

**GOLD JUMPS RS 5,091 TO RS 1.44 LAKH/10G AS SOFT DOLLAR BOOST SAFE-HAVEN DEMAND**



**DEMOCRATS FLIP FLORIDA STATE SEAT THAT INCLUDES TRUMP'S MAR-A-LAGO HOME**



**'IPL BIGGER THAN PREMIER LEAGUE': SOURAV GANGULY IN AWE OF RAJASTHAN ROYALS' RS 15,000 CRORE SALE**



**INDIA'S MARKETS TO RECOUP LOST GROUND, RBI RATE HIKE UNLIKELY**



**New Delhi, March 25 (TSIT):** India's markets are likely to recoup some lost ground after the US announced a five-day reprieve for Iran's energy infrastructure, a report said on Wednesday. Radhika Rao, Senior Economist and Executive Director at DBS Bank, predicted that the RBI will keep rates on hold in 2026, while addressing specific pockets of strain. The bar for rate hikes is high, due to the "stagflationary" shock and exogenous nature of the event risk, the report said. "Foreign reserve coverage ratios are at a healthy level, providing sufficient firepower to the authorities, with signs of regular intervention presence in spot and forwards," the bank said in a note. Banking system liquidity returned to a modest deficit amid advance tax outflows and strong foreign-exchange intervention. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) infused Rs 793 billion via an overnight Variable Rate Repo (VRR) auction and announced plans for a three-day auction worth Rs 1 trillion.

**INDIA BOOK OF RECORDS RECOGNISED MP'S FREE HEALTH CAMP: SCINDIA**



**Shivpuri (TSIT):** A week-long free health camp organised in Madhya Pradesh's Shivpuri district has been officially recognised by the India Book of Records, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Wednesday. The multi-specialty health camp was organised from March 17 to March 24 at Shivpuri district hospital under the joint aegis of the Madhavrao Scindia Health Service Mission, the Rotary Regional Medical Mission, and the Madhya Pradesh government.

Facilities ranging from the diagnosis of complex ailments such as eye, dental, and bone conditions to advanced medical consultations and high-tech robotic surgeries were made available at the camp.

Equipped with state-of-the-art technology, the medical camp ensured that every patient received timely and high-quality treatment. The initiative not only strengthened access to healthcare services but also opened new avenues for medical care for people residing in rural and remote areas. Physicians were enrolled in consultations, both in person and virtually, who conducted diagnostic tests and provided complex treatment services to patients at the camp, thereby directly benefiting thousands of families in the region. Notably, Shivpuri district under the Gwalior region falls under the Guna Lok Sabha constituency.

**CM NAIDU DIRECTS OFFICIALS TO SET UP COMMITTEE OR BOARD TO EXPEDITE TOURISM PROJECTS**

**Vijayawada (TSIT):** Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has suggested that a board or a committee should be set up especially to carry out the tourism projects in the State expeditiously and encourage content creation to promote creative economy. The Chief Minister held a meeting here on Wednesday at which Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh, Tourism Development Corporation chairman Nukasani Balaji and officials attended.



Minister also discussed about promoting temple tourism, development of the Suryalanka beach, beautification of tanks at Tirupati, Amaravati and Visakhapatnam and instructed the officials to prepare an action plan for the establishment of amusement parks in Tirupati and Visakhapatnam. He said that a report on the projects undertaken for the development of various temples and tourist places under the PRASAD and Swadesh Darshan schemes should be prepared by May 2026. Tourism department officials explained to the Chief Minister that proposals for another Rs 663 crore have been sent to the Center in this regard. Naidu directed the officials to make hotel rooms and home stays available in AP at the earliest in line with the growing tourist footfall in the state.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister highlighted the Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt has evinced interest to set up a creative economy project in the State. "Visakhapatnam and Tirupati cities should be developed under the Central government's Iconic Destination scheme. Under the Scheme, up to Rs 500 crore can be spent to develop each Iconic Destination," he told the officials. Stating that 30.92 crore tourists' footfall was registered during the year 2025, he said that during the nine months in the current year, 21 percent growth has been registered, and directed the officials to ensure that the growth is increased further. The Chief

**India-US defence ties in focus as Vikram Misri meets US war policy chief Colby**

**New Delhi (TSIT) Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met US Under Secretary of War for Policy Elbridge A. Colby on the sidelines of the India-US Defence Policy Group meeting on Wednesday, underscoring renewed momentum in bilateral defence cooperation and strategic engagement between the two countries. The officials exchanged views on strengthening defence ties, enhancing regional security and further consolidating the broader strategic partnership.**



India Major Defense Partnership.

Colby, who arrived in India this week for high-level discussions with senior government officials, is engaging with New Delhi at a time of heightened global geopolitical tensions, especially amid the protracted West Asia crisis. The visit aims to advance objectives outlined by US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in their February 2025 joint statement, and to implement the Framework for the U.S.-

India Major Defense Partnership. According to the U.S. Department of War, Colby's talks will focus on deepening cooperation in strategic and defence domains, reflecting both nations' shared interests in regional stability and security amid shifting global power dynamics.

His engagements with Indian leaders are seen as part of Washington's effort to reinforce ties with New Delhi while navigating challenges posed by conflict in

West Asia and evolving Indo-Pacific security imperatives. Colby's visit, his first official trip to India in this capacity, was enthusiastically welcomed by United States Ambassador to India Sergio Gor, who posted on social media that he looked forward to hosting the senior defence official.

The discussions coincide with a period of intensified India-U.S. cooperation, as both countries navigate regional security challenges and seek to institutionalise defence collaboration, including joint exercises, technology partnerships and deeper policy coordination to address shared threats in the Indo-Pacific and beyond. In related remarks across policy forums in New Delhi, Colby has emphasised that the US views India as a key partner in maintaining a favourable balance of power in the Indo-Pacific, highlighting the need for pragmatic cooperation even amid differences on certain issues.

**As Many As 1,300 Posts Of IAS; 505 Of IPS Vacant: Govt In Lok Sabha**



**New Delhi (TSIT):** As many as 1,300 posts of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and 505 belonging to the Indian Police Service (IPS) are lying vacant, the Lok Sabha was informed on Wednesday. Of the total of 6,877 sanctioned posts of the IAS, there are 5,577 officers in position, Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said in a written reply. There are 4,594 IPS officers in position, as against their sanctioned strength of 5,099, he said. Singh explained that IAS posts are filled according to the reservation guidelines issued by the government. "Since 2012, a total of 180 candidates have been recruited to the IAS through the civil services examination each year, with 4 per cent of these seats reserved for candidates with benchmark disabilities (PwBD)," he said.

**No fuel shortage, say oil firms; urge public to avoid panic buying**

**NEW DELHI (TSIT):** State-owned oil companies on Wednesday said there is no shortage of petrol, diesel or LPG in the country, urging citizens not to believe rumours circulating on social media or resort to panic buying. Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the nation's largest oil firm, said "there is no shortage of petrol or diesel", adding that its outlets are "well-stocked and fully operational".



It advised customers not to be misled by rumours or engage in panic buying, and to "continue with normal consumption patterns", adding that it is committed to ensuring "an uninterrupted and seamless fuel supply" across its network.

It cautioned that rumours "can create unnecessary concern and disrupt normal supply patterns" and urged citizens to "avoid panic buying and rely only on verified information". Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) termed reports of fuel shortages in certain areas "completely unfounded", asserting that "there is no shortage of fuel across the nation".

The company said India is a net exporter of petrol and diesel and has "adequate stocks of crude oil, petrol, diesel and ATF", with supply chains operating "smoothly without any disruption". It added that it

remains "fully operational and committed to ensuring uninterrupted fuel supply".

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) also said there is "no shortage of petrol, diesel or LPG across the country", with supplies remaining stable and stocks adequate.

It advised customers not to be misled by rumours or engage in panic buying, and to "continue with normal consumption patterns", adding that it is committed to ensuring "an uninterrupted and seamless fuel supply" across its network.

While the war in West Asia has disrupted crude oil, LNG

and LPG supply chains, India with its diversified sourcing has been able to secure enough supplies of crude oil (the raw material used to make fuels like petrol and diesel) from West Africa, Latin America and the US.

The disruption in liquefied natural gas (LNG) due to India's largest supplier's facilities in Qatar being hit in the war, has led to prioritisation of the fuel to domestic users and CNG while some curtailment has been done for industrial users like fertilizer plants.

LPG is the most impacted by the war as the country relied on imports to meet 60 per cent of its demand.

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**India rejects Pakistan remarks on Andrabi sentencing, calls out support for terror outfit**

**New Delhi (TSIT) India on Wednesday strongly rejected Pakistan's criticism of the sentencing of Kashmiri separatist leader Asiyah Andrabi, saying Islamabad had "no locus standi" to comment on India's internal judicial matters and accusing it of backing terrorism.**



Fehmeeda Sofi, were awarded 30-year jail terms.

Responding to media queries on Pakistan's statement, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said New Delhi "categorically rejects" the remarks issued in support of a banned terrorist organisation and its members.

"Pakistan has no locus standi to comment on matters internal to India or its judicial processes. However, one is not surprised that a country, which has long been sponsoring terrorism, has come up with such a statement condoning violence and killing of innocent people," he said.

The sharp response came a day after a Delhi court sentenced Andrabi, founder of the banned outfit Dukhtarane-Millat, to life imprisonment under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. Her associates, Nahida Nasreen and

The trio had been convicted in January in a case linked to anti-national activities, including promoting secessionist ideology and conspiring against the state. Prosecuted by the NIA, they were found guilty under multiple provisions of the IPC and anti-terror laws.

Pakistan termed the verdict a "grave miscarriage of justice" and alleged suppression of fundamental rights in Jammu and Kashmir, urging international intervention.

Rejecting the allegations, India said Pakistan should instead "introspect on the grave and systematic human rights violations it continues to perpetrate".

**IRAN-ISRAEL WAR**

**Iranian military mocks Trump's claim of US-Iran negotiations**

**Tehran (TSIT) The Trump administration has offered a 15-point ceasefire plan to Iran, according to a person briefed on the contours of the plan but who was not authorised to speak publicly about it. The ceasefire plan was submitted to Iran by intermediaries from Pakistan, who have offered to host renewed negotiations between Washington and Tehran.**

The proposal comes as the US military is preparing to call up at least 1,000 more troops from the 82nd Airborne Division to supplement some 50,000 troops already in the region. The New York Times reported earlier on Tuesday

that the 15-point plan had been delivered to Iranian officials.

The Pentagon is also in the process of deploying a pair of Marine Expeditionary Units that will add about 5,000 Marines and thousands of sailors to the region. Meanwhile, an Iranian military spokesperson mocked US attempts at a ceasefire deal on Wednesday, insisting that the Americans were only negotiating with themselves. Lt Col Ebrahim Zolfaghari, a spokesperson for the Iranian military's Khatam Al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, made the statement in a pre-recorded video aired on state television. Zolfaghari's statement came



shortly after the Trump administration sent a 15-point ceasefire plan to Iran through

Pakistan. "Our first and last word has been the same from day one, and it will stay that

way: Someone like us will never come to terms with someone like you," Zolfaghari said. "Not now, not ever." — with Agencies

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday briefed Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman about Islamabad's diplomatic efforts to de-escalate the tenuous West Asia situation. Sharif, in a statement on X, reiterated Pakistan's strong condemnation of the recent attacks on the Kingdom and reaffirmed Islamabad's unwavering solidarity and unequivocal support for Saudi Arabia in these challenging times. "I also briefed His Royal Highness on

Pakistan's diplomatic outreach efforts for regional peace and stability. We agreed to remain in close coordination," he said. Sharif said that during the call, he appreciated the Kingdom's restraint and, "I stressed the urgent need for de-escalation", and an end to hostilities.

Dubai: At least 1,000 troops from the 82nd Airborne Division will be sent to the Mideast in the coming days, three people with knowledge of the plans told The Associated Press. The Pentagon is also in the process of deploying two Marine units that will add about 5,000 Marines and thousands of sailors to the region.

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**RAILWAYS ADDS 1,024 TRAINS, BOOSTS CAPACITY TO MEET PASSENGER DEMAND**



New Delhi, March 25: On Indian Railways, occupancy pattern of trains varies over lean and peak periods. During peak rush periods, the occupancy of the trains especially on popular routes remains full whereas during lean period and on less popular routes, there is sub optimal utilization.

Waiting list pattern is monitored on regular basis and to cater to additional demand, Indian Railways have taken various steps like introduction of new trains, increase in frequency/extension of existing trains, augmentation of load of existing trains on permanent basis, etc. Further, waiting list limits have been rationalized linking it to the extent of accommodation of that class available in the train.

During the last five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26 (up to Feb'2026), 1024 trains were introduced, 907 were extended, frequency of 168 trains was increased and

4651 coaches were augmented. As the Railway network straddles across state boundaries, trains are introduced, as per network requirement, across such boundaries. However, on originating/terminating basis, Indian Railways during 2021-22 to 2025-26 (Feb'2026) have introduced 444 train services catering to the needs of various stations located in the Eastern/North Eastern region including following 75 pair trains serving the stations falling in the state of Bihar.

With a view to meet the demand of passengers travelling in unreserved coaches, Railways have significantly increased the facilities for passengers demanding general class travel. During the last financial year 2024-25 alone, 1250 general coaches have been utilised in various long-distance trains. In the current financial year (upto February, 2026), 860 Coaches have been utilised for permanent augmentation.

**Apollo Hospitals Jubilee Hills Sets Record with 2,000+ Robotic Surgeries Using Advanced Xi System**

Hyderabad, 25th March 2026: Apollo Hospitals Jubilee Hills has emerged as a leader in robotic-assisted healthcare, performing the highest number of surgeries across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh using the advanced Xi robotic surgical system. Crossing the significant milestone of over 2,000 robotic procedures, the hospital continues to redefine precision-driven treatment and patient safety.

Dr.Sangita Reddy, Joint Managing Director Apollo Hospitals Group said on this occasion the high-end Xi robotic technology has been widely utilised across multiple specialties including Gynaecology, Surgical Oncology, Urology, Cardiac Thoracic Surgery and Surgical Gastroenterology. She said our expert teams of



surgeons across departments have successfully adopted this minimally invasive platform, enabling complex procedures with greater accuracy, reduced pain and faster recovery time for patients. Doctors at Apollo Hospitals stated that robotic-assisted surgery enhances surgical precision

through superior 3D visualisation and improved instrument flexibility, helping manage complicated cases with better clinical outcomes. The achievement highlights the growing trust of patients in advanced robotic procedures and the hospital's commitment to delivering world-class healthcare. Mr. Tejesvi Rao

Veerapalli, CEO, Apollo Hospitals Telangana & Andhra Pradesh said With this milestone, Apollo Hospitals Jubilee Hills has strengthened its position as a pioneer in robotic surgery, offering cutting-edge treatment options and setting new benchmarks in patient care across the Telugu states.

**CARE Hospitals Successfully Removes 35 cm Ovarian Tumor in Complex Surgery in Hyderabad**

Hyderabad, March 25: Doctors at CARE Hospitals, Hitech City, successfully performed a complex surgery to remove a massive 35 cm ovarian tumor from a 59-year-old patient, highlighting the importance of early diagnosis and expert medical care.

The patient, Nalla Laxmi from Vemulawada, had been experiencing gradual abdominal swelling and discomfort over several months. Medical evaluation and advanced imaging revealed a large multiloculated tumor originating from the ovary, occupying a significant portion of the abdominal cavity. The surgical procedure was led by Dr. Y. Yugandar Reddy, Senior Consultant in Surgical Oncology, along with a multidisciplinary team. The patient underwent a staging laparotomy, including removal of the ovarian tumor, left oophorectomy, and infraocolic omentectomy as part of comprehensive cancer management.

The surgery was completed successfully without complications. Doctors confirmed that the tumor had not spread to vital organs such as the liver, spleen, or bowel, which is considered a positive prognostic sign in such cases. Following the operation, the patient was monitored in the



Surgical Intensive Care Unit and showed steady recovery. She has now been discharged in stable condition with advice for follow-up care. Speaking on the case, Dr. Yugandar Reddy noted that ovarian tumor conditions often develop silently and are detected at advanced stages, stressing the need for timely medical evaluation when symptoms like persistent abdominal swelling occur.

Nilesh Gupta, Zonal Chief Operating Officer of CARE Hospitals, said the successful surgery reflects the hospital's commitment to advanced, patient-centric care and its strong clinical expertise in managing complex oncological cases. Doctors emphasized that early detection and timely intervention are crucial in improving outcomes and urged people not to ignore symptoms such as abdominal discomfort or unusual swelling.

**INDIAN BANK CHANDRALAPADU BRANCH SHIFTED TO NEW PREMISES; ENHANCED CUSTOMER FACILITIES INAUGURATED**



The Chandralapadu branch of Indian Bank has been shifted to a new alternative premises with improved customer facilities, aiming to provide better banking services to its customers. The new premises were inaugurated by Chief Guest Praneesh Kumar, Field General Manager (AP & TS), Zonal Manager M. Rajesh, Deputy Zonal Manager M. Seshagiri Rao, Lead District Manager, Krishna Ch. Ravindra Reddy, and Branch Manager P. Seetharam were present on the occasion. The upgraded branch premises offer improved infrastructure and enhanced customer service facilities, ensuring a more convenient banking experience. Customers have appreciated the efforts of the branch staff in upgrading the facilities and providing better services at the new location.

**GITAM Deemed to be University Congratulates Dr. Raavi Deepthi on Earning Ph.D. in Computer Science**

Hyderabad: GITAM Deemed to be University has congratulated Dr. Raavi Deepthi on successfully completing her Ph.D. in Computer Science and Engineering. Her research, titled "An Efficient Learning-Based Approach for Smart Intrusion Detection System on Internet of Vehicles," marks a significant contribution to the field of intelligent and secure vehicular communication systems. The study focuses on strengthening cybersecurity in the emerging Internet of Vehicles (IoV) ecosystem using advanced machine learning techniques. The research was carried out



under the guidance of Dr. G. Hima Bindu, Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering. It proposes an innovative framework to enhance intrusion detection, improve network reliability, and safeguard con-

nected vehicular systems from cyber threats. The study underscores the growing importance of cybersecurity in smart transportation and offers valuable insights for developing safer and more resilient intelligent mobility infrastructure. The GITAM community, including Prof. D. S. Rao, Pro Vice-Chancellor; D. V. S. R. Varma, Resident Director; and Prof. Shaik Mahabub Basha, Head of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, along with faculty, researchers, and students, extended their congratulations and wished Dr. Deepthi continued success in her future endeavors.

**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, HYDERABAD**  
1st Floor, Triveni Complex, Abids, Hyderabad-500001

O.A. No. 78 of 2026  
(Summons under Sub-Section (4) of Section 19 of the Act, read with sub-Rule (2A) of Rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (procedure) Rule, 1993)

**BETWEEN:**  
PEGASUS ASSETS RECONSTRUCTION PVT LTD  
Represented by its Authorized person Vs. ....Applicant Bank

Karthekeya Jewellers and others Vs. ....Defendants To

1. M/s. Karthekeya Jewellers, represented by its Proprietrix Mrs. Venigalla Jyothi, No. 2/93/94, Main Road, AVSR Complex, Mangalagiri, Guntur-522503  
2. Mrs. Venigalla Jyothi w/o Mr. Venigalla Srinivasa Rao, Flat no. 210, RR Towers, Nidamaru Road, Mangalagiri, Guntur-522503  
3. Mr. Venigalla Srinivasa Rao s/o Ramaswamy Venigalla, Flat no. 210, RR Towers, Nidamaru Road, Mangalagiri, Guntur-522503

Also at: Mr. Venigalla Srinivasa Rao s/o Ramaswamy Venigalla, Door no. 8-69/A, 8th ward, Near Rajeev Centre, Kandaravani street, Mangalagiri, Guntur-522503.  
Also at: Mr. Venigalla Srinivasa Rao s/o Ramaswamy Venigalla, Door no. 8-577, 8th ward, near Rajeev Centre, Kandaravani street, Mangalagiri, Guntur-522503.  
Also at: Mr. Venigalla Srinivasa Rao s/o Ramaswamy Venigalla, Door no. 1-51/1, Door no. 232/1/F2, Mangalagiri, Guntur-522503

**DEFENDENTS**  
Summons to all the defendants in Newspaper Publication showing cause why relief prayed for should not be granted

Whereas, OA 78/2026 is filed by M/s. PEGASUS ASSETS RECONSTRUCTION PVT LTD before DRT II, Hyderabad and the same was listed on 16.03.2026 on filing proforma of service of summons.

Whereas the Hon'ble Registrar of Debt. Recovery Tribunal-II is pleased to issue summons on the said application under section 19 (4) of the Act, filed against you for Recovery of debt of Rs 4,08,88,850.91 (Rupees Four Crore Eight Lakhs Eighty-Eight Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty paise Ninety-One only) as on 08.09.2025. In accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 19 of the Act, you the Defendants are directed as under:

i) To show cause within 30 days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted.  
ii) To disclose particulars of assets other than properties and assets specified by Applicant under serial number 3A of the Original Application.  
iii) You are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the Original Application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties.  
iv) You shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in ordinary course of his business, any other assets over which security interest is created and/or other assets and properties specified by applicant under serial number 3A of the Original Application without the prior approval of the Tribunal.  
v) You are liable to account for the sale proceeds realized by the sale of the secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with bank or financial institution holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before the Hon'ble Tribunal on 27.04.2026 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this day of the 17th day of March 2026.

Sd/- Registrar  
**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II**  
1st Floor, Triveni Complex, Abids, Hyderabad-500001

**IndusInd Bank INDUSIND BANK LTD.**  
# 1-10-72, 3rd floor, Ashoka Janardhan Chambers, Begumpet, Hyderabad - 500016, Ph: (040) 40916229

**Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002**

Take notice that IndusInd Bank Limited, has issued a notice under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("the Act"). The notice was duly sent to the addressee by Regd. Post with acknowledgement due which returned undelivered by post office. The contents of which are being published herewith as per the Section 13(2) of the Act read with Section 13(8) & 13(13) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 as and by way of alternate service upon you. Details of the Borrowers, Guarantors, Secured Assets, Outstanding Dues, Demand Notice Sent under Section 13(2) and amount claimed there under are given as under:

**Name and Address of the Borrower :**  
The Borrower/ Guarantors/ Mortgagees: 1. M/s. Sri Tirumala Medical Agencies, Rep by its Partners, T.V. Madhusudhana Rao & T. Padmavathi #11-37, Ground Floor, Chippadavani Street, Vijayawada, NTR Dist., Andhra Pradesh, Pin: 520001.2. Mr. Tiruvalipati Venkata Madhusudhana Rao, Since deceased, rep by its Lrs Tiruvalipati Venkata Yaswanth (Son) H. No. 9-70-1, Pothina Pappiah Street, One Town, Near Komala Vilas, Vijayawada Urban, Krishna Dist., Andhra Pradesh, Pin: 520001.3. Mrs. Tiruvalipati Padmavathi, W/o. Late Tiruvalipati Venkata Madhusudhana Rao, (Guarantor) H. No. 9-70-1, Pothina Pappiah Street, Kothapet, One Town, Near Komala Vilas, Vijayawada Urban, Krishna Dist., Andhra Pradesh, Pin: 520001. Ph: 9440173825.4. Mr. Tiruvalipati Venkata Yaswanth, S/o. Late Tiruvalipati Venkata Madhusudhana Rao (Son & Legal Heir of Late Tiruvalipati Venkata Madhusudhana Rao) H. No. 9-70-1, Pothina Pappiah Street, One Town, Near Komala Vilas, Vijayawada Urban, Krishna Dist., Andhra Pradesh, Pin: 520001. Ph: 9440173825. calling upon them to repay the banks dues of Rs. 34,60,058.00/- (Rupees Thirty Four Lakhs Sixty Thousand Fifty Eight only) as on 28th February, 2026 along with future interest, other cost and charges as set out in the documents executed in connection with the Facility computable till date of payment incurred within 60 days of the date of notice.

**NPA Date: 27-02-2026.** The bank dues are secured by the following assets.

Description / Details of Facilities sanctioned		
S.No.	Nature of Facility with Loan account Nos.	Amount (Rs. in Lacs)
1.	Cash Credit, Loan A/c no. 65600029215	34.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34.00</b>

**Description of the Property :**  
Property No.1: Registered Sale Deed Document No.5759 of 2013 dated: 22-10-2013 in favour of Tiruvalipati Padmavathi.  
**SCHEDULE-A:** All that piece and parcel of undivided and unspecified share of an extent of 16.0 sq. yards of house site out of larger extent of sq. yards 5987.78, bearing D. No.76-1D/134HRT, Assessment No. 1073160819, old D. No. 76-1/1-HIGH House No.283, VMC assessment No.1273, Plot No.4, Phase-II, L.P. No.20/2005, Phase-II, situated in R.S. No.53/P/8, 5/4/P, A.P. Housing Board Colony, Bhavanipuram, Vijayawada, Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Area, Krishna Dist., on the file of District Registrar, Vijayawada and the larger extent of 5987.78 within the following boundaries: East: 30 ft wide road; 317.0 ft. South: 30 ft wide road; 170.0 ft. West: 60 ft wide road; 317.0 ft. North: 40 ft wide road; 170.0 ft.

**SCHEDULE-B:** All that piece and parcel of Shop no.27, First Floor, flat with plinth area of 308.17 sq. ft, common areas of 207.57 sq. ft and with common utilities over water drainage, passages and stairs etc., at the apartment called Sai Nirman constructed at larger extent of Schedule Property A and the flat within the following boundaries: East: Shop No.4, South: Common Corridor West: Common Corridor, North: Shop No. 28

Property No.2: Registered Sale Deed Document No.5761 of 2013 dated: 22-10-2013 in favour of Tiruvalipati Venkata Madhusudhana Rao.  
**SCHEDULE-A:** All that piece and parcel of undivided and unspecified share of an extent of 16.0 sq. yards of house site out of larger extent of sq. yards 5987.78, bearing D. No.76-1D/134HRT, Assessment No. 1073160819, old D. No. 76-1/1-HIGH House No.283, VMC assessment No.1273, Plot No.4, Phase-II, L.P. No.20/2005, Phase-II, situated in R.S. No.53/P/8, 5/4/P, A.P. Housing Board Colony, Bhavanipuram, Vijayawada, Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Area, Krishna Dist., on the file of District Registrar, Vijayawada and the larger extent of 5987.78 within the following boundaries: East: 30 ft wide road; 317.0 ft. South: 30 ft wide road; 170.0 ft. West: 60 ft wide road; 317.0 ft. North: 40 ft wide road; 170.0 ft.

**SCHEDULE-B:** All that piece and parcel of Shop no.4, First Floor, flat with plinth area of 308.17 sq. ft, common areas of 207.57 sq. ft and with common utilities over water, drainage, passages and stairs etc., at the apartment called Sai Nirman constructed at larger extent of Schedule Property A and the flat within the following boundaries: East: Common Corridor, South: Common Corridor, West: Common Corridor, North: Shop No. 3.

**Annexure-IV**  
Statement as on 28.02.2026

Particulars of Loan	Principal outstanding	Add : Outstanding Interest	Amount (Rupees)
OD	₹ 33,60,141.00	₹ 99,917.00	₹ 34,60,058.00
			<b>Total outstanding</b>
			<b>₹ 34,60,058.00</b>

Aggregate Outstanding amount as on 28.02.2026 is ₹34,60,058.00/- (Rupees Thirty Four Lakhs Sixty Thousand Fifty Eight only) together with further interest at documented rate from 01.03.2026 to the date of payment and other costs.

Date: 17-03-2026  
Place: Hyderabad  
Sd/- Authorised Officer, IndusInd Bank Ltd.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**ICICI Home Finance** Registered Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400051  
Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai - 400059  
Branch Address: Door No. 23-8-156/A, 1st floor, R. R. Enclave, New Balaji Colony, A.I.R. Bypass Road, Above ICICI Bank, Tirupathi - 517502

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from ICICI Home Finance Company Limited ("ICICI HFC") and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Dating of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Adi Narayana Reddy C (Borrower), C Kalpana (Co-Borrower), Muthyala Reddy (Co-Borrower), No 1-99 Sankaraih Gak Palli Chittoor Chandragiri- 517102 Andhra Pradesh LHTRU00001296077	Chittoor District, Sri Balaji District, Tirupati Sub-D, Tirupati Urban Mandal, Tirupati Town, Tirupati Municipal Ward No. 13, Tirupati Town Survey No. 4046, Vinayaka Nagar, Residential Area D.No. 13-7-791/A/20, Bounded By East: Road, West: Govt Land, North: House of K. Lokanadom, South: House of Yashodamma, In Between This Boundaries East- West 32' feet or 9.760 mts, North- South 19' Feet or 5.795 Mts. In Equal To 608 Sq.ft. or 67.55sq.yards Site Fully And In This Site, East-west 32' Feet or 9.760 Mts. North- South 19' Feet or 5.795 Mts. In Equals To 608 Sq.ft. Fully Finished Ground Floor R.C.C. Building House Fully, East- West 32' feet or 9.760 mts. North- South 19' feet or 5.795 mts. In Equals To 608 Sq.ft. Fully Finished First Floor R.C.C. Building House Fully, East-West 32' feet or 9.760 mts. North-South 19' feet or 5.795 mts. In Equals To 608 Sq.ft. Fully Finished Second Floor R.C.C. Building House Fully Bounded By-	11-03-2026 Rs. 16,66,922/-	05-03-2026

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.  
Date: March 26, 2026, Place: Tirupathi  
Authorized Officer, ICICI Home Finance Company Limited

**OER-TRAAI 2026 National Seminar Concludes Successfully at Government Degree College Godavarikhani**

Godavarikhani: The two-day multidisciplinary national seminar on "Open Educational Resources: Transforming Research and Academics in the AI Era (OER-TRAAI 2026)" concluded successfully at Government Degree College Godavarikhani. The inaugural session was presided over by Principal Prof. Jai Kishan Ojha. The Chief Guest and Keynote Speaker Prof. S. Sudharshan Rao delivered an insightful address on the growing importance of Open Educational

Resources (OER), the expansion of digital learning platforms, and the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence in modern education. He emphasized the need for students and researchers to effectively utilize open knowledge resources to enhance academic and research outcomes. The seminar witnessed an overwhelming response from across the country, with around 60 participants taking part. A total of 48 research papers were presented during the seminar.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**ICICI Home Finance** Registered Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400051  
Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai - 400059  
Branch Address: 3rd Floor, 3-903/10, Nagarjuna Nagar colony, Yella Reddy Guda, Ameerpet, Panjigutta, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500073

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from ICICI Home Finance Company Limited ("ICICI HFC") and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	B Kalyan Krishna (Borrower), Battula Sirisha (Co-Borrower), Flat No 206, Krishna Lok, Apartments, HP GA Hyderabad, Telangana Hyderabad-500034 Telangana/ LHHP500001624379	All That The Piece and Parcel of Flat No. 304 in Second Floor With An Extent of 1138 Sq.Yds (Plinth Area and Common Area) Parking Area in Silt Floor in Narayana Enclave Admeasuring 43.265 Sq.Yds Out of Total An Extent of 7788 Sq. Fts or 108 Gadies And 12 Sq.Fts or 865.3/9 Sq.Yds or 723.39 Sq.Mts Which is Constructing Bhagya Nagar 4th Line, Ward No.26, Apartment, Near D No. 37-1-409, Sy Nums 82/11a and 82/11B1, Mamidipalem Village Ongole - 523001, Andhra Pradesh. Boundaries For Entire Land, East: Remaining and of Kotari Adhikakshmi And Her Sons And Chavali Anjanadevi Land. South: 40 Ft Wide Road. West: 30 Ft Wide Road. North: Site of Tirupathi Rao. Boundaries For Flat: East: Open. South: Open to Sky. West: Open to Sky. North: Open to Sky and Flat No. 303. Bounded By-	16-03-2026 Rs. 23,41,487.61/-	10-03-2026

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.  
Date: March 26, 2026  
Place: Ongole  
Authorized Officer, ICICI Home Finance Company Limited

S. DIVAKAR TAKES CHARGE AS DCIL CHIEF

THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES, Visakhapatnam: Captain S. Divakar officially assumed charge as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of the Dredging Corporation of India Limited (DCIL) on March 25, 2026. The Board of Directors, in conjunction with the Nomination and Remuneration Committee, approved his appointment as an Additional Director (Executive & Non-Independent) and Key Managerial Personnel (KMP). He will hold the position of Additional



Director until the next General Meeting, where shareholder approval will be sought for his regular appointment as a Non-Independent and Executive Director. A distinguished mar-

All India Dredging Cadet (AIDC - V Batch) cadre. During his 22-year tenure on dredgers, he rose through the ranks from Cadet to Captain and eventually served as "Master of Dredger" for approximately seven years. Transitioning to shore-based leadership, he spent over 13 years in senior management roles, contributing significantly to operational planning, project execution, and techno-commercial decision-making.

KIMS HOSPITALS SAVES 65-YR-OLD MAN FROM STROKE RISK WITH ADVANCED STENT PROCEDURE



Visakhapatnam, March 25: Doctors at KIMS Hospitals, Seethammadhara, successfully saved a 65-year-old man from a life-threatening stroke by performing an advanced minimally invasive procedure to treat critical blockages in brain arteries. The patient had been experiencing recurrent giddiness for nearly a month and later developed sudden weakness on one side of the body. After initial evaluation in Srikakulam, he was referred to Visakhapatnam for specialized treatment. According to Dr. Raja Kumar Ponnana, Consultant Neurologist, and Dr. Venkatesh Pothula, Head of Neuro and Vascular Interventional Radiology, emergency investigations revealed severe blockages in the vertebral and basilar arteries, which supply blood to the brainstem. Such conditions can quickly lead to a fatal stroke if not treated promptly. Given the critical situation, doctors performed an emergency endovascular procedure, clearing the blockage through the blood vessel and placing a stent without the need for open surgery. The procedure successfully restored blood flow to the brain. Post-surgery, the patient was monitored in the intensive care unit and showed steady recovery, with only mild neurological weakness. Doctors noted that his ability to give a "thumbs up" with the previously affected hand was a positive sign of recovery. Medical experts stressed that stroke treatment is extremely time-sensitive, and early recognition of symptoms along with timely medical intervention can save lives and prevent long-term disability. They added that swift decision-making and coordinated efforts between departments played a crucial role in ensuring the successful outcome of the case.

Sreemukhi Launches 'Fursat' Restaurant in Hyderabad, Ventures into Hospitality

Hyderabad, March 25, 2026: Popular television personality Sreemukhi has stepped into the hospitality industry with the launch of her new restaurant Fursat at Capital Park. The restaurant was inaugurated in the presence of distinguished guests, media, and invitees, introducing a vibrant multi-cuisine dining concept with a spacious ambience and modern facilities. Sreemukhi has partnered with Sravan, Anand, and Ravi for the venture. Speaking on the occasion, Sreemukhi expressed her passion for food and shared that Fursat aims to offer something for everyone, featuring both vegetarian and non-vegetarian



delicacies. Highlighting signature offerings like Nalli Gosht Biryani, she said the restaurant is designed as a space where people can relax and enjoy quality time with friends and family. With a seating capacity of around 300 and banquet facilities, the restaurant aims to cater to both casual dining and celebrations. Partner Sravan said

the vision behind Fursat is to create a welcoming atmosphere with consistent taste and service, while Anand emphasized the carefully curated menu blending traditional flavors with modern presentation. Ravi noted that Fursat is designed as a destination for gatherings and events, with plans to expand the brand while maintaining quality and customer satisfaction. With Sreemukhi's popularity and the team's combined vision, Fursat is set to emerge as a promising addition to Hyderabad's growing culinary landscape.

**pnb** **पंजाब नैश्चनल बैंक** **punjab national bank**  
 Mid Corporate Centre, Ground Floor, Fortune Tower, Vadodara Stock Exchange Building, Sayajiganj, Vadodara 390020

**Appendix-IV (See Rule 8(1)) POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable Property)**  
 Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Punjab National Bank, MCC, Vadodara (809900) under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with (Rule-3) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice Dated 31/12/2025 and published on 19.01.2026 calling upon the Borrowers / Guarantor / Mortgagee M/s Chamunda Nandi Keshwar Mining (Partners: Sh. Jitendra Charanjeet Singh Rana & Sh. M. Jayaganapathi Rao), Sh. Randisinh Kartarsingh Jamwal, Sh. Deepika Jitendra Singh Rana and Sh. Jitendra Charanjeet Singh Rana in the capacity of Legal Heirs of Late Smt. Kiran Charanjeet Singh Rana to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.1,20,18,239.81 (Rupees One crore Twenty lacs Eighteen thousand Two hundred Thirty Nine and Paise Eighty one only) as on 24/12/2025 with further interest and expenses within 60 days from the date of notice/date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers / Guarantor / Mortgagee having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers / Guarantor / Mortgagee 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 this 23rd day of March of the year 2026.

The Borrowers / Guarantor / Mortgagee 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 the Punjab National Bank, Raopura Branch, Vadodara (340600) for an amount Rs.1,24,31,753.81 (Rupees One crore Twenty Four lacs Thirty One thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Three and Paise Eighty one only) as on 28/02/2026 and interest plus other charges thereon.

Amount recovered after issuance of 13(2) till 28.02.2026-NIL

The borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub section (8) of the section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

**DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

All piece and parcel of Block No. 19 (As per approved map Block No. 19/A) having plot area 255.67 sq. mtrs. With construction thereon along with undivided proportionate land area 70.00 sq. mtrs. Total area 325.67 sq. mtrs in Shivashray Society (Shiv Ishwar Owners Association) organized and constructed in the land bearing Revenue Survey No. 388 paiki, Final Plot No. 4, T.P. Scheme No. 22, City Survey No. 534 of Moje village Tandajia in District & Sub District Vadodara and bounded as: East: 6.00 Mtr. Society Road, West: Plot No. A/20, North: 6.00 Mtr. Society Road, South: Plot No. B/24.

Date: 23.03.2026 - Place: Vadodara Authorized Officer - Punjab National Bank

**THUNDERSTORMS, LIGHTNING LIKELY IN TELANGANA TILL MAR 29: MET**

Hyderabad: Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds with speeds of 30-40 kmph are likely to occur at isolated places across Telangana from March 25 to 29, the Meteorological Centre said on Wednesday. In its daily weather report, the Met office stated that light to moderate rain or thundershowers are expected at isolated places in the state over the next seven days. Maximum temperatures are likely to remain below normal by 1-2°C for the next two days, followed by a gradual rise of 2-3°C over the subsequent four days. Rainfall was recorded at one or two places in Telangana during the last 24 hours. The highest maximum temperature of 37.8°C was recorded at Adilabad, while the lowest minimum temperature of 17.3°C was reported at Dundigal during the same period, the report added.

**ICICI Home Finance** Registered Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400051

Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai- 400059  
 Branch Address: Supra Towers, Upper Ground Floor, D. No. 5-37-15, 4/15 Brodipet, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh 522002  
 Branch Address: 7/242,243-7, Sri Venkateswara Complex, Koneru Center, Machilipatnam, Andhra Pradesh 521001

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from ICICI Home Finance Company Limited ("ICICI HFC") and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Kokkiligada Koteswara Rao (Borrower), Kokkiligada Pedda (Co-Borrower), 33 B 17 Yadla Lingayiah Colony Tenali Guntur 522202 Andhra Pradesh, LHGTRO0001413229	Item No.1. An Extent of 72.40 Sq.yards or 60.53 Sq.mtrs of Residential Site Together With Rcc Ground Floor (650 Sq.mtrs ) And First Floor (650 Sq.mtrs) of Residential Building Therein Situated D.No. 216.3 of Tenali, Yadla Lingaiah Colony, Nearest D.No. 30-1-1, Tenali Municipality, Tenali District Registry, Guntur East: Property Belongs To Chanduluri Ratna Kumari 44 Links. South: Second Item 34 Links. West: Property Sold By Veluri Venkateswara Reddy 44 Links. North: Site Belongs To Shaik Eesub 34 Links 2nd Item. An Extent of 24.68 Sq.yards or 20.63 Sq.mtrs of Way Site Situated In D.No. 216.3 of Tenali Yadla Lingaiah Colony, Nearest D.No. 30-1-1, Tenali Municipality, Tenali District Registry, Guntur. East : Way Site Belongs To Chanduluri Ratna Kumari 15 Links. South: Others Way Site 34 Links. West : Way Site Sold By Veluri Venkateswara Reddy 44 Links. North : 1st Item Property 34 Links Bounded By:	16-03-2026 Rs. 14,56,775.14/-	10-03-2026
2.	Dokku Vamsi Krishna (Borrower), Dokku Hymavathi (Co-Borrower), Door No. 3 87 R Golapalem Machilipatnam Krishna Machilipatnam 521001 Andhra Pradesh, LHMC00001551943	Property on Land Admeasuring 629.2 Sq. Yards Rs. No. 110 Bearing By Near D.No. 2-283 Situated At Rudravaram Village, Bandra Mandal, Machilipatnam Sub- Registry, Krishna District. Together With All The Buildings And Structures Thereon, Rights, Fixtures, Fittings And All Plant And Machinery Attached To The Machilipatnam 521001 Andhra Pradesh. Bounded By - North By: Colony Bazar Out Side Avula Achutarajmaiah Site, South By: Road, South By: Tummalagunta Sai Babu, East By: Site of Kumbam Veeriah, West By: Donka.	16-03-2026 Rs. 7,76,318/-	10-03-2026
3.	Chenchu Rajasekhara (Borrower), Muthakani Ramyasri (Co-Borrower) 12 Th Ward 4 -28, Mulukuduru Ponnur, Bungalow, Mulukuduru, Guntur 522315 Andhra Pradesh, LHGTRO0001659722	Guntur District, Tenali Sub- Registration District, Mulukuduru Village, Survey No. 145/1, Property Having An Extent Of 145.2 Sq.yards, Vacant Land Constructing There In Lying As Property Of Mulukuduru Village, With Right Of Way And All Appurtenances There To Lying With In The Following Boundaries Bounded By - North By: Colony Bazar Out Side Avula Achutarajmaiah Site, South By: Shaik Tajuddin Site, East By: Devavarupu Satti Babu Site, West By: Colony Bazar.	16-03-2026 Rs. 25,46,544/-	10-03-2026
4.	Chenchu Rajasekhara (Borrower), Muthakani Ramyasri (Co-Borrower), 12 Th Ward 4 -28, Mulukuduru Ponnur, Bungalow, Mulukuduru, Guntur 522315 Andhra Pradesh, LHGTRO0001659722	Guntur District, Tenali Sub- Registration District, Mulukuduru Village, Survey No. 145/1, Property Having An Extent Of 145.2 Sq.yards, Vacant Land Constructing There In Lying As Property Of Mulukuduru Village, With Right Of Way And All Appurtenances There To Lying With In The Following Boundaries Bounded By - North By: Colony Bazar Out Side Avula Achutarajmaiah Site, South By: Shaik Tajuddin Site, East By: Devavarupu Satti Babu Site, West By: Colony Bazar.	16-03-2026 Rs. 1,05,887/-	10-03-2026

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date: March 26, 2026, Authorized Officer, ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, Place: Guntur, Chilikala Pudi

**RAILWAYS ADDS 1,024 TRAINS, BOOSTS CAPACITY TO MEET PASSENGER DEMAND**

New Delhi, March 25: On Indian Railways, occupancy pattern of trains varies over lean and peak periods. During peak rush periods, the occupancy of the trains especially on popular routes remains full whereas during lean period and on less popular routes, there is sub optimal utilization. Waiting list pattern is monitored on regular basis and to cater to additional demand, Indian Railways have taken various steps like introduction of new trains, increase in frequency/extension of existing trains, augmentation of load of existing trains on permanent basis, etc. Further, waiting list limits have been rationalized linking it to the extent of accommodation of that class available in the train. During the last five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26 (up to Feb'2026), 1024 trains were introduced, 907 were extended, frequency of 168 trains was increased and 4651 coaches were augmented. As the Railway network straddles across state boundaries, trains are introduced, as per network requirement, across such boundaries. However, on originating/terminating basis, Indian Railways during 2021-22 to 2025-26 (Feb'2026) have introduced 444 train services catering to the needs of various stations located in the Eastern/North Eastern region including following 75 pair trains serving the stations falling in the state of Bihar. With a view to meet the demand of passengers travelling in unreserved coaches, Railways have significantly increased the facilities for passengers demanding general class travel. During the last financial year 2024-25 alone, 1250 general coaches have been utilised in various long-distance trains. In the current financial year (upto February, 2026), 860 Coaches have been utilised for permanent augmentation.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**ICICI Home Finance** Registered Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400051

Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai- 400059  
 Branch Address: North Side, 1st floor, Plot No. A 36, 2nd Block, 76-1-4; Lalitha Bhaskar Enterprises, Gandhi Puram-II, Rajamahendravaram, Ap- 533103  
 Branch Address: 238-5-7, Shop No. 2, 4th Floor, Vasavi Plaza, Eadaravari Street, Ramachandra Rao Pet, Eluru, Andhra Pradesh-534002.

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from ICICI Home Finance Company Limited ("ICICI HFC") and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Bhamidipati Srirama Murthy (Borrower), V S V Ramani (Co-Borrower), D No 59-8-3/e3 V G M Apartment P And T Colony Rajahmundry 533101 Andhra Pradesh , LHLHU00001677326	East Godavari Rajahmundry District, Pdimgoyya office, Kolumuru Grama Panchayat and post Rajahmundry rural 1 Block, R.S. No. 761/1A, Near, D.No. 9-16, Plot No. 36 Total extent of 150 sq.yards Bounded By- North By: Site In Plot No. 35, South By: Site In Plot No.37, East By: Site In Plot No. 23, West By: 30 Feet Road.	16-03-2026 Rs. 30,23,910.4/-	03/10/2026
2.	Sambashivarao Paluri (Borrower), Paluri Dnmalleswara Prasad (Co-Borrower), D No 4 70 B Mamidi Thota Betti Vari Street, Tadepalligudem West Godavari, Tadepalligudem, Tadepalligudem 534101 Andhra Pradesh , LHLHU00001677326	West Godavari District, Tadepalligudem S.R.O. and mandal, Kunchanapalli Village and Gramapanchayath area, an extent of southern 71.23 sq.yards of site with R.C.C Building from out of 176/2.3 sq.yards in plot no. 16 in R.S. No. 37/4/4 and D.D.S. No. 299/2014. Bounded By- North By: Site Of Sayyad Asif, South By: Plot No. 15 Site, East By: Plot No. 13 Site, West By: 24 Feet Wide Road.	16-03-2026 Rs. 27,12,435/-	03/10/2026
3.	Sambashivarao Paluri (Borrower), Paluri Dnmalleswara Prasad (Co-Borrower), D No 4 70 B Mamidi Thota Betti Vari Street, Tadepalligudem West Godavari, Tadepalligudem, Tadepalligudem 534101 Andhra Pradesh, LHLHU00001677373	West Godavari District, Tadepalligudem S.R.O. and mandal, Kunchanapalli Village and Gramapanchayath area, an extent of southern 71.23 sq.yards of site with R.C.C Building from out of 176/2.3 sq.yards in plot no. 16 in R.S. No. 37/4/4 and D.D.S. No. 299/2014. Bounded By- North By: Site Of Sayyad Asif, South By: Plot No. 15 Site, East By: Plot No. 13 Site, West By: 24 Feet Wide Road.	16-03-2026 Rs. 86,824/-	03/10/2026

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date: March 26, 2026, Authorized Officer, ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, Place: Rajahmundry, Tadepalligudem

**NIWAS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED** (Formerly, Niwas Housing Finance Private Limited)

Regd. Office: - Unit No. 305, 3rd Floor, Wing 2/E, Corporate Avenue, Andheri- Ghatkopar Link Road, Chakala, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400093

**POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule 8 (1) and (2)]**

Whereas, The Authorized Officer of the Secured Creditor mentioned herein, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Act), 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with (Rule 3) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s) and the public in general that the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of NHFL has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned against each property. 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. The borrower(s) 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 the NHFL for the amount mentioned below and interest and other charges thereon.

Loan Account Number	Borrower(s) & Property Details	Amount & Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Possession Status
LNCUDLAP-01230028778	1.VENNAPUSA OBLU REDDY (BORROWER) 2.PRAMEELA VENNAPUSA (CO-BORROWER)	Rs. 5,74,553/- (RUPEES FIVE LAKH SEVENTYFOUR THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FIFTYTHREE ONLY) DATE: 18-Apr-2025	24-Mar-2026	PHYSICAL POSSESSION
LNCUDOHL-09230038011	1.PYDIPALEM VENKATA SRINIVASULU 2.PAGIDIPALEM VENKATA LAKSHMI	Rs. 12,53,561/- (RUPEES TWELVE LAKH FIFTYTHREE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SIXTYONE ONLY) DATE: 13-Mar-2025	23-Mar-2026	PHYSICAL POSSESSION

**PROPERTY BEARING -** ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE PROPERTY BEARING SYNO 371-1A, RCC HOUSE D.NO.1/169, WARD NO.1 MIDUTHURU VILLAGE, MIDUTHURU GRAMAM, MIDUTHURU MAJARA, KHAJIPETA(M,D), MIDYKURU SUB-DISTRICT, KADAPA DISTRICT, A.O.STATE ADMEASURING 145.2 SQ.YARDS THE FOLLOWING BOUNDARIES ARE ESTABLISHED: WEST- STREET RAASTHA, NORTH-STREET RAASTHA, SOUTH-HOUSE OF BOGANABOINA SIDDAIAH ALIAS OBULESU, MEASUREMENT- EAST TO WEST: NORTHERN SIDE 57 FEETS OR 86.50 LINKS OR 17.30 MTS, EAST TO WESTEASTERN SIDE:57 FEETS OR 86.50 LINKS OR 17.30 MTS, NORTH TO SOUTH: EASTERN SIDE 24 FEETS OR 36.40 LINKS OR 7.30 MTS, NORTH TO SOUTH: WESTERN SIDE 22 FEETS OR 33.33 LINKS OR 6.70 MTS TOTAL LAND EXTENT:145.2 SQ.YARDS CONSTRUCTION AREA:GF:990.SQ.FT

**PROPERTY BEARING -** ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE PROPERTY BEARING SYNO 4711, 4712, 4713, H.NO.2-6-122, NEAR H.NO.2-6-358-1, 2ND WARD JENDAMANU VEEDI, PULIVENDULA GP, PULIVENDULA MUNICIPALITY, PULIVENDULA SUB.D PRODATTURU R.D CUDDAPAH DISTRICT-ANDHRA PRADESH-516401 ADMEASURING 160 SQ.YARDS THE FOLLOWING BOUNDARIES -EAST-ROAD, WEST-DODDI RASTHA, NORTH-PLOT NO.40, SOUTH-PLOT NO.42

Date: 26-03-2026, Sd/- Authorized Officer, Place: Andhra Pradesh, NIWAS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

**Vridhi Finserv Home Finance Ltd** Registered & corporate office address - 1st floor, No. 38, GKR Saphthagiri Vaishtadham, 12th cross, Office CBI Road, Ganganagar, Bangalore 560032

**POSSESSION NOTICE** See Rule - 8(1) (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the The Vridhi Finserv Home Finance Ltd., under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the power conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued demand notices calling upon the following Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagees to repay the amount mentioned in the notice with further interest / cost etc., within 60 days from the date of the said notice. Details of demand notices such as date of issue and loan outstanding amount are mentioned against each borrower under.

**Kadapa Branch**

1. Name of the Borrowers/Mortgagees/Guarantors: (1) Mr. Noonepalli Reddeiah S/o Noonepalli Obalah, (2) Mrs. Noonepalli Venkata Lakshmi W/o Noonepalli Reddeiah, Both are residing at: H-No-15/234, Besta Colony, Chennur, Chennur Cuddapa, Andhra Pradesh-516162.  
 Demand notice dated: 13.01.2026 Possession Notice Date: 20.03.2026  
 Total amount mentioned in the notice: Rs. 25,58,682/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Two Only) as on 08/01/2026 and interest thereon.  
 Description of the Immovable Property : All that piece and parcel of the Property YSR District, Kadapa Rural Sub-District, Chennur mandalam, Chennur(G.P), Chennur Village Field, Bestha Colony, Old, New Door No.15/283, (Door No.15/234) Sy No.:753/1B,753/2, Land measuring an extent of 113.77sq. yards of RCC House and bounded by the following boundaries: Bounded by: North: House of Bommanaboina Bala Gurraiah, South: House of Kadapa Sreenu, East: Road, West: House of Bola Subbarayudu. Site Measurements: East to West: Both Side: 32 Feets Or 9.76 Meters, North to South: Both Side: 32 Feets Or 9.76 Meters to an extant of 113.77sq. yds. of Site. RCC House: East to West: 30 Feets Or 9.15 Meters North to South: 30 Feets Or 9.15 Meters to an extant of 900Sq. fts. Of RCC House. With in above boundaries an extent of 113.77 Sq. Yards of RCC House and Site along with all common ways, water ways and easementary rights, etc.,

2. Name of the Borrowers/Mortgagees/Guarantors: (1) Mr. Chintala Venkata Ramana S/o Chintala Venkataiah, (2) Mrs. Chintala Malleswari W/o Chintala Venkata Ramana, Both are residing at: H-No. 15-182, Besta Colony, Chennur, Cuddapa Andhra Pradesh-516162.  
 Demand notice dated: 13.01.2026 Possession Notice Date : 20.03.2026  
 Total amount mentioned in the notice: Rs. 24,67,180/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lakh Sixty Seven Thousand One Hundred Eighty Only) as on 08/01/2026 and interest thereon.  
 Description of the Immovable Property : All that piece and parcel of the Property YSR District, Kadapa Rural Sub-District, Chennur mandalam, Chennur (G.P), Chennur Village Field, Bestha Colony, Old Door No.15/182, New Door No.15/227 Sy No.:753/1B,753/2, Land measuring an extent of 65.27sq. yards of RCC House and bounded by the following boundaries: Bounded by: North: House: Kaluva, East: House of Chintala Kondiah, West: House of Chintala Sreenivasulu, Site Measurements: East to West: 23.1/2 Feets Or 7.16 Meters, North to South: 25 Feets Or 7.62 Meters to an extent of 65.27Sq.yds. of Site. RCC House: East to West: 21.1/2 Feets Or 6.55 Meters., North to South: 23 Feets Or 7.01 Meters to an extent of 495Sq. fts. of RCC House. 1st Floor RCC House, East to West: 21.1/2 Feets Or 6.55 Meters, North to South: 23 Feets Or 7.01 Meters to an extent of 495Sq.fts. of 1st Floor RCC Mahadi House. With in above boundaries an extent of 65.27 Sq. Yards of RCC House and Site along with all common ways, water ways and easementary rights, etc.,

**Madanapalle Branch**

3. Name of the Borrowers/Mortgagees/Guarantors: (1) Mr. C Ashok Singh S/o C Ratha Singh, (2) Mrs. C Sireesha W/o Ashok Singh, Both are residing at: 4-78, Diguva Palli, Nimmanapalli Mandalam, Mastur Village, Mushtoor Post, Nimmanapalle Sub dist, Chittoor dist, Andhra Pradesh-517280.  
 Demand notice dated: 13.01.2026 Possession Notice Date : 20.03.2026  
 Total amount mentioned in the notice: Rs. 9,50,611/- (Rupees Nine Lakh Fifty Thousand Six Hundred Eleven Only) as on 08/01/2026 and interest thereon.  
 Description of the Immovable Property : All that piece and parcel of Land Measuring an extant of 1987.5 Sq. Feet or 220.83 Sq. yards vacant site full and constructed RCC roofed house in an extent of 363 Sq. feet in D.No.12-72, Assessment No.855 situated in S.No.1256 of Mustoor Village & Gramapanchayat, Nimmanapalle Mandal, Vayalpad Sib District, Annamaya District, and bounded by the following boundaries: Bounded on: East: Raja Veedhi, West: The land of Pothuraju Siddappa, North: The house of C. Maruthi Singh, South: The house of C. Sankar Singh, Within the above boundaries: East - West: 53 feet or 16.16 meters, North-South: 37.5 feet or 11.43 meters, Total 1987.5 Sq feet or 220.83 Sq. Yards vacant site full and constructed RCC roofed house measuring East-West: 22 feet, North-South: 16.5 feet, Total 363 Sq. feet with doors, door frames, windows, roof, electric fixers, Electric meter bearing No. 521330901067 Stair case etc., full. Within the registration sub district of Vayalpad and the registration district of Annamaya District.

The borrower having 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 under Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on above mentioned dates. The Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Mortgagees and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the Vridhi Finserv Home Finance Ltd., for the amount mentioned against their names with further interest accrued thereon cost. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Date : 20.03.2026, Sd/- The Authorised Officer, Place : Bangalore, The Vridhi Finserv Home Finance Ltd.,

# EDITORIAL

## A Northern Discomfort for Mamata Banerjee

There is a particular weather to political voyages: not the weather the meteorologist reads, but the climate that surrounds a leader as she steps from the capital, Kolkata, into places that hold both memory and mystery. Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's sudden pivot north after unfurling the Trinamool Congress manifesto in Kolkata last week felt like that kind of atmospheric change - as if the very air of West Bengal had shifted its axis, and she, who has long been mistress of the south (Central Bengal) and the city (Greater Kolkata region and the metropolis), was now testing the gusts of a different wind. There are journeys that are outward but inward at the same time - trains that are maps of the self, landscapes that reflect an inner composition. Banerjee's barnstorming of North Bengal over the past three days has a similar double vision. On the surface, it is a tautly strategic exercise: rallies in Maynaguri, Dabgram-Fulbari, Naxalbari; speeches on the grounds of Jabravita High School and Nandaprasad High School; logistics checked and rechecked by cops and administrators. Underneath, though, there is an old story being reread - of a leader known for populist intimacy, threading herself through markets and alleys, now reaching for constituencies that have long been resistant to her voice. Mamata Faces a Challenge From Saffron, Not Erstwhile 'Red Brigade' Historically, Naxalbari was the place where the CPI-ML had its genesis, hence the Naxalite movement. But that was decades ago, in the era of 1967 to 1969, when the Maoists under Charu Mazumdar and Kanu Sanyal had begun the peasant uprising. Mamata Banerjee, however, rushed to the erstwhile revolutionary zone not to face the gauntlet from the Red revolutionaries but to meet an electoral challenge from a different hue: the Saffron brigade. Numbers, of course, are blunt and crystalline companions to any political pilgrimage. In the last assembly round, the TMC's wounds in the north were visible not just in seats but in the geometry of votes: 23 seats out of 215 for Banerjee's TMC party, while the BJP pocketed 30 of 77 in that very region; a vote share where TMC's 44.53% faced the BJP's 42.27%, margins thin enough to be measured in gestures and grievances.

### North Is a Different Mood

If the map of Bengal is divided into quadrants of mood and memory, the north stands as a different country to which Mamata must now become an eligible immigrant: not only to be seen, but to be heard, recognised, forgiven, persuaded. There is a peculiar restlessness in Cooch Behar these days, as if a quiet tea-stall conversation has spilled into the high rooms of power. The TMC - long accustomed to the rhythms of Bengal's politics - now finds itself tugged in different directions, not by an external foe but by the uneasy strains of its own inside chorus. With the assembly elections approaching, dissatisfaction has seeped into the veins of the party in the district, making what was once a simple contest into something knottier. Consider Khokon Mian, whose resignation reads less like a rupture and more like a small, telling admission of a larger unsettlement. Once a close companion of Rabindranath Ghosh - the district's steady hand for more than 20 years - Mian has moved across the aisle to the Congress Party. In such moments, allegiance shifts not because of one glaring betrayal but because the ground beneath many feet feels less sure. Ghosh himself, a former MLA and minister, has been quietly sidelined after the party declined to give him the Natabari ticket. His response was characteristically low-key: a retreat, a pause. "I am taking a break and am currently resting," he said. But the unease is not his alone. A cluster of senior figures - former ministers like Binay Krishna Barman and Jiten Barman, and Suchismita Deb Sharma, who leads the district's women's wing - have also found themselves without tickets. They have not staged loud rebellions; instead, their silence and absence from campaigning is conspicuous, a negative space on the political canvas that observers cannot help but notice.

## Inside Iran's 'Leader-Proof' War Machine, Designed To Absorb Every Blow

On March 17, an Israeli airstrike killed Ali Larijani, the Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council and the man who Israeli reports termed the "de facto" leader of Iran since late 2025. On March 24, Iran replaced him with Mohammad Baqar Zolqadr. Zolqadr is a member of the Expediency Discernment Council (which reconciles disputes between Parliament and the Guardianship Council) and had earlier held the Secretaryship of that Council under Sadeq Larijani (Ali Larijani's brother) as Chairman. Larijani himself had been among the prominent faces of the Iranian response to US/Israeli attacks that began on February 28, and his formidable professional experience and philosophical scholarship are, by now, well-known. He served as Speaker in Parliament (2008-2020), as a member of the Expediency Discernment Council, and as Advisor to Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei since 2020. But this article focuses on a different role.

### Authoritarianism Is Just One Instrument Among Many

Iran's system of government, a theocracy superimposed on a working democracy, has often been mistaken as relying solely on authoritarian hardline instruments in its domestic and foreign policies. But for Tehran's post-1979 rulers, authoritarianism has only ever been one instrument among many to serve one principal goal: preserving the Islamic Republic. Functionally, this has not meant a dogmatic hardline and conservative posture that is blind to popular resentment and disquiet, this would never work for a revolutionary government that replaced a monarchy on the back of national unrest. Rather, having learnt key lessons from the Shah era, the Iranian system found a way to let popular pressures find their own vents; for the elected institutions to oscillate between Reformists and Conservatives (Principlists). This is even as the overall system ensured that only those who ultimately proved their belief in preserving the system's fundamentals held office. A Club Of Advisors, Individuals Crucially, even as the Supreme Leader



is the highest political office in Iran, the Leader's choices are also strongly driven by which advisors/individuals are more influentially dominant at any given point, which has also meant a constant tussle between camps. Within this dialectical system, key actors have long performed a 'bridging role', whether by design or by chance, in determining Tehran's domestic and foreign policies. Rather than their formal positions, their strength is drawn from proximity to the Supreme Leader and the support they command within sections of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (Sepah-e-Pasdaran) as veterans of the force. Such actors display their unquestionable faith in the broader Islamic Republic's governing system and are affiliated with conservative camps, but also adopt pragmatic positions on specific issues. For Iran's Principlists, such 'pragmatic conservatives' are also important to undercut Reformist politics.

### Ali Larijani And Who He Competed With

Ali Ardashir Larijani was one such actor, commanding support from a significant section of the Sepah and competing for influence with conserva-

tives Mohsen Rezaei, Mohammad Ghalibaf, and Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (each of whom have their own bases in the IRGC). Except Ahmadinejad, the other three have all reflected their own distinctive brands of pragmatic politics, with all four having engaged in significant fraternal political fights across the 2000s and 2010s. This has often caused the Leader's intervention to re-arrange their formal positions and has occasionally also caused public spats between these individuals and formal state institutions. In 2009, for instance, Larijani launched a public tirade against the powerful Guardian Council as well as the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting, an organisation he formerly headed. In that year of unprecedented domestic political crisis due to widespread electoral fraud - triggering demonstrations termed the 'Green Movement' - Larijani maintained "that insofar as enough people believed the election was fraudulent that their opinion should be respected". This was even as the Supreme Leader categorically backed Ahmadinejad's election victory over Reformist candidate Mir Hussein Mousavi, amidst a harsh clampdown on protesters. Larijani's

approach to the Green Movement was a textbook example of his bridging role as a pragmatic conservative. For anyone else, it would arguably be political suicide. There are numerous such examples of positions that a hardliner would not have been expected to otherwise adopt.

### A 'Bridge' Himself?

That his proximity to the Leader grew over the years instead of diminishing is testimony to Larijani's relationship with Khamenei as well as with the informal structures of power within the Islamic Republic. Larijani's record of crafting and improving the Republic's internal security strategy (with stronger clampdowns on dissent) as well as his experience in guiding strategic choices (such as by overseeing nuclear negotiations during his first SNSC Secretariat term; 2005-07) also enhanced his significance. Consequently, by late 2025, Larijani was formally re-appointed as SNSC Secretary and authorised to lead the crackdown on massive protests that shook Iran in late December and early January (and which prompted Trump's publicly stated interest in attacking Iran). By March, just as the Leader had turned to him earlier to tackle internal threats in peacetime, the system turned to him for tackling external threats in wartime, post-Khamenei's death. Formally, Iran is presently governed by the Interim Leadership Council. But given that the system's composite units are facing a moment of deep external crisis, the influence of bridging actors has increased exponentially, with the system attributing them with decision-making and nodal authority.

### After Larijani

Ali Larijani's successor, Mohammad Zolqadr, is also an IRGC veteran but not a bridging actor of Larijani's ilk. However, his appointment is proof that Iran's wartime posture is showing significant continuity, without large-scale changes. In 2002, as the US prepared to invade Iraq, Zolqadr had outlined with striking precision the strategy that Iran is presently following in the current war.

## Expensive fees of private schools, big claims and reality



PRIYANKA SAURABH

(Advertisements Guarantee Success, But Results Matter—Are Parents Getting Value for Their Money?) In today's world, education is no longer just a means of acquiring knowledge, but has also become a booming business. From cities to small towns, the number of private schools is constantly increasing, and along with them, so are their promotional strategies. Attractive advertisements for schools are seen in newspapers, billboards, social media, and even at local events. Each school bills itself as "the best," "a future builder," and a "guarantee of success." But the real question is: do these claims match reality, or are they simply a way to exploit the expectations and emotions of parents? Today's parents are more aware than ever, but they are equally concerned about their children's future. They want their children to attend a good school, receive the best facilities, and progress in life. This thinking often leads them to spend beyond their means. Many families pay their children's fees by cutting back on their own needs, taking out loans, or working extra. They believe that attending an expensive school means a better education and guaranteed success. Private schools understand this psychology and exploit it to their fullest in their advertising. They prominently showcase their campuses, infrastructure, smart classrooms, air-conditioned facilities, sports activities, and other modern resources. They also make tall claims about success in competitive examinations such as medical, engineering, law, and defense services. Advertisements often present the achievements of a select few students as if they reflect the school's overall

performance. But when we examine these claims more closely, a different picture emerges. The reality is that the success rate in competitive exams is very low. Whether it's medical entrance exams, prestigious engineering exams, or exams related to law and defense services—the number of students who succeed is often limited. Sometimes, only a handful of students manage to pass these exams in an entire year. Therefore, it's natural to question whether the claims made by the school are true. It's also important to note that preparing for these competitive exams isn't possible solely through schooling. Most students seek out separate coaching institutes, where they are specifically prepared for these exams. They invest additional time, effort, and resources. Therefore, if a school takes full credit for these students' success, it could be misleading to parents. Board exam results are also a key measure of a school's quality. However, even here, it's often seen that very few students achieve 90 percent or higher. The number of students scoring above 95 percent is even lower. If a school claims to be a leading institution in its region, it's expected that its results will be at a similar level. However, this expectation often falls short. The issue of fees is the most sensitive aspect of this entire topic. Private school fees are constantly rising, and in many cases, they are beyond the financial reach of middle-class families. Beyond fees, there are numerous additional expenses—such as transportation, uniforms, books, annual fees, activity fees, etc. Overall, the cost of a child's education becomes quite substantial. It's important to understand that schools require funding to operate. Good teachers, modern facilities, security, and co-curricular activities all have an expense. But problems arise when there's a mismatch between fees and the quality of education. If a school charges high fees, it's not unreasonable to expect it to provide the same level of quality. Recognizing this problem, the government has enacted rules and regulations to regulate fees in many states. Fee regulation committees have been established to prevent

arbitrary fee hikes by schools. However, in practice, these regulations appear to have limited impact. Parents are often unaware of their rights and are hesitant to speak out. In this situation, the role of parents becomes extremely important. Instead of making decisions based solely on advertisements, they should seriously analyze the school's actual performance, the quality of the teachers, and past results. If possible, they should talk to other parents and learn about their experiences. It is essential to understand the difference between the school's claims and reality. Additionally, if parents feel that the school is not being transparent or making false claims, they should speak out collectively. Uniting forces and demanding answers from the school management, and filing a complaint with the relevant education authorities or board, if necessary, can be an effective step. This can not only resolve the problem but also prevent similar situations in the future. It's also important that we don't limit the definition of success solely to marks and competitive exams. Every child is unique, with varying interests and abilities. The goal of education should not be merely passing a single exam, but rather ensuring the child's overall development. A good school is one that helps children become self-reliant, confident, and responsible citizens. In today's times, it's crucial to understand that no school can guarantee success. School merely provides a platform from which a child begins their journey. Their success depends on their hard work, the guidance they receive, and the environment they are exposed to. Ultimately, education should be viewed as a service, not just a business. Schools have a responsibility to maintain transparency, be accountable to their claims, and maintain parental trust. Parents also have a responsibility to be informed, make informed decisions, and speak out when necessary. Only if balance and trust is maintained between these two parties, can we create an education system that can truly brighten the future of children, and not just remain an expensive affair.

## How Minority Seats Could Decide Who Wins Kerala This Time



Kerala is once again on the cusp of a tightly fought electoral contest, with the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the opposition United Democratic Front (UDF) locked in a familiar battle, even as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) attempts to expand its footprint in a state where it has historically struggled. For decades, Kerala's politics followed a predictable rhythm. Since 1982, voters alternated between the LDF and UDF every five years, ensuring no government grew too comfortable in power. That pattern was dramatically broken in 2021 when the LDF, led by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, secured a second consecutive term. Now, as Vijayan completes a decade in office at the age of 80, the question is whether Kerala will revert to its instinct for change.

revived hopes of a comeback. After ten years out of power, the Congress-led alliance appears hungry. The LDF has long been considered the 'majority' party of Kerala that enjoys Hindu support, while the UDF enjoys minority backing. However, the BJP's rise in the state has come at the expense of the UDF, with the saffron party pulling some Hindu votes from the opposition bloc. The UDF has in its fold the IUML and the Kerala Congress, which respectively cater to 27% Muslims and 18% Christians.

### Kerala's Electoral Geography

To understand Kerala's electoral dynamics, one must look beyond statewide narratives and examine its zonal and demographic structure.

### The state is broadly divided into three regions:

- North Kerala (48 seats): Muslim-heavy, with around 47% Muslim population.
- Central Kerala (53 seats): Christian-influenced, with about 28% Christian popula-

tion. • South Kerala (39 seats): Predominantly Hindu, and the BJP's strongest zone. As much as 63% of the Muslim population of the state resides in the North, while 56% of Christians reside in the Central zone. A few key districts are also critical to the results: Three districts, which have more than 30% Muslim population - Kasargod, Kozhikode and Malappuram - account for 34 seats. Five districts - Ernakulam, Idduki, Kottayam, Pathnamthitta - have 33 seats, accounting for more than 30% Christian population. Five districts - Waynad, Malappuram, Ernakulam, Idduki, Kottayam - have 47 seats and make up for more than 50% minority population (Muslim + Christian). Nine districts - Kasargod, Kozhikode, Kannur, Palakkad, Thrissur, Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta, Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram - are Hindu-majority and account for about 93 seats. The

Congress is considered traditionally strong in the North zone. South has the highest Hindu population, and it's here that the BJP is the strongest, though it has also made some inroads in the Christian belt, winning the Thrissur Lok Sabha seat from the Central zone. In municipal corporations, it successfully installed its Mayor in Thiruvananthapuram. How LDF Broke The Trend In 2021 In 2011, the UDF won the elections narrowly, bagging 72 of the 140 seats, while the LDF got 68. Of the 34 Muslim-dominated seats, the UDF won 20, while the LDF bagged 14. Of the 33 Christian-dominated seats, the UDF had won 22, while the LDF had won 11. And, of the 47 minority majority seats (what are minority majority seats), the UDF won 37 - a strike rate of 79% - while the LDF got just 10. This gave an edge to the UDF. In 2016, the LDF won the elections as the trend of alternate governments continued, getting 91 seats as against the UDF's 49.

STRENGTHENING GREEN LOGISTICS:

Maruti Suzuki's Manesar in-plant automobile railway siding crosses a milestone of 1 lakh vehicle dispatches



1 lakh vehicles dispatched from India's largest automobile in-plant railway siding at Maruti Suzuki's Manesar plant within 9 months from start of operations. In June 2025, The Hon'ble Union Minister for Railways, Information and Broadcasting, Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnav and Hon'ble Chief Minister of Haryana, Shri Nayab Singh Saini flagged off the first train from the facility.

New Delhi, 25th March 2026: Maruti Suzuki India Limited ("Maruti Suzuki") today announced that the Manesar in-plant railway siding has attained a milestone of 1 lakh vehicle dispatches since its start of operations in June 2025. It has resulted in an estimated avoidance of 16,800 metric tonnes\* CO<sub>2</sub>e (carbon dioxide equivalent). The Manesar railway siding is India's largest automobile in-plant railway facility and the second PM GatiShakti in-plant terminal for both the auto industry and the Company, after the Gujarat railway siding. Several popular Maruti Suzuki models such as Alto, WagonR, Brezza, Dzire, Ertiga, Celerio, XL6, Eeco, Super Carry etc.

manufactured at Company's Gurugram and Manesar facilities have been dispatched from the siding through more than 500 rakes since it commenced operations. Through this in-plant railway siding, the Company is servicing 380 cities from 17 hubs via a dedicated hub and spoke model. Speaking on the milestone, Mr. Hisashi Takeuchi, Managing Director & CEO, Maruti Suzuki India Limited, said, "In June 2025, Hon'ble Union Minister for Railways, Information and Broadcasting, Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnav and Hon'ble Chief Minister of Haryana, Shri Nayab Singh Saini inaugurated India's

largest automobile in-plant railway siding at our Manesar plant. I am happy to share that within a short span of nine months, we have dispatched 100,000 units, through this siding. This initiative reinforces our commitment to reduce carbon footprint in vehicle dispatches while easing overall road congestion. At full capacity, the Manesar siding has the capability to dispatch 450,000 units annually." He added, "In CY 2025, the Company set a record by dispatching over 5.85 lakh vehicles through railways. Interestingly, in the past decade, our share of rail mode in outbound logistics has grown exponentially, from 5% in 2016 to 26% in

**Highlights**

■ MARUTI SUZUKI INDIA LIMITED ("MARUTI SUZUKI") TODAY ANNOUNCED THAT THE MANESAR IN-PLANT RAILWAY SIDING HAS ATTAINED A MILESTONE OF 1 LAKH VEHICLE DISPATCHES SINCE ITS START OF OPERATIONS IN JUNE 2025.

2025. Going forward, we aim to scale up rail-based vehicle dispatches from the current 26% to 35% by FY 2030-31#, in line with our commitment to build efficient and sustainable logistics and contribute to India's net-zero ambition. "Maruti Suzuki is the first automobile company to obtain an AFTO (Automobile-Freight-Train

Operator) license, back in 2013. Since FY 2014-15, Maruti Suzuki has transported over 29.50 lakh vehicles via rail. The Company's green logistics efforts align with UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) No. 13 on climate action, reinforcing the Company's vision for a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable future.

Cipla Health Strengthens ProlyteORS Portfolio with Launch of Masala Guava Flavour

25th March, Mumbai, India: Prolyte ORS, the W.H.O. recommended Oral Rehydration Salt (ORS) formulation from Cipla Health Limited, has announced the launch of the all-new Masala Guava flavour. Designed with Indian consumers at its core, the new variant brings together the proven efficacy of ORS with a taste rooted in Indian palates, making hydration not just effective but enjoyable delivering both science-backed relief and a familiar taste. With this launch, Cipla Health reinforces its commitment to the oral rehydration category, where Prolyte ORS has been a trusted name for years. The addition of the Masala Guava variant takes the portfolio to eleven flavours, all rooted in science, while evolving to meet the growing demand for hydration solutions that deliver both effectiveness and taste without compromise. Commenting on the launch, Mr Shivam Puri, CEO and MD of Cipla Health, said, "Hydration is a fundamental part of maintain-



ing overall health and wellbeing, particularly in a country like India where climatic conditions and active lifestyles can increase the risk of dehydration. ProlyteORS has always stood for science you can trust. With Masala Guava as an addition, it will be a reason for the consumers to reach for it every day and not just when they are unwell, but as a smarter

hydration habit built into everyday life." The new variant is the outcome of an extensive research and development process that balances strict formulation accuracy with consumer preferences. The flavour has undergone multiple rounds of testing to ensure it meets quality and efficacy benchmarks while delivering a taste that resonates with Indian consumers.

MARCOS PROMISES 'FLOW OF OIL' AS PHILIPPINES DECLARES ENERGY EMERGENCY

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos says he is working to secure new sources of oil after he placed the country under a state of national energy emergency in response to the war in Iran. Marcos told Filipinos in a televised address that the government would procure one million barrels of oil to add to the current stock, which is good for 45 days. "We will have a flow of oil. Not just one delivery, not two deliveries, but a flow of oil-related products," he said. The Philippines, which imports 98% of its oil from the gulf, became the first country to declare an energy emergency after local diesel and petrol prices more than doubled in the country since the war broke out on 28 February. The US-Israel war with Iran and the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz - a key shipping route - have sent shock waves through global energy markets, causing shortages and price rises. Marcos said the emergency declaration late Tuesday would give the government the legal authority to impose measures to ensure energy



stability and protect the broader economy. "Nothing is off the table. We are looking at everything we can do, whatever suggestion, whatever idea," he said. Philippine Ambassador to the US Jose Manuel Romualdez had told Reuters that Manila was working with Washington to secure exemptions that would allow the country to import oil from US-sanctioned countries. The Philippines is one of the US' closest allies in the Pacific. Under Marcos' order, a committee has been formed to oversee the orderly distribution of fuel, food, medicines, and other essential goods. The government has also been empowered to directly purchase fuel and petroleum

products to shore up supplies. The declaration will remain in place for one year, unless it is extended or lifted by the president. It follows calls from several senators, who urged Marcos to acknowledge the "emergency-level" hardship faced by Philippine families due to soaring oil prices. The price of petrol and diesel spiked again on Tuesday, rising to more than double its pre-war level in February. One of the country's main labour coalitions, the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) strongly criticised the emergency declaration, calling it an "admission" that the government failed to address the oil crisis. It also accused the administration of downplaying the situation earlier, say-

ing previous claims that "everything is normal" were misleading. The KMU also raised concerns about what it describes as "anti-worker provisions" in the executive order - particularly clauses that could restrict activities seen as disrupting economic activity, including strikes. They warn this could effectively limit workers' ability to protest at a time when fuel prices are already hitting incomes. But tycoon Manuel V. Pangilinan, who chairs major utilities companies, has backed the emergency powers. In a statement, he said his companies are feeling the strain of rising energy costs and warned the crisis is beginning to affect business operations, but added that the government "should have every option" available to steer the economy through what he described as a difficult period. Transport workers and other groups including ride hailing services are planning a two-day strike on Thursday and Friday, reflecting wider anger over rising fuel costs and what they see as a slow or inadequate response from the government.

SOUTH TECH HUB HYDERABAD RESHAPE INDIA'S URBAN ECONOMY: REPORT

Hyderabad/Bengaluru: The two southern tech hubs - Bengaluru and Hyderabad - now power over half of India's urban growth momentum, reshaping jobs, consumption, mobility and the future of Indian cities, according to a data report released on Wednesday. Together, the two cities accounted for about 53 per cent of all Grade A office space added across India's top cities in the last five years, the report said. The findings are part of "WeAreCity 2026", the second edition of UnboxingBLR's flagship data report on Indian cities, unveiled at the Indiaspora Global AI Summit 2026 here. Titled "A Tale of Two Cities", UnboxingBLR said in a statement that the report presents a data-led comparison of Bengaluru and Hyderabad, India's two fastest-growing tech hubs that are increasingly challenging the economic dominance of Delhi NCR and Greater Mumbai. Despite having significantly smaller populations than Delhi NCR and Greater Mumbai, the two cities are "punching far



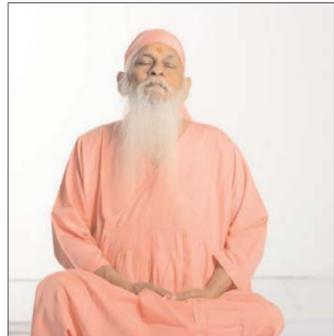
above their weight", it said. "They (Bengaluru and Hyderabad) have contributed nearly 50 per cent of new domestic flight movements among India's top eight cities in just the last two years. In 2024-25, one in every four new companies formed across India's major cities was registered in either Bengaluru or Hyderabad. This is not incremental growth, it is structural momentum," the report stated. While both cities are anchored by technology-led growth, the data highlights sharp contrasts in how they function, grow and behave. Bengaluru continues to lead as India's startup capital, with an edge in startups, funding, innovation output and emerging tech jobs. It

also shows higher bank deposits and mutual fund participation, indicating greater disposable income and financial maturity. Hyderabad, meanwhile, is emerging rapidly as a Global Capability Centre (GCC) hub, narrowing the gap with Bengaluru in enterprise tech jobs. It has recorded faster growth in retail credit and housing loans, signalling a city still building core assets. According to the report, office commute times in both cities are nearly identical - averaging 59 minutes one way in Bengaluru and 58 minutes in Hyderabad - with the difference attributed more to distance, planning and infrastructure design, offering a key insight for urban policy-

makers. On liveability indicators, Bengaluru residents show higher adoption of the gig economy, side hustles and experiential consumption, while Hyderabad records stronger indicators on infrastructure delivery and safety perceptions, especially for women. Both cities dominate entry-level hiring across IT, manufacturing, pharma and BFSI sectors, outpacing Delhi and Mumbai combined in several segments, it said. The report also introduced three indices - Economic Heft, Liveability, and Workforce Pull - to rank India's top eight cities. Delhi NCR, Greater Mumbai and Bengaluru ranked highest in Economic Heft, while Hyderabad topped the Liveability Index, followed by Bengaluru and Kolkata. Bengaluru led the Workforce Pull Index, followed by Greater Mumbai and Delhi NCR. Speaking at the event, Prashanth Prakash, Chairman and Co-Founder of UnboxingBLR, said Bengaluru and Hyderabad represent two different but equally powerful playbooks for urban growth in India.

'Himalayan Samarpan Dhyanyog' founder Pujya Shree Shivkrupanand Swamiji appointed to 'World Meditation Expert Committee'

Pujya Swamiji, who has centre on Mahudi Road near Gandhinagar in Gujarat has practitioners across 72 countries experiencing transformative spiritual growth. The World Meditation Foundation has appointed Pujya Shree Shivkrupanand Swamiji, founder of Himalayan Samarpan Dhyanyog, to its prestigious World Meditation Expert Committee, marking a significant global recognition for India's spiritual leadership. The honour comes soon after UNESCO's declaration of December 21 as 'World Meditation Day', an initiative driven by the World Meditation Foundation to promote global mental and spiritual well-being. Acknowledging Swamiji's deep spiritual insight and decades of service, the World Meditation Day Committee and Jungto Society have invited him as a distinguished speaker at the Second World Meditation Day Forum, held on March 20-21, 2026, at the Jungto Social and Cultural Centre in Seoul, South Korea. Pujya Swamiji, who has center Mahudi Village Road near Gandhinagar in Gujarat, has spent several years in the Himalayas in intense spiritual practice, attaining profound knowledge that he has been sharing with society for over 31 years through meditation. Today, practitioners across 72 countries experience transformative spiritual growth through Himalayan Samarpan Dhyanyog - an enduring testament to his glob-



al influence. This year's World Meditation Day Forum brought together eminent meditation masters, leading scientists, and global practitioners to address the world's rising mental, emotional, and environmental challenges. The conference aims to create a holistic, science-aligned, and globally inclusive meditation ecosystem. Swamiji's guidance is expected to play a pivotal role in shaping the forum's vision, particularly in advancing the universal philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' - the world is one family. His contribution underscores India's leadership in nurturing global harmony through meditation and spiritual wisdom.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds Extends Scholarship Support to 2,800+ Students in Andhra Pradesh

Vijayawada, March 25, 2026: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the world's fifth-largest retail jewellery group and a responsible jewellery brand, has announced CSR initiatives worth 200 crore for the financial year 2026-27, aimed at supporting social initiatives across India. As part of this commitment, the company conducted its Andhra Pradesh Scholarship Programme in Vijayawada, extending educational support to 2,800 students across the state with a total allocation of 2.52 crore. The programme forms part of the Group's ongoing CSR focus on education, under which 30 crore has been earmarked to provide scholarships to 33,000 girl students during FY 2025-26. The event was held at Thummalapalli Kalakshetram, Vijayawada, in the presence of Smt. Gummidi Sandhya Rani, Hon'ble Minister for Women, Child Welfare and Tribal Welfare, Government of Andhra Pradesh, and Dr.



S. Padmaja, Principal, Siddhartha Mahila Kalasala. Malabar Gold & Diamonds was represented by Mr. Siraj P.K., Head - Retail Operations (Rest of India), Mr. Shareej K, Zonal Head - Hyderabad, Mr. Nikhil Chandran, Zonal Head - Central Andhra & Rayal Seema, and Mr. Rakesh Kumar K., Deputy Head - Marketing (AP & TS), Mr. Arjun M, Showroom Head, Vijayawada, Mr. Nadeer, Dy. Showroom Head, Guntur along with members of the local community. The Andhra Pradesh scholarship distri-

bution is part of Malabar Gold & Diamonds' long-running education support programme implemented through the Malabar Charitable Trust. At the national level, the scholarship initiative has supported over 1,15,000 girl students since inception. This year, the Group plans to distribute 33,000 scholarships across multiple states, with education continuing to remain a key focus area within its CSR framework. As part of its broader CSR plan for FY 2026-27, Malabar Gold & Diamonds will implement 15 major initia-

tives across more than 3,000 locations in 19 states, expected to benefit over 2 lakh people. Education remains a significant focus area, with 114 crore allocated towards initiatives such as national scholarship programmes for girls and micro-learning centres for street children, all implemented through the Malabar Charitable Trust. In Andhra Pradesh, Malabar Gold & Diamonds has so far supported 15,626 scholarships, with a cumulative spend of 7,96,47,000. The current year's allocation of 2.52 crore for 2,800 students builds on this sus-

tained effort to improve access to education for students from economically challenged backgrounds. Commenting on the initiative, M. P. Ahammad, Chairman, Malabar Group, said, "Scholarship support has remained one of our most consistent social commitments because education has the ability to shape long-term outcomes for individuals and communities. In Andhra Pradesh, this programme is intended to support students who have the potential to succeed but require financial assistance to continue their studies." Malabar Group's CSR activities extend beyond scholarships and include initiatives in hunger eradication, healthcare, housing, women empowerment, and environmental protection. For FY 2026-27, the Group has committed 200 crore towards CSR projects across more than 3,000 locations in 19 states, with programmes expected to benefit over 2 lakh people.

# Iran rejects US peace plan as 'excessive' and issues five conditions to end war, state media reports

US House of Representatives Speaker Mike Johnson says the United States is "wrapping up" its war with Iran. "I think we're wrapping up Operation Epic Fury. That's what I think. And I think it'll be done in short order and that'll be right on schedule," Johnson tells US media in Washington DC. His comments come after US President Donald Trump said his administration was talking to the "right people" in Iran who wanted to "make a deal". Iran has since rejected a peace plan sent by the US, labelling it as "excessive". After days of questions, the Pentagon has now officially confirmed the deployment of some ground troops to the region. In a statement to the BBC, a spokesperson said some elements of the 82nd Airborne Division headquarters, some "division enablers" and the 1st Brigade Combat Team will be deploying to the Middle East. For security reasons, the spokesperson declined to give further details. The make-up of these units tells us a lot about



what capabilities are being brought in for possible use in the conflict. Based in North Carolina, the 82nd Airborne is seen as one of the military's top conventional combat units, with some elements always ready to deploy anywhere in the world within 18 hours. These troops are trained to parachute or helicopter into a target area and seize it. In the case of Iran, they could give the US an option to seize Kharg Island or other key territory.

The unit, however, is meant for mobility and lacks heavy equipment for sustained combat. The 1st Brigade Combat Team, or 1st BCT, is a New York-based part of the 10th Mountain Division and is fully equipped for sustained combat, or "full spectrum" operations in military terms. Iran's state broadcaster Press TV says, quoting a "senior political-security official", that Iran has rejected a US proposal aimed at ending the current

war. Press TV hasn't named the official, nor their rank or title, but reports the official says: "Iran will end the war when it decides to do so and when its own conditions are met." Iranian officials have repeatedly said they want a complete end to the war, not just a ceasefire. According to Press TV, the official outlined five conditions, including: A complete halt to "aggression and assassinations" by the enemy. The establishment of

concrete mechanisms to ensure that the war is not reimposed on the Islamic Republic. Guaranteed and clearly defined payment of war damages and reparations. The conclusion of the war across all fronts and for all resistance groups involved throughout the region. International recognition and guarantees regarding Iran's sovereign right to exercise authority over the Strait of Hormuz. Press TV says Washington has been pursuing talks through various diplomatic channels, but Tehran sees the proposals as "excessive".

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt says there will be a briefing for reporters at the White House today, with questions about Iran expected to dominate. The briefing was not on the previously announced schedule, and it's unclear why it was added. Donald Trump has a busy schedule today, though we may only catch glimpses of him. Most of the president's events are closed to the press,

including his intelligence briefing and a series of policy meetings this afternoon. In the evening, Trump will make a short trip to nearby Union Station, Washington's main train terminal, for a National Republican Congressional Committee fundraiser. He's likely to make remarks there, and it would be surprising if he didn't at least mention Iran. While it's difficult to independently verify all figures, the death toll from the war in the Middle East appears to have surpassed 4,500. Here's a snapshot: Iran has suffered the heaviest losses, with US-based rights group HRANA estimating 3,291 deaths - including 1,455 civilians. In Lebanon, where Israel is carrying out strikes against Hezbollah, 1,072 people have been killed, according to the Lebanese health ministry. According to Iraqi authorities, at least 81 people have died in Iraq, mostly members of the Hashed al-Shaabi (Popular Mobilisation Forces, PMF), which has links to Iran.

## Danish PM fails to secure majority in party's weakest election showing since 1903



Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen's Social Democrats won the most votes in Tuesday's Danish general election but slumped to its weakest performance since 1903, as her coalition bloc failed to secure a majority. With 21.9% of the vote, Frederiksen's party still has by far the most seats, but her left-wing grouping has fallen well short of the 90 seats needed to form a majority. The Social Democrats have been in power since 2019, and Frederiksen told cheering supporters she was "sorry that we did not get more votes". In a message of defi-

ance, she added: "There is nothing today that can make me sad that the Social Democrats have once again become the Danes' absolute favourite political party." The Social Democrats' main right-wing rival, the Liberal party Venstre, also had its worst showing for a century, with just 10.1%, falling behind the Green Left SF. Frederiksen still has a chance to stay in power for a third term, however Denmark is typically run by coalition governments, and so tough negotiations - which could take days or weeks - now loom. Twelve different political parties were on the ballot paper, and this tightly contested race has come right down to the wire. Claiming a total of 84 seats, the "red bloc" of left-wing parties have clinched a small lead over the "blue bloc" on the right, who have 77 seats combined. Both blocs have fallen short of the 90 seats that are needed for a majority in Denmark's 179-seat parliament.

## Democrats flip Florida state seat that includes Trump's Mar-a-Lago home



Democrats are projected to win a special election for a Florida legislative district that includes Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago home in Palm Beach, marking another upset in the president's backyard. Democrat Emily Gregory, a first-time candidate, defeated Trump-backed Republican Jon Maples in a race for the open Florida District 87 state House seat. The result is a reversal from 2024, when a Republican won the district by 19 percentage points. Democrats have performed well in special elections during Trump's second term, and Gregory's victory could indicate momentum for the party heading into this year's congressional midterm elections. "When I started this nine months ago, I obviously thought it was possible," Gregory told MSNBC on Tuesday night. "I might have done some crazy calculus to decide that this was a flip opportunity, but it was," she later added. "And we did it. So my math worked." When asked about Trump being her constituent, Gregory said she didn't really think about it. "He's one of 115,000 registered voters in

District 87," she said. Ken Martin, the chair of the Democratic National Committee celebrated the victory on X, saying voters had "sent a message". "If Democrats can win in Trump's backyard, we sure as hell can win anywhere across the country. Onward to November!" Martin wrote. The Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee (DLCC), which helps Democrats in state level races, also celebrated the victory. Gregory's win "proves Republicans are vulnerable everywhere," DLCC President Heather Williams said in a statement. "If Mar-a-Lago and Tampa are vulnerable, imagine what's possible this November." Trump himself backed Maples, endorsing him in a Truth Social post and urging "great patriots" to vote in the special election. Republican Congressman Byron Donalds, who is now running for governor of Florida, filmed an endorsement with Maples urging voters to choose him. Democrats have flipped several state House seats in special elections since Trump took office at the beginning of 2025.

## MSE completes the process of Appointment of Market Makers for Equity Segment



March 25, 2026, Mumbai — MSE to initiate the process of Deepening of Liquidity from April 1, 2026. MSE announces the successful completion of the appointment of Market Makers for its Equity Segment. This development is expected to strengthen market depth, support efficient price discovery, and enhance the

overall trading experience. Effective April 1, 2026, MSE will initiate liquidity enhancement measures as part of its continued efforts to deepen market participation and create a more vibrant trading ecosystem. These steps reflect MSE's ongoing commitment to fostering a transparent, efficient, and competitive marketplace for all stakeholders.

## 'There's no safety anymore': Palestinians warn of expanding West Bank settler violence

"This assault wasn't just meant to burn the houses but also to kill - to kill women and children," says Barhan Omar, standing in the charred ruins of his family's large villa, which Israeli settlers attacked on Sunday. "They came in big numbers. This was organised terrorism," he tells me, fighting back tears. "What's terrifying is that you're sitting in your house with your children, then suddenly you come under fire." The Palestinian bank manager says settlers shot at his home in Deir al-Hatab, near Nablus, as well as setting it alight, and that he and his children escaped only by hiding on their roof. Across the occupied West Bank, there has been a new spate of settler violence in recent days. During the rampage in Deir al-Hatab, at least 10 people were injured - most-

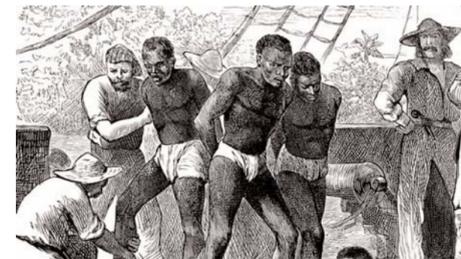


ly by thrown stones, with one man shot in the foot. This is a village that has not previously experienced such a major attack, unlike other parts of the West Bank. It followed the funeral of a young Israeli, Yehuda Sherman, at the nearby settlement of Elon Moreh, which was attended by hundreds of mourners and several leading Israeli politicians. The 18-year-old was killed when his all-terrain vehicle was reportedly hit by a Palestinian in a pickup truck near the outpost where he lived. Settlers believe he was attacked, while Palestinians insist it was an accident. Already there had been a new surge in attacks by extremist settlers since the start of the Iran war. While world attention has been diverted to new regional conflicts, six Palestinians have been killed

by settlers, the UN says. In another shocking incident two weeks ago, residents of Khirbet Humsa in the northern Jordan Valley accused settlers of sexually assaulting a man and beating others as they ordered them off the land. Israeli police have since made seven arrests. It follows a trend seen during the Gaza war, triggered by the Hamas-led attacks on Israel in October 2023; there was a sharp acceleration in settler violence and settlement growth fast-tracked by the Israeli government. Last year set a record for the most extensive expansion of settlements and planning approvals since the UN began its monitoring. All settlements are seen as illegal under international law. Outposts are set up without Israeli government approval.

## GHANA DEMANDS COMPENSATION FOR SLAVERY IN LANDMARK UN VOTE

Slavery was the "most horrendous crime that took place in the history of mankind", Ghana's foreign minister has told the BBC ahead of a landmark vote at the UN General Assembly. Member states are set to vote on a resolution - led by Ghana - to recognise the transatlantic slave trade as "the gravest crime against humanity". The proposal urges UN member states to consider apologising for the slave trade and contributing to a reparations fund. The resolution is likely to face resistance, as countries like the UK have long rejected paying reparations, saying today's institutions cannot be held



responsible for past wrongs. But the proposal's advocates, which include the African Union and the Caribbean Community, say it is a step towards healing and justice. Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, Ghana's foreign minister, told the BBC's

Newsday programme: "We are demanding compensation - and let us be clear, African leaders are not asking for money for themselves. We want justice for the victims and causes to be supported, educational and endowment funds, skills training funds." The

campaign for reparations has gained significant momentum in recent years - "reparatory justice" was the African Union's official theme for 2025 and Commonwealth leaders have jointly called for dialogue on the matter. Ablakwa also said that, with the resolution, Ghana was not ranking its pain above anyone else's, but simply documenting a historical fact. Between 1500 and 1800, around 12-15 million people were captured in Africa and taken to the Americas where they were forced to work as slaves. It is estimated that over two million people died on the journey.

## Musketeer d'Artagnan's remains believed found under Dutch church



More than 350 years after the death of legendary French musketeer d'Artagnan, remains have been found under the floor of a Dutch church that may well have been his. Jos Valke, who is deacon at St Peter and Paul Church in Maastricht, helped unearth the skeleton and is 99% certain that the remains belong to Charles de Batz de Castelmore, a close aide to France's Sun King Louis XIV who was known as Count d'Artagnan. D'Artagnan was killed during the Siege of Maastricht in 1673, but later immortalised in the adventure stories of Alexandre Dumas as a friend of the Three Musketeers. His remains were long rumoured to have been buried in the church but no evidence has been found until now. Deacon Valke told the BBC that nobody had dug under the floor until now, but as a few tiles had been broken it was decided to have a look. They first found a wall and took out a brush to dig further. At this point an archaeologist was called, who discovered the skeleton beneath where the altar table had stood 200

years ago. "We became quite silent when we found the first bone," he said, adding that there were several pointers indicating that the skeleton belonged to the Sun King's right-hand man. "He was buried on sacred ground below where the altar was; we found the bullet that put an end to his life and we found a coin from 1660 in his grave, and it was from the bishop who attended Mass for the Roi Soleil." The archaeologist who took part in the excavation is more cautious. "I'm a scientist, but my expectations are high," Wim Dijkman told regional public broadcaster Omroep Limburg, adding that he preferred to wait for DNA confirmation of the skeleton's identity. A sample has been taken from the remains and is currently being analysed in Germany, while some of the bones have been taken to the Dutch city of Deventer to assess the skeleton's age, where it is from and whether it is male or female. "I've already been researching d'Artagnan's grave for 28 years. This could be the highlight of my career," said Dijkman.



Estonia and Latvia say territories hit by stray Ukrainian drones

## TALK SHOW HOST STEPHEN COLBERT TO WRITE NEW LORD OF THE RINGS FILM



US TV host Stephen Colbert has announced his next move after his late-night talk show ends - co-writing a new Lord of the Rings film. Colbert, who is well-known to be a JRR Tolkien superfan, will adapt an early section of the first Lord of the Rings novel, The Fellowship of the Ring, with his son, screenwriter Peter McGee. In a clip of a call with director Peter Jackson,

Colbert said it would "be its own story that could fit into the larger story", and remain "completely faithful to the books while also being completely faithful to the movies that you guys had already made". TV network CBS announced the cancellation of Colbert's late-night show last summer, and it will end in May after 33 years. Colbert said he came up with the idea for the film, reportedly titled The Lord of the Rings: Shadow of the Past, but "did not think I would have the time" to work on it. "As much as I love it, I knew I couldn't do that [film] and do the show at the same time. But it turns out I'm going to be free starting this summer.

# CSK's New Replacement Recruit To Miss Three Weeks Of IPL 2026

**AGENCY** Mumbai: Five-time champions Chennai Super Kings (CSK) have named speedster Spencer Johnson as a replacement for the injured Nathan Ellis for the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026. Johnson will join CSK for Rs 1.5 crore as a replacement for Ellis, who has been ruled out of the tournament due to a hamstring injury. Johnson, who has played 13 international games (5 ODIs and 8 T20Is) for Australia and has 18 international wickets to his name, has previously represented the Gujarat Titans (GT) and the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in the IPL. However, Johnson will not be available for the first three weeks of IPL 2026. The IPL starts on March 28. "He is set to join the squad between April 21-23," CSK wrote in a post on X. Having developed a reputation as one of the finest



bowlers in the T20 circuit, particularly for his exceptional death-overs skills, Nathan Ellis' absence will undoubtedly dent CSK's title chances. "Chennai Super Kings (CSK) have picked a player replacement for injured Nathan Ellis for the upcoming TATA Indian Premier League (IPL). Spencer Johnson will join CSK for INR 1.5 crore as a replacement for Ellis. Johnson, who has played 13 international games - 5 ODIs and 8 T20Is - for Australia and

has 18 international wickets against his name, has previously represented Gujarat Titans (GT) and Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in IPL," the IPL's official statement read. With Ellis out of the squad, the pace options left for CSK apart from Johnson are all-rounders Jamie Overton and Shivam Dube, New Zealand's Zak Foulkes, uncapped Indian pacers Gurjanpreet Singh and Mukesh Chaudhary, and New Zealand stalwart Matt Henry. Henry looks set to lead the Super Kings' pace attack, but CSK do not have a proven death-overs specialist in their squad. Playing for the three-time IPL champions KKR last season, Johnson featured in only four games and took one wicket, with best figures of 1/42. CSK will start their season on March 30 against the inaugural champions Rajasthan Royals in Guwahati.

# FLOORED BY IPL MEMES, ANANYA BIRLA SHARES FAN POSTS ON HER MEET WITH SHUBMAN GILL

Entrepreneur and singer Ananya Birla recently found herself at the centre of light-hearted social media chatter following a meeting with Gujarat Titans captain Shubman Gill. The encounter took place during a promotional event held in anticipation of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 season. During the exchange, Gill presented Birla with a signed jersey—a gesture that immediately captured the attention of fans and ignited a digital frenzy. What followed was a barrage of memes and humorous posts that transformed a standard corporate moment into a viral sensation. Fans showcased their wit by exaggerating the camaraderie between the two, cleverly blending cricket-centric humour with witty references. Rather than shying away from the spotlight, Birla appeared thoroughly amused by the creativity of the online community, even resharing several of the most inventive memes on her own



social media accounts. She admitted to being floored by the sheer ingenuity of the reactions, which added a playful twist to what was originally a formal business engagement. The partnership holds significant weight behind the scenes, as Birla Estates has stepped on board as the principal sponsor for the Gujarat Titans for the 2026 season. This intersection of Gill's rising stature in international cricket and Birla's prominent business and musical career perfectly illustrates the evolving landscape of Indian entertainment. The IPL is increasingly viewed as a premier entertainment property rather than a purely sporting platform. As a result, the overlaps between sport, celebrity culture, and corporate branding become more seamless with every passing season. This particular meeting, amplified by the power of meme culture, highlights how the league continues to fuel massive digital conversations.

# Shubman Gill's Banter Targeting Ashish Nehra For Blasting Teammates Over Dropped Catches

After missing the T20 World Cup, Shubman Gill will have a point to prove in IPL 2026, starting March 28. The Gujarat Titans captain has emphasised clarity and composure in leadership as the team prepares for the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026. Speaking at a recent Gujarat Titans event in Ahmedabad, Gill highlighted the importance of staying true to oneself and maintaining calm in pressure situations. "I think I'm just being myself, and the calmness comes from a sense of belief and security that I have within my group and in my own game," Gill said. He added, "Staying calm in any situation gives you an eagle-eye view - you're able to look beyond the moment, see the bigger picture, and have a much clearer, long-term



vision." However, he does not want the GT fast bowlers to be calm. "I want them to be quite like how Ashu Pa (GT coach Ashish Nehra) was. I keep getting reels where Ashu Pa is acknowledging some of the dropped catches," he said cheekily. The video Gill is referring to is years old, where left-arm pacer Ashish Nehra can be

seen giving a piece of his mind to his own Indian teammates for dropping catches. Gujarat Titans have been among the most consistent teams in the IPL since their debut, including a title-winning first season and a runners-up finish in 2023. Building on this foundation, Gill's approach reflects continuity in leadership, with a focus on clarity, confidence, and trust within the group. Gujarat Titans' Shubharamb 2026, a landmark event, brought together players, leadership, partners, and fans - marking the start of a new season while reflecting on the franchise's journey and growth over the years. Providing further insight into the team's preparation, Gujarat Titans' Director of Cricket Vikram Solanki highlighted the importance of continuity and stability in building the squad. "As far as this season is concerned and putting a squad together, we had a really good year last year. We just fell at the final hurdle. We made very small changes at the auction; it just needed a little bit of adjustment," Solanki said.

# Yograj Singh Furious With Ravichandran Ashwin Over Arjun Tendulkar, IPL Comment: "Whoever He Is"

Arjun Tendulkar has moved to the Lucknow Super Giants ahead of IPL 2026 after spending three seasons with the Mumbai Indians. Arjun, son of India great Sachin Tendulkar, plies his trade for Goa in domestic cricket and is an all-rounder. He took three wickets in IPL 2023 in four matches for the five-time champions Mumbai Indians. He did not take any wicket in the only match he played in IPL 2024. At the IPL 2026 auction, Lucknow Super Giants picked him up for Rs 30 lakh. India spin great Ravichandran Ashwin, however, opined that Arjun will not get a chance in the LSG playing XI as the side already has quite a few top Indian pacers. "Arjun Tendulkar khelega hi nahi (Arjun Tendulkar won't play at all),



and let's not even go there. I think it is very difficult because there are Mayank Yadav, Mohsin Khan, Avesh Khan, and Mohammad Shami in this lineup. There are so many fast bowlers. How will he play? I don't think he makes any case unless and until there are a lot of injuries," Ashwin said

sitting on the television and talking. 'Oh, he can't do this, he can't do that.' Arey tum kya ho bhai (Who are you? What are you?)" Yograj said on InsideSport. "When cricketers talk like this... He is Sachin Tendulkar's son, that is a different story. When he was here, I told Yuvi that all of you are concentrating on the wrong thing regarding Arjun Tendulkar. He is not a bowler; he had a spine problem, and his hands come down from 45 degrees. When he was here, I was talking to him. I told his coach as well when he was with the Goa team. When he (Arjun) was batting, this guy was hitting sixes and boundaries. I told the coach, 'What the hell are you people doing? If you can't do it, send him to me,'" he added.

# LACK OF TALENT & SCARRED BY PAST - ITALY'S 'TORTUROUS' CAMPAIGN

When Fabio Cannavaro hoisted the World Cup trophy into the air at the Olympiastadion in July 2006, it was supposed to signal the beginning of a new era for Italian football. The Azzurri had defeated a star-studded France team - including Zinedine Zidane and Thierry Henry - on penalties in a remarkable final in Berlin, Germany, to become only the second nation to win the World Cup for a fourth time. But almost two decades on, the triumph is a stark contrast to Italy's current fortunes. After failing to qualify for Russia 2018 and Qatar 2022, Italy are on the brink of becoming the first former winners to miss out on three consecutive tournaments. It must be mentioned they did beat England to win



the Euros in the midst of that in 2020 but that has proved an outlier. Italy must win two play-off games, starting with a home semi-final against Northern Ireland on Thursday, to reach this summer's World Cup. To describe Italy's qualifying campaign as anything other than eventful would be quite the understatement. The campaign was only one

# "Not Doing Stupid Arrival Videos": Jason Gillespie Tells PSL Franchise On Camera

Former Pakistan Test head coach Jason Gillespie has returned to the country, this time as coach of Pakistan Super League (PSL) franchise Hyderabad Kingsmen. Drawing on lessons from his controversial stint with the national team, the former Australia pacer has made it clear that his new role will be "strictly business" from the outset. In a video circulating on social media, Gillespie refused to take part in the customary "arrival videos" at the team hotel, firmly stating his position. "I am not coming down. I have a lot of work to do. I'm not going to shoot those stupid arrival videos," Gillespie said in the clip. Despite his no-nonsense approach, Gillespie has expressed genuine enthusiasm about working with



Pakistani talent again. "I'm very excited to be part of the Kingsmen team in Hyderabad. Lots to look forward to and I can't wait to get started," he told ESPNcricinfo in January. Fallout With PCB Gillespie's decision to join a PSL franchise surprised many, given how abruptly his association with the Pakistan national team ended. He resigned as

Pakistan's red-ball coach just days before a two-Test series in South Africa, following a fallout with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). "I was coaching the Pakistan Test side. The PCB sacked our senior assistant coach with ZERO communication with me about it. As Head Coach, I found this situation completely unacceptable. There were a number of other issues that left me completely humiliated," Gillespie wrote on X (formerly Twitter) during a Q&A session. He had also criticised PCB chief Mohsin Naqvi for failing to attend a "Connection Camp" in person. While Gary Kirsten flew in from South Africa and Gillespie from Australia, Naqvi only joined virtually despite being based in Lahore.

# 'IPL Bigger Than Premier League': Sourav Ganguly In Awe Of Rajasthan Royals' Rs 15,000 Crore Sale



Legendary India captain Sourav Ganguly reflected on Rajasthan Royals (RR) becoming the costliest Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise, as they were bought for USD 1.63 billion (more than Rs 15,000 crore). Ganguly, who faced the very first ball of the inaugural IPL season in 2008, marvelled at the league's growth, comparing its current stature to powerhouse leagues in other sports like the Premier League and the NBA. Ganguly praised the fact that the IPL has expanded to such a sporting phenomenon despite being active for only two to three months of the year. "It's great news for the IPL. When it started in 2007, and as I've said before, I faced the first ball of the league in 2008 - RCB versus KKR. To see where the IPL has reached now is phenomenal," Ganguly said, in response to a question by NDTV. "It also shows how much the game has expanded. Some of the buyers are from the United States, and the interest in Indian cricket in that part of the world is

# SHIFFRIN WINS RECORD-EQUALLING SIXTH WORLD CUP

Mikaela Shiffrin has won a record-equalling sixth overall women's World Cup title. Needing a top-15 finish in the final race of the season, the American was 11th in the giant slalom in Lillehammer, Norway. Shiffrin, who won her third Olympic title with slalom gold last month, is the most successful skier in World Cup history with 110 wins. Austrian Annemarie Moser-Proell won six World Cups from 1971 to 1979. "I'm really, really grateful to be in this position. It's really a big emotion," Shiffrin said. Shiffrin ended the season

with 1,386 points, 87 clear of Germany's Emma Aicher. Aicher needed to win in Lillehammer and hope Shiffrin finished outside the top 15, but finished 12th after completing her final run once the title had been decided. "It's quite emotional," said the American. "This thing sums up the whole season of work and fighting... I have to say to Emma that her skiing has been just outstanding and today it was just so cool to watch her." Canada's Valerie Grenier won the race, a combined 0.43 seconds clear of Norway's Mina Fuerst Holtmann and Austrian

Julia Scheib, who had already secured the giant slalom Crystal Globe. The final overall points tally was 1,410 for Shiffrin with Aicher 87 behind. The overall title is decided by points from all four disciplines, with Aicher an all-rounder while Shiffrin has not skied downhill for two years and competed in only a few of the super-Gs. The most successful skier in World Cup history with 110 wins has, however, won nine of 10 slaloms, the bedrock of her season, and taken the globe in that discipline for a record ninth time. She was also overall

World Cup champion in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2022 and 2023. The only other female skier to win six overall World Cup titles was Austrian Annemarie Moser-Proell, who won five in a row from 1971-75 and her sixth in 1979. On the men's side, Austrian Marcel Hirscher holds the outright record of eight. "I'm really, really grateful to be in this position now," said three-times Olympic champion Shiffrin, whose slalom gold medal at last month's Milano Cortina Games was another highlight of her year. "It's really a big emotion but I'm also grateful for the fight."



## Rakasa Builds Buzz with Strong Trailer Impact and Global Release Momentum

Visually, the trailer lands with immediate impact, pulling you into a world shaped by torch-lit interiors, dense textures and towering fortress spaces that feel raw, lived-in and rooted in folklore. What begi vins with a sense of familiarity gradually opens into something far larger, as glimpses of action, a looming demonic presence and survival stakes start to take over. This shift is handled with clarity, allowing the grounded village setting and the expanding supernatural threat to coexist without losing grip. There's a constant sense of build, like something is closing in, and the background score drives that progression, moving from lighter, playful beats into a more intense, atmospheric surge that heightens the overall experience.

And that momentum is clearly spilling beyond the screen. The title glimpse has crossed 1.9 million views, while the teaser has pushed past 3 million across platforms, reflecting a growing pull towards the film's world. The music has only amplified that momentum "Rapappa," "Padhe Padhe," and "Snake Dance" have each crossed the million mark, together shaping the soundtrack into a full-blown chartbuster. It's not just numbers stacking up; the film is steadily finding its space in conversations, playlists and repeat watches, building a sense of anticipation that's becoming hard to ignore.

On the business front, Rakasa is gearing up for a



### Highlights

■ Visually, the trailer lands with immediate impact, pulling you into a world shaped by torch-lit interiors, dense textures and towering fortress spaces that feel raw, lived-in and rooted in folklore. What begi vins with a sense of familiarity gradually opens into something far larger, as glimpses of action, a looming demonic presence and survival stakes start to take over. This shift is handled with clarity, allowing the grounded village setting and the expanding supernatural threat to coexist without losing grip.

wide global release, backed by a strong distribution network across territories. The film's Telugu States theatrical rights have been acquired by Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Movie Makers, while overseas distribution is being handled by Atharvana Bhadrakali Pictures, planning a release across more than 350 screens in key international markets including the United States, the United Kingdom, Europe, Canada and Australia. Distribution

responsibilities for the North America and United Kingdom markets are being managed by Prathyangira Cinemas, ensuring a structured and extensive rollout. Overseas premieres are scheduled for April 2, 2026, a day ahead of the worldwide release. Further strengthening the film's commercial ecosystem, the digital streaming rights have been acquired by Netflix, while the audio

rights have been secured by Saregama, one of India's leading music labels. Headlined by Sangeeth Shobhan, who has recently strengthened his connect with younger audiences through MAD and MAD Square, Rakasa places him in a role that moves beyond his familiar space into a more layered narrative setting. He is paired with Nayan Sarika, while the film features a vibrant ensemble including Vennela Kishore, Brahmaji, Tanikella Bharani, Ashish

Vidarthi, Getup Srinu, Sukwinder Singh, Annapurna, Anoop Singh Thakur, Ramana Bhargav, Vasu Inturi, Rohini (Jabardasth) and Rohan (#90's), bringing together a mix of performers that add depth and tonal balance to the film's world.

Produced by Niharika Konidela and Umesh Kumar Bansal under Pink Elephant Pictures in collaboration with Zee Studios, Rakasa reflects Niharika's continued focus on backing content-driven cinema. Marking the feature directorial debut of Manasa Sharma, known for Oka Chinna Family Story and Bench Life, the film builds on a writing-led foundation, with Mahesh Uppala contributing as Additional Screenplay writer. The technical team includes music by Anudeep Dev, cinematography by Raju Edurolu and editing by Anwar Ali, with action choreography by Vijay. Production design by Ramanjaneyulu, along with art direction by Pulla Vishnu Vardhan and costumes by Sandhya Sabbavarapu, further shape the film's immersive folklore setting. With its visually mounted folklore world, rooted narrative core and humour that flows effortlessly within its storytelling, Rakasa continues to build strong momentum across both content and market fronts. Carrying a clear theatrical intent and growing anticipation, the film is set to arrive worldwide on April 3, 2026, positioning itself as a distinctive big-screen experience.

## Barbarikudu The Sannaf Ghatotkacha Movie Grand Opening of Ram Laxman's Disciple Krishna as Indian Hero



PP  
Movie Makers,  
Renuka Ellamma  
Creations banners T.  
Barbarikudu is the latest  
film under the direction of  
Sivajhansi Regala

Movie Makers, Renuka Ellamma Creations banners T. Barbarikudu is the latest film under the direction of Sivajhansi Regala, produced by Malleshwarudu, Anthathi Naresh Kumar and Anthathi Rajesh Kumar. Barbarikudu, the most ambitious film, recently celebrated a grand pooja. It seems that this film is going to open with the story of a warrior from Mahabharata Kurukshetra war. Sivajhansiregala, who worked as an assistant director for many films in the Telugu film industry as a disciple of famous music

director MM Keeravani's father Shiv Shakti Dutta, is making his directorial debut with this film. The story of a warrior from India's biggest epic Mahabharata is going to be screened to capture the hearts of Telugu people. In this regard, the passion of the director as well as the producers should be appreciated. Movies like this are not produced unless there is love and affection. In this regard, the producers of the film T. Malleshwarudu, Anthathi Naresh Kumar and Anthathi Rajesh Kumar were successful in the beginning. They are confident that the film Barbarikudu that they are making will definitely win the hearts of the audience. Many people know less about the history of Barbarikudu. The makers say that with this film,

everyone will know how great a warrior he is. Krishna Bharat, who choreographed fights for many super hit films and is the disciple of Ram Laxman and the son-in-law of stunt master Badri Master, is being introduced as the protagonist through this film. Along with him, Ravi Shankar, who convinced with his excellent voice and impressed as a villain on screen, is playing a prominent role in this film. Sameta Gandhi, Jabardast Chittibabu, Anand Bharti and others are acting along with him. Shyam K Naidu who has given good cinematography for many films is working as DOP for this film. Also, editor Karthik Srinivas, music director GM Satish, along with whom Bhanu, who has recently given super hit songs, is choreographing the master. The makers said that they will provide updates regarding the film soon.

## 'I stopped eating animal products,' says Samantha, gets trolled

Tollywood star Samantha Ruth Prabhu has once again found herself at the centre of online discussions, this time over her views on veganism. Known for embracing a plant-based lifestyle in recent years, the actress has often spoken about compassion, sustainability, and mindful living. Now, a video of Samantha is surfacing online in which she is seen explaining her decision to turn vegan. The clip is going viral, drawing mixed reactions from netizens. In the video, Samantha reflects on the idea of empathy and the contradictions in human behavior when it comes to animals. She says she loves her pet dog but once questioned why she continued consuming other animals for food. Calling it a matter of regaining empathy, the actress shared that this realization led her to completely give up animal products. Samantha said, "I love my dog Hash, but I choose to kill another animal for my lunch and my dinner because that animal is not my pet. So, this is why you can love your pet and choose to eat an animal in the afternoon and the night. But then you can love your family, but you can't love people who are suffering outside because it's stems from that same thing, right? So I wanted my empathy back and that's when I decided that no I'm going to stop eating any kind of animal product." While some appreciated her perspective, several social media users were quick to criticise her remarks. A section of users pointed out the use of leather

products and animal-derived ingredients in fashion and cosmetics, questioning the consistency of such choices. One said, "Then stop using costly Leather Items and promoting them which are made up of animal skin. Don't wear such costly items. Buy an electric car." Others argued that eating non-vegetarian food is part of the natural ecosystem and should not be equated with cruelty in the same way as other industries. Another commented, "Will the dog do the same? ... No right ... That's how the ecosystem works! ... Eating non-veg is not as cruel as killing animals for leather, beauty products and other products" "Makeup items do have animal ingredients, so..." one more netizen wrote. Despite the debate, Samantha continues to advocate for conscious living and often shares glimpses of her vegan lifestyle on social media. On the work front, she has an exciting lineup ahead, including the Telugu film Maa Inti

Bangaram, slated for release on May 15, 2026, which she is also producing. She will also be seen in the Netflix series Rakt Brahmand: The Bloody Kingdom, directed by Raj & DK.

The actress was last seen in Citadel: Honey Bunny. In the video, Samantha reflects on the idea of empathy and the contradictions in human behavior when it comes to animals



# RELEASING TODAY

KONA VENKAT PRODUCTION

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ART NARMI SHINIVAS DOP SATHISH MUTYALA PRO VAMSI HAKA  
A VIJAY BULGANIN MUSICAL

ADITYA MUSIC