale made Rajasthan Royals the costliest franchise in the history of IPL and the sale will come into effect after IPL 2026. Somani was already an investor in RR since 2021. "We see huge potential with this investment, and we are excited for the future of the IPL," he had said at the time. The franchise was previously owned by Emerging Media Ventures, which is headed



by businessman Manoj Badale. Other stakeholders included RedBird Capital Partners and Lachlan Murdoch, among others. The sale process was initiated late last year with investment bank The Raine Group acting as advisor. There were a number of bidders including Aditya Birla Group and US-based sports

investor David Blitzer but the consortium headed by Somani emerged as the eventual winner in the ownership race. Who is Kal Somani? Kal Somani is a US-based entrepreneur with over 15 years of experience across sectors like ed-tech, artificial intelligence, sports technology and data privacy. He is based out of

Scottsdale, Arizona and is the founder of multiple ventures like tech services firm IntraEdge, Truyo and has deep associations with AI governance initiatives. He has also made some investments in the sports space as he is the co-owner of the Motor City Golf Club and an early investor in ventures like TGL Golf League and TMRW Sports. "Kal is an existing investor in the franchise. The deal is subject to approval from the BCCI and will be signed soon. The price of USD 1.63 billion reflects how far the IPL has come as a brand," a well-placed source told PTI. "If you look at the sale of the latest IPL entrants Lucknow Super Giants, it is way more than that.

"Here To Win, Not To Participate": Head Coach Ashish Nehra On Gujarat Titans' Approach In IPL 2026

Gujarat Titans have outlined their clear approach ahead of IPL 2026, with Head Coach Ashish Nehra stating that the team remains focused on competing and winning. Speaking at Shubharambh 2026, a landmark evening that brought together the full squad, franchise owners, partners and fans, Nehra said the Titans are not looking to change their way of playing. "I don't think there's a need to think differently this season. In fact, I don't have to think, the players do. They have to think. They have to play; I'm sitting outside," he said, highlighting the team's trust in players and their decision-making. Reinforcing the team's mindset, Nehra added, "From day one, our mindset has been clear, we are not here to participate, we are here to compete and win. For a new team, it's easy to think it might take time, but that was never our approach." Since joining the IPL in 2022, Gujarat Titans have been one of the most consistent teams, reaching the playoffs in three of their first four sea-



sons and winning the title in their inaugural campaign in 2022. On continuity within the group, Nehra said, "You're talking about a captain who has been with the team from day one and has seen that journey. I don't think we are looking to do anything different this season." Shubharambh 2026 marked the start of the new season, while reflecting on the franchise's five-year journey. Showcasing the unity, ambi-

tion and Gujarat-first ethos that continues to define the franchise, the event blended reflection, recognition and cultural celebration, reinforcing the team's deep-rooted connect with its fans and the state. Gujarat Titans will begin their IPL 2026 campaign against Punjab Kings in Mullanpur on March 31, before returning to Ahmedabad for their first home fixture on April 4 against Rajasthan Royals.

CRISTIANO RONALDO'S SON DATING 27-YEAR-OLD BRAZILIAN MODEL?

With Cristiano Ronaldo nursing an injury that is set to keep him out of action for the time being, his son has been making waves on social media over his personal life. While it is usually the Portuguese great who finds himself in the headlines for his dating life, wild rumours have recently spread online linking his son, Cristiano Ronaldo Jr., with a 27-year-old Brazilian model. A couple of pictures of Cristiano Jr. with a woman surfaced on the internet, and fans quickly stitched together a story. Social media claims suggest that Cristiano Jr. met the 27-year-old Brazilian model in Dubai and began dating her. However, it must be noted that Ronaldo's son is only 15 years old, making the rumour both implausi-



ble and inappropriate. In the past, Cristiano Jr. has clarified in interviews and family shows that he is not dating anyone. Ronaldo's partner, Georgina Rodriguez, once teased him about a "crush," but it turned out to be just a friend, not a girlfriend. In I Am Georgina Season 3, Episode 5, Georgina spoke about Cristiano Jr.'s supposed crush during a family

trip to Disneyland Paris. Georgina and her sister Ivana playfully asked him about a girl named Soraya, to which he quickly replied, "She was a friend, but we don't talk anymore." Previously, some fans even linked Cristiano Jr. to Delfina Suarez, the daughter of former Barcelona striker Luis Suarez. Both children are of a similar age.

Australian-Born Ryan Williams Likely To Make India Debut As Khalid Jamil Names Squad For Hong Kong Qualifier

Australian-born forward Ryan Williams could make his much-anticipated India debut after being named in head coach Khalid Jamil's 23-member squad for the AFC Asian Cup 2027 Qualifier against Hong Kong on March 31 in Kochi. Williams was included in the squad after FIFA cleared his change of association, paving the way for the 31-year-old winger to represent India at the senior international level. He had earlier been part of India's preparatory camp for the Bangladesh qualifier but missed out on the lineup due to pending documentation. With all formalities now complete, he is in line to make his debut against Hong



Kong. Already ruled out of qualification for the Asian Cup, India will look to sign off their campaign on a positive note with a blend of experience and youth in the squad. Williams, whose mother hails from an Anglo-Indian family in Mumbai, will thus become only the second foreign-born foot-

baller of Indian origin to play for the country after Japan-born Arata Izumi, who represented India between 2013 and 2014. A versatile attacker currently playing for Indian Super League side Bengaluru FC, Williams relinquished his Australian passport last year to play for India. Born in Perth in 1993, Williams began his professional journey in England after joining Portsmouth's academy in 2010. He broke into the senior side a year later, making his debut against Middlesbrough, before going on to have stints with clubs such as Fulham and Barnsley. On the international stage, Williams represented Australia at the youth level.

Yuki Bhambri, Michael Venus Lose Tight First Round Contest In Miami Open



=India's Yuki Bhambri and his Kiwi partner Michael Venus made a first round exit from the Miami Open following a narrow loss to John-Patrick Smith and Sander Arends in Miami. Yuki and Venus went down 6-4, 5-7, 13-15 in a round of 32 contest to the Australian-Dutch combine in one hour 52 minutes. There was little separating the two teams. Smith and Arends converted half of their four break points while Yuki and Venus were able to convert the couple of break points they earned in the match. It was the first meeting between Arends and Smit, and, Yuki and Venus. Yuki had reached the semifinals of the Indian Wells alongside Andre Goransson earlier this month. The 33-year-old Indian had famously made the semifinals of the US Open last year with Venus. Bhambri and Venus started strongly, taking the opening set 6-4. However, their opponents responded in the second

set, edging it 7-5 to force a deciding super tiebreak. The final set proved to be a tightly contested affair, with Smith and Arends eventually prevailing 15-13. The match remained closely balanced throughout, with both teams converting two break points each. Smith and Arends capitalised on two of their four opportunities, while Bhambri and Venus converted both chances they created. This was the first meeting between the two pairs, with little separating them across key statistical areas. Bhambri had entered the tournament on the back of a strong run earlier this month, reaching the semifinals at Indian Wells alongside Andre Goransson. The 33-year-old had also enjoyed a standout 2025 season, including a semifinal appearance at the US Open with Venus. <https://thebridge.in/tennis/indian-wells-open-yuki-bhambri-ousted-in-semis-56129>

WORLD CHAMPION SMITH TO FACE PUELLO IN SHEFFIELD

Britain's WBC light-welterweight champion Dalton Smith will make the first defence of his title in front of his home fans in Sheffield on 6 June. The unbeaten Smith, 29, will face two-time former world champion Alberto Puello from Dominican at Utilita Arena. Smith won the world title in his 19th professional fight with a stunning fifth-round stoppage victory over Subriel Matias in Brooklyn in January. "New York was a trip of a lifetime, but now it's about bringing big world title fights to

Sheffield," said Smith. "It's straight into a mandatory defence, so you expect world-class opponents. There's no denying Puello is a top boxer - he's a two-time champion for a reason. "Puello's an awkward southpaw, but it's well known I love that style. It will be a big performance from me in my homecoming." Puello, 31, held the WBA title from 2022 to 2023 and the WBC title from 2024 to 2025. He has won 24 professional fights, with his only defeat coming when he lost his belt to Matias in July. "New York

was a trip of a lifetime, but now it's about bringing big world title fights to Sheffield and it's great to start my reign as champion back at the Utilita Arena," Smith said. "It's straight into a mandatory defence so you expect world class opponents. There's no denying Puello's a top boxer. He's a two-time champion for a reason." Puello is a two-time junior welterweight champion having won titles in 2022 and 2025 before the only defeat of his career against Matias in July 2025. "This is another mega fight com-

ing to British shores -- and another one for fight fans to enjoy on the Global Home of Boxing, DAZN. Dalton's win in Brooklyn will live long in the memory. It was an incredible night. Now he has the chance to cement his legacy and forge his name into folklore," promoter Eddie Hearn said. "Dalton is the Steel City King and Alberto Puello -- a formidable, former two-time world champion in his own right -- will be in for one tough night with an electric atmosphere awaiting him in Sheffield."



Soori, R Ravikumar, Mythri Movie Makers #Soori 07, #MythriTamil03 Announced, Blood Followed The Flood



Mythri Movie Makers, one of India's most dynamic production houses known for crafting intriguing and larger-than-life entertainers across multiple languages, has unveiled its third Tamil venture, #MythriTamil03. The film features the talented Kollywood actor Soori in the lead, directed by R Ravikumar, and produced by Naveen Yerneni and Y Ravi Shankar. The announcement arrived with an intense, visually arresting poster. The protagonist is shown from behind, waist-deep in murky floodwater. His reflection ripples in distorted shapes, adding a surreal edge. A weapon clenched in his right-hand hints at danger and survival. Around him lies a trail of wreckage-shattered utensils, scattered debris, and an overturned gas cylinder, capturing the raw aftermath of destruction. A dim red glow pouring through a doorway ahead casts an ominous silhouette, heightening the mood of

dread. Hovering above the sub-merged reflection, the words "BLOOD FOLLOVED THE FLOOD" amplify the sense of devastation and imminent violence. The tone is gritty, mysterious, and loaded with foreboding, suggesting a narrative rooted deeply in emotional intensity and chaos. Soori is currently in top form after the success of Kottukkaali, Viduthalai, Maamanan, and more. Director R Ravikumar has carved a niche in science fiction with acclaimed films like Indru Netru Naalai and Ayalaan. Meanwhile, Mythri Movie Makers has previously ventured into Tamil with Good Bad Ugly starring Ajith and Dude starring Pradeep Ranganathan. With this successful trio joining hands and the announcement poster sparking instant curiosity, #Soori07/#MythriTamil03 has already begun building anticipation. More details are awaited.

“Band Melam” should become a big hit: King of Entertainment Sree Vishnu at the pre-release event



The blockbuster pair Harsh Roshan and Sridevi, who impressed audiences with “Court,” are coming together again with “Band Melam.” The film is being produced under the banner of Kona Film Corporation, presented by Mango Mass Media, under the guidance of blockbuster writer Kona Venkat. Kavya and Sravya are producing the movie. Directed by Satish Javvaji, the film is set to release on March 26.

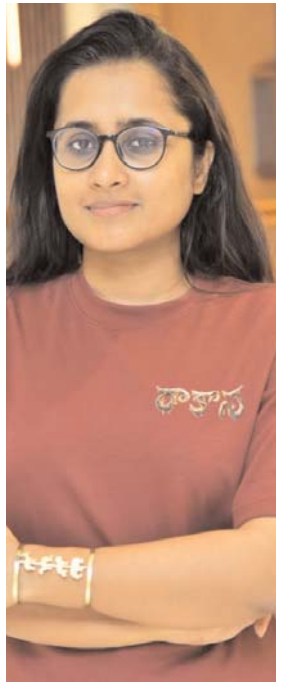
Ahead of the release, a pre-release event was held on Monday. Star writer Vijayendra Prasad, sensational directors VV Vinayak and Bobby, actor-producer Bandla Ganesh, Oscar winning lyricist Chandrabose, King of Entertainment Sree Vishnu, and renowned producer Suresh Babu attended as chief guests. Speaking at the event, Sree Vishnu said: “All the seniors have given their blessings to ‘Band Melam,’ and I hope they all come true. Roshan played my son in ‘Swag.’ I said back then that Roshan is very talented and will become a big hero. Within these three years, films like ‘Court’ and ‘Band

Melam’ have come out. Sridevi performed very well in ‘Court.’ I wish this Kakinada girl gets many more good opportunities. I am a big fan of Vijay Bulganin’s music. All the best to director Satish. Everyone is talking about the climax of ‘Band Melam.’ The film gives very positive vibes, and I hope it becomes a big hit. Kona garu lives and breathes cinema. It’s rare to see such a passionate producer. I hope he continues to make good films and introduce new artists and directors.” Director Bobby said: “A Kona Venkat film feels like our own film. He has great taste in stories and has promoted this movie extensively. I worked with him on

‘Adhurs,’ and we are always in sync. After watching the teaser, I felt Roshan would become a big hero. Suresh Babu garu analyzes films very well, and he too appreciated Roshan after watching this film. Sridevi’s journey is inspiring. ‘Band Melam’ will be a blockbuster on March 26. Satish is lucky to be part of Kona’s camp. Vijay always delivers great music. This is the first time Kona garu has produced a film in his daughters’ names. I wish the film great success.” Ace Producer and Distributor Suresh Babu said: “Kona garu showed me this film. Satish has made it wonderfully. Roshan and Sridevi performed very well.

“Our Film Is a Theatrical Experience Driven by Visuals and Folklore, Like Chandamama Katha Blended With Stylised Technology and Comedy”: Manasa Sharma on Rakasa

Riding on growing digital traction and strong pre-release buzz, Rakasa is steadily emerging as a distinctive genre-driven entertainer. Headlined by Sangeeth Sobhan and Nayan Sarika, and produced by Niharika Konidela under Pink Elephant Pictures in collaboration with Zee Studios, the film marks the feature directorial debut of Manasa Sharma. Positioned as a fantasy adventure comedy rooted in folklore and powered by stylised visuals and evolving technology, the project has drawn attention for its unique tonal blend. Ahead of the trailer release, director Manasa Sharma interacted with print media, sharing insights into the film’s concept, making and her journey.



Q: Can you tell us about your background?
Manasa Sharma: Rakasa is my debut feature film. I made a Bench Life web series, and I was the creator and writer of Oka Chinna Family Story. I’m a post graduate and I’m from Srikakulam.

Q: So this is your third project?
Manasa Sharma: No, fourth. I made the Mad House series in 2018 on YouTube, then Bench Life, Oka Chinna Family Story, and now Rakasa.

Q: Is this a majority come-

dy film?
Manasa Sharma: It is a fantasy adventure comedy.

Q: Horror?
Manasa Sharma: Well, you might presume that from the teaser, but after seeing the trailer releasing tomorrow, you’ll get more context. The film majority is a fantasy but blended it with comedy and crafted a good story.

Hrithik and Rryan Gosling connect across continents for an exclusive project hail mary conversation

Two global icons come together in a crossover moment that left fans excited across continents. In a landmark moment for the first time, Indian superstar Hrithik Roshan and Hollywood actor Ryan Gosling have come together for an exclusive virtual conversation — a meeting of two icons united by their shared passion for

space, science, and the power of storytelling. The conversation builds on the extraordinary global momentum sparked by Hrithik Roshan’s association with Project Hail Mary, following a collaboration video that captivated audiences worldwide. This newly unveiled exchange stands as one of the most exciting cross-cultural collaborations of the decade. Bringing together two of the world’s most influential stars, the conversation offers fans a rare and candid glimpse into their creative worlds. At the heart of their discussion was the film itself, with both stars reflecting on what makes Project Hail Mary a singular cinematic experience, and what it

means to bring this story to Indian audiences. The conversation took a nostalgic turn as the duo drew compelling parallels between the film and Hrithik’s beloved Koi... Mil Gaya — exploring how science fiction, at its best, transcends borders through emotional truth and universal wonder. Beyond the film, the exchange was marked by mutual admiration, with both stars acknowledging each other’s work and hinting at the possibility of future collaborations—leaving fans with much to look forward to. Directed by the acclaimed filmmaking duo Phil Lord and Christopher Miller, Project Hail Mary follows Ryland Grace, played by



Hania Aamir says goodbye to hit Pakistani drama ‘Safar kathin tha’

One of the biggest Pakistani drama hits of 2026, Meri Zindagi Hai Tu, has finally come to an end after a successful four-month run. The show aired its final episode on March 22, wrapping up with episode 34, which was released in two parts. Lead actress Hania Aamir, who played Dr. Ayra, took to Instagram to bid an emotional farewell to the series. Sharing behind-the-scenes glimpses from the sets, Hania expressed gratitude for the journey and the love the show received. Captioning the post, she wrote, “Safar kathin tha, par manzil pyari. Farewell, lovers,” leaving fans emotional as they bid goodbye to her character. Meri Zindagi Hai Tu, which premiered in late 2025, featured Bilal Abbas Khan as Kamyar, alongside a strong supporting cast including Ali Rehman Khan, Alyy Khan, Javeria Abbasi

and Vardah Aziz. Written by Radain Shah and directed by Mussadiq Malek, the show emerged as a

massive digital success, even crossing 1 billion views on Indian YouTube dur-



Regina Cassandra Pops Off In Statement Desi Chic

Regina Cassandra has been a familiar face in Tollywood for over one and a half decades, making her debut with the romantic comedy Siva Manasulo Sruthi alongside Sudheer Babu. Over the years, she has built a steady career with notable films like Kotha Janta, Subramanyam for Sale, and Jyo Achyutananda. Known for her versatile choices, Regina has balanced lead roles with strong supporting and even negative characters, proving her range as an actress. Now at 35, Regina is once again grabbing attention, not just for her acting but also for her stunning transformation. In her latest photoshoot,

she confidently flaunts her toned abs, showing the result of her disciplined fitness routine. The pictures highlight her bold and modern style, where she embraces a glamorous yet powerful look, reflecting both elegance and strength. In the shoot, Regina is seen wearing a striking turquoise outfit featuring a stylish bralette top paired with patchwork pants. The intricate embroidery and shimmering details add a rich, ethnic-meets-contemporary vibe to the look. Her open, flowing hair and minimal accessories keep the focus on her outfit and physique, while her confident pose enhances the overall appeal.