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## 47 Maoists surrender before Telangana DGP

Hyderabad TSIT BUREAU:

B.Shivdhar Reddy, Director General of Police, Telangana, lauded the coordinated efforts of the Telangana Police following the surrender of 47 underground CPI (Maoist) cadres, including key leaders from the South Bastar Division.

The cadres surrendered along with 32 firearms and 515 rounds of live ammunition, marking a significant blow to

the Maoist network operating in the Dandakaranya region. The DGP appreciated the sustained and strategic efforts of the Special Intelligence Branch, Greyhounds, and district police in facilitating the surrenders.

Describing the development as a decisive moment, the DGP stated that the surrender of top and mid-level leadership indicates the near-total collapse of the South Bastar DVC structure.



He emphasized that the Telangana Police's proactive approach, coupled with the State Government's attractive surrender and rehabilitation policy,

has played a key role in encouraging cadres to return to the mainstream. Officials noted that in 2026 alone, 260 Maoist cadres have surrendered and 238 fire-

arms have been recovered, reflecting a steady decline in extremist activities.

The State Government has announced a total reward of Rs.1.50 crore for the surrendered cadres, with immediate relief of Rs.25,000 each already disbursed. Additional rehabilitation benefits, including financial assistance, healthcare, and livelihood support, are being extended to help them rebuild their lives.

## Kavitha Launches New Political Pitch, SEEKS PUBLIC SUPPORT AFTER SPLIT FROM BRS

By M. Rajanikanth

Hyderabad:

Kalvakuntla Kavitha has begun pitching herself as a new political force in Telangana, rolling out a fresh slogan—“We are coming as a new political force, please bless us and join forces”—following her exit from the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS). Kavitha, daughter



of former chief minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao, recently resigned from both her party membership and her MLC post, blaming internal leadership and what she described as a “coterie-driven functioning” for the party's setbacks in the Assembly and parliamentary elections.

See More on Page-2

## PM Modi, Mamata Banerjee are 2 sides of the same coin: Rahul



Kolkata (TSIT):

Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, said on Saturday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee are “both two sides of the same coin”, considering that none of them care about the aspirations of the common people.

“The Prime Minister claims that he is a true nationalist. But he had done nothing for the poor people. He had done

everything for the millionaires. Before the Left Front rule, Congress ruled West Bengal. At that time there were several industries in the state,” LoP Gandhi said while addressing a campaign rally at Sreerampore in West Bengal's Hooghly district.

The Congress leader added, “Mamata Banerjee, too, like PM Narendra Modi, does not care for employment generation for the youth. Both the Prime Minister and the West Bengal Chief Minister are bothered about themselves. What PM Narendra Modi is doing in India, that is exactly what Mamata Banerjee is doing in West Bengal.” Speaking at the rally, LoP Gandhi said that there is competitive corruption between Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at the national level and Trinamool Congress at the state level.

## India, US discuss deepening strategic ties, reaffirm commitment towards Indo-Pacific security

Washington (TSIT):

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan held discussions with a senior US Indo-Pacific Command official, reinforcing the expanding strategic alignment between the two nations in terms of regional security. He engaged with General Kevin B. Schneider, Commander, Pacific Air Force and Air Component Commander, US Indo-Pacific Command, where both sides emphasised shared priorities in regional security and the sustained commitment to maintain peace and stability across the Indo-Pacific and beyond. “General Anil Chauhan, CDS, engaged with General Kevin B. Schneider, Commander, Pacific Air Force and Air Component Commander, US Indo-Pacific Command, reaffirming

the deepening strategic convergence between India and the US. Deliberations underscored a shared resolve towards regional security and the enduring maintenance of peace and stability across the Indo-Pacific and beyond,” the Headquarters of Integrated Defence Staff posted on X on Saturday.


It further mentioned that both sides articulated a “clear intent to expand and operationalise” the scope, complexity and frequency of bilateral and TriService engagements. “Recognising technology as a defining determinant of modern power, the partnership continues to evolve with enhanced synergy, capability and strategic foresight,” it added. Earlier this week, General Chauhan held several engagements with top UK military officials.

## RBI proposes tighter rules for digital wallets to enhance customer protection



New Delhi (TSIT): The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a draft Master Direction on Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) to

enhance security, customer protection and operational clarity for digital wallets and prepaid cards. RBI's draft would allow banks that issue debit cards to offer PPIs after informing the Department of Payment and Settlement Systems (DPSS), according to reports.


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KAVITHA LAUNCHES NEW POLITICAL PITCH, SEEKS PUBLIC SUPPORT AFTER SPLIT FROM BRS

FORMER MLC POSITIONS HERSELF AS AN ALTERNATIVE FORCE AMID TELANGANA'S SHIFTING POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

By M. Rajanikanth

Continued From Page-1 Her outreach campaign is now gaining visibility across the state, with messaging focused on seeking public trust and building a new political platform.



Political observers note that Kavitha enters the fray with a recognisable public image and a strong cultural connect, particularly through her earlier initiatives.

The BRS continues to be led by KCR, while senior leaders such as KT. Rama Rao and T. Harish Rao remain an influential figure with significant organisational backing.

Analysts say Kavitha's immediate challenge will be to build a grassroots cadre and articulate a clear political agenda that distinguishes her from the BRS legacy.

difficult. At the same time, her positioning as an independent voice critical of internal party dynamics may resonate with sections of voters seeking alternatives in the state's political landscape.

Whether this new political initiative can translate into electoral strength remains to be seen, as Telangana heads into a phase of recalibration following recent election outcomes.

World Malaria Day Rally Held in Nagarkurnool

Nagarkurnool: An awareness rally was conducted on the occasion of World Malaria Day at the Old Collectorate premises on Saturday. The rally was flagged off by District Medical and Health Officer Dr. K. Ravikumar.



anyone with fever should immediately visit the nearest health centre and undergo a blood test. He noted that Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) kits are available free of cost at government health facilities. He stressed the importance of preventing mosquito breeding by avoiding stagnant water and observing a "Dry Day" every Friday.

Ponguleti's Grievance Redressal Drive



Khammam (TSIT): Taking governance to the doorstep of people and resolving their grievances is the government's primary objective, said state revenue, housing and information & public relations minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy.

additional collectors Srija and P. Srinivasa Reddy. Speaking on the occasion, the minister said the government led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is committed to public welfare and is implementing the 99-day programme effectively across all villages.

TPCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud Meets Newly Appointed Protocol & Coordination Committee Members



Hyderabad TSIT: Mahesh Kumar Goud, President of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) and MLC, was courteously met by the newly appointed members of the TPCC Protocol & Coordination Committee at Gandhi Bhavan.

200 Crore Manjeera Water Scheme Proposed to Ensure Daily Supply



Hyderabad TSIT: A major proposal worth 200 crore has been prepared to strengthen the Manjeera water supply system in Sangareddy town, aiming to provide two hours of clean drinking water daily to residents.

MINISTER DAMODAR RAJA NARASIMHA PRESENTS 'BEST HR CONSULTING PARTNER' AWARD TO VERCH CONSULTING

Hyderabad, April 2026: Damodar Raja Narasimha Minister for Health, Medical and Family Welfare, and Science & Technology, Government of Telangana, presented the prestigious "Best HR Consulting Partner Pharma Industry" award to Verch Consulting LLP.



The award was received by Dr. Chikkala Venugopal Rao, Founder and CEO of Verch Consulting LLP, in recognition of the firm's significant contribution to strengthening talent ecosystems in the pharmaceutical and life sciences sectors.

Speaking on the occasion Minister highlighted the importance of strong human resource frameworks in advancing Telangana's pharmaceutical industry and appreciated the role of specialised HR firms like Verch Consulting in building skilled talent pipelines.

Founded in 2019 and headquartered in Hyderabad, Verch

Consulting LLP has rapidly emerged as a trusted HR consulting partner for leading pharma companies. The firm offers a range of services including executive search, leadership hiring, compensation benchmarking, and strategic HR advisory, particularly in niche segments such as API, formulations, biotechnology, and life sciences.

BOTSIN LLC LAUNCHES HYDERABAD100 PLATFORM, TARGETS EXPANSION TO 100 CITIES IN 3 MONTHS

Hyderabad: BotsIn LLC has launched Hyderabad100.com, extending its hyperlocal city-intelligence network to Telangana's capital. The launch event was held in the presence of K. T. Rama Rao and Raja Narendar Reddy.



The platform is powered by a patent-pending "City Pulse Engine," designed to forecast local service demand for the next 30 days using historical data, including festivals, academic calendars, weather patterns, and civic events.

carpooling, local content, and community engagement tools. It is designed to support everyday service providers, including drivers, home-based businesses, technicians, tutors, and small shop owners by connecting them directly with local residents.

SINGARENI AREA HOSPITAL IN BELLAMPALLI GETS A FACELIFT

Bellampalli, April 25, TSIT: Singareni Director Venkateswarlu on Saturday said that efforts are underway to restore the past glory of the Singareni Area Hospital in Bellampalli, with a focus on improving healthcare services for coal workers and the local population.

patient wards to ensure enhanced comfort and care. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Venkateswarlu noted that the hospital has been serving Singareni employees for several decades and emphasised the need to further strengthen its infrastructure and services.

Target to Provide 2 Hours of Clean Drinking Water Daily to Sangareddy Residents

Jaggareddy Directs Officials to Prepare Proposals for Rs.200 Crore Manjira Water Scheme Expansion

Sangareddy, April 25 (TSIT) Congress leader Toorpu Jayaprakash Reddy (Jaggareddy) directed officials to prepare proposals for the expansion of the Manjira Water Scheme with an estimated cost of Rs.200 crore to ensure the supply of clean drinking water to the people of Sangareddy town for two hours every day.



At that time, people had to spend between Rs.2,000 and Rs.3,000 for tap connections, but the municipality passed a special resolution and provided free Manjira water connections to 18,000 households, reducing the financial burden on the public.

needs for the next 50 years. Jaggareddy clarified that this project has nothing to do with votes and said he is taking up the work purely for the welfare of Sangareddy people as a local resident.

Jaggareddy directed officials to convene an emergency council meeting next Monday and seek the opinions of all 38 councillors, irrespective of party affiliation. He asked them to visit colonies, gather public feedback, and identify if any additional pipelines are required before finalizing proposals by the 5th of next month.

Telangana Delegation Participates in Chintan Shivir 2026

Hyderabad TSIT: Telangana Youth and Sports Minister Vakiti Srihari emphasized that sports development can be achieved comprehensively only through collective efforts of the Central and State Governments, along with public participation, sports associations, voluntary organizations, and corporate institutions.



The three-day Chintan Shivir 2026 commenced in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre with a yoga session on Saturday morning.

the Centre and States to build a strong sports ecosystem and enhance India's global sporting achievements.

Highlighting Telangana's progress, he stated that the state has successfully implemented Central Government schemes while also introducing innovative initiatives that have strengthened its reputation in the sports sector.

Telangana delegation is actively participating in deliberations aimed at strengthening the country's sports ecosystem.

Illicit Affair Suspicion: Wife Killed, Husband Dies by Suicide

Sangareddy, April 25 (TSIT) A tragic incident took place in Sadashivpet town of Sangareddy district, where a man allegedly murdered his wife over suspicion of an illicit relationship and later died by suicide.



The shocking incident came to light in the 7th ward of Sadashivpet town. According to police, the husband, Raju (43), often quarrelled with his wife Rani (40) suspecting her character. During one such heated argument, Raju reportedly lost his temper and attacked Rani with a grinding stone at their house, hitting her on the head.

Grand Success for Siddipet Police Job Mela: 65 Companies Recruit 624 Aspirants

Siddipet, Apr 25: (The South India Times Staff Reporter) Siddipet Police 'Udyoga Mitra' Job Mela a Grand Success: 624 Candidates Receive Appointment Letters from CP Rashmi Perumal, IPS.. The "Siddipet Police Udyoga Mitra - Mega Job Mela 2026," organized by the Siddipet Police Department to provide employment opportunities for local youth, concluded successfully on Saturday.



### Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy Attends Silver Synergy Event at NB Science College



Hyderabad TSIT: Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, Minister for Roads & Buildings and Cinematography, attended the Silver Synergy programme of MBA and MCA courses of NB Science College and SD Signodia College as the Chief Guest. The Minister visited his alma mater, NB Science College, and nostalgically walked through his old classroom, recalling his Intermediate days. He expressed happiness at

returning to the same institution after 44 years as a Minister and said the visit brought back cherished memories. Congratulating the institutions on completing 25 years of excellence, he appreciated their contribution to shaping the future of thousands of students. He stated that NB Science College has been a symbol of academic excellence and discipline and that he shares a deep emotional bond as an alumnus. Speaking on the occasion,

the Minister said he chose to attend this programme despite being invited to an alumni meet in the United States, highlighting his strong attachment to his college. He also announced that he would donate 50 modern computers to the college to support students with advanced technology. Responding to issues raised by the management, he assured that necessary steps would be taken to resolve them. Encouraging students, he said they should aim to become job creators rather than job seekers, and stressed the importance of setting high goals and having a clear vision in life, citing former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's ideals. Minister thanked the college management and Professor G. Babu Rao for inviting him and described the occasion as an emotional and memorable experience.

In a press note issued at Gandhi Bhavan, he stated that Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Transport Minister Ponnampalapati Prabhakar, and TPOC President Mahesh Kumar Goud for their dedicated efforts in resolving the issue. Highlighting the major announcements, he said: 11% PRC has been approved for RTC employees. RTC union elections will be conducted. A committee has been

formed for the merger of RTC into the government. As a mark of gratitude, a grand Pala Abhishekam programme was organised at Gandhi Bhavan. Motha Rohit Mudhiraj, along with senior leaders and party workers, participated enthusiastically, celebrating the government's decision. He said the programme reflects the joy and appreciation of RTC employees across Telangana and reiterated that the Congress government is committed to the welfare and dignity of workers.

## Motha Rohit Mudhiraj Hails RTC Decisions Grand Pala Abhishekam



Hyderabad TSIT: Khairatabad (Hyderabad Central) DCC President Motha Rohit Mudhiraj welcomed the Telangana Government's decision to address long-pending demands of RTC employees, calling it a historic and worker-friendly move. In a press note issued at Gandhi Bhavan, he stated that Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Transport Minister Ponnampalapati Prabhakar, and TPOC President Mahesh Kumar Goud for their dedicated efforts in resolving the issue. Highlighting the major announcements, he said: 11% PRC has been approved for RTC employees. RTC union elections will be conducted. A committee has been

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**LOST OF DOCUMENTS**  
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Ph No: 7036229228.

### Collector Harichandana Dasari Interacts with UPSC Aspirants, Encourages Goal-Oriented Preparation

Hyderabad TSIT: Harichandana Dasari, District Collector of Hyderabad, conducted an interactive session with UPSC aspirants and encouraged them to move forward with determination and clear goals. The interaction programme was organised at the Collectorate Conference Hall under the aegis of the SOH Foundation, where over 100 aspirants participated. Addressing the candidates, the Collector provided detailed guidance on the Civil Services examination pattern, preparation strategies, and time management. She explained that the UPSC examination is highly



competitive and demands not only academic knowledge but also perseverance, analytical ability, clarity of thought, and strong decision-making skills. She advised aspirants to adopt a structured approach for all three stages—Prelims, Mains, and Interview—emphasizing the importance of consistent practice, conceptual clarity, and disciplined time management.

### Telangana Rajyadhikara Party Calls for 'Maha Dharna' Over RTE Act Implementation

Jogulamba Gadwal: The Telangana Rajyadhikara Party has called upon party workers, intellectuals, youth, and the general public to participate in a large-scale protest demanding effective implementation of the Right to Education Act, 2009. According to district president Morugu Veeresh, the protest aims to highlight the



alleged failure in enforcing key provisions of the Act over the past 15 years. He stated that certain private educational institutions have been bypassing the law through corrupt practices, placing a heavy financial burden on economically weaker sections. He stated that parents from marginalized communities are being forced to pay exorbitant fees amounting to thousands of crores annually.

### TPCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud Calls for Strengthening Minority Wing



Hyderabad (TSIT) Mahesh Kumar Goud, President of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) and MLC, emphasized the need to strengthen the Minority Department of the party and ensure greater political representation for minority communities. Addressing party members at Gandhi Bhavan, he expressed concern that no MLA from minority communities was elected in the recent Assembly elections and termed it unfortunate. He stated that the party is committed to giving more tickets to minority candidates in the 2028 elections and is also planning to bring leadership opportunities, including chairmanship posts, from rural areas. Highlighting the Congress party's legacy, he said it has always stood for inclusivity, representing minorities including Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, and other communities. Criticising the BJP-led Central Government, he alleged that several unfulfilled

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Name of the Borrower/ Guarantors / Date of NPA	Description of Immovable Property	Amount Outstanding
1) Kalyani Gunda, W/o: Aravindu Gunda, Age: 44 Years, Occ: Self Employee, R/o: Address - I: H.No. 4-1-216/89(C), Karthikeya Nagar, Nacharam, Hyderabad-500076, Address - II: H.No. 4-38/81, Netaji Nagar, Ramnagar, Amberpet, Hyderabad-500013, Address - III: H.No. 4-1-216/200, Karthikeya Nagar, Raibow Towers Apartment, Flat No. 502 And 505, 5th Floor, Nacharam, Hyderabad-500076, 9849227838, 9032563350. 2) Garavindu, S/o: Lingaiah, Age: 55 Years, Occ: Self Employee, R/o: Address - I: H.No. 4-1-216/89(C), Karthikeya Nagar, Nacharam, Hyderabad-500076, Address - II: H.No. 4-38/81, Netaji Nagar, Ramnagar, Amberpet, Hyderabad-500013, 9032563350, 9849227838. 3) Sama Madhava Kumar, S/o: Rama Mohan Rao, Age: 55 Years, Occ: Self Employee, R/o: H.No. 3-17-56/a, gandhi Nagar, Ramnagar, Uppal, Hyderabad-500039, 9949116378.	Immovable: All that piece and parcel of land measuring 600 Sq Yds bearing plot no.37,38,43 and 44 in Sy No 373 situated at Old GP Hanuman Nagar, Rev Village Narsapuram, Now under Municipality Siddipet, Siddipet (mdl & dist). Bounded by: East: 27 Ft Road, West: 27 Ft Road, North: Plot no 36 & 45, South: Plot no 39 & 42.	Rs. 2,92,450.24 (Rupees Two Lakh Ninety Two Thousand Four Hundred Fifty and Only) together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs

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**DEMAND NOTICE**  
Notice issued Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002.

A Notice is hereby given that the following Borrowers/Co-borrowers & Guarantors have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non Performing Assets (NPA). The notices were issued to them under section 13(2) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 on their last known addresses but they have been returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of this public notice.

Name of the Borrower/ Guarantors / Date of NPA	Description of Immovable Property	Amount Outstanding
1) Taragala Ramdas S/o. Satyanarayana, H No 19 10 1 A, Salyasai Nagar, Rangasaiyapeta, Warangal, Telangana-506002. 2) Sg yds situated in Urus Revenue Village, Bodakuntla Krishna, H No 16 4 841 1, Shiva Nagar, Under Bridge, Warangal, Telangana 506002. 3) M/S Maruthi Industries, Prop. Taragala Ramdas, 16 4 1402 1 Shivanagar, Welding Shop, Underbridge Road, Warangal- 506002.	Immovable: All that piece and parcel of land and buildings existing and/or to be constructed thereon, bearing H.No. 19-10-1A/2, Sy No. 141, to an extent of 140.68 Sq yds situated in Urus Revenue Village, Shambunipet, Warangal City (mdl & city) under GWMC limits. Bounded by: North: Part of open plot of vendor, South: 200 ft road, East: Part of open plot of vendor, West: Open plot of P Prabhakar and K Srinivas. CERSAI Security Interest ID: 40003762802; Asset ID: 200037561007; Name of Title holder: Taragala Ramadas S/o. Satyanarayana	Rs. 26,94,157.16 (Rupees Twenty Six Lakhs Ninety Four Thousand One Hundred Fifty Seven and Paise Sixteen only), together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above Borrower (s) and / or their Guarantor(s) (wherever applicable) are hereby called upon to make payment of outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of publications of this notice, failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of this notice under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002.

Date: 08-04-2026, Place: Warangal Sd/- Authorised Officer, Canara Bank

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KUSUMANCHI BRANCH (6654)  
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**DEMAND NOTICE**  
Notice issued Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002.

A Notice is hereby given that the following Borrowers/Co-borrowers & Guarantors have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non Performing Assets (NPA). The notices were issued to them under section 13(2) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 on their last known addresses but they have been returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of this public notice.

Name of the Borrower/ Guarantors / Date of NPA	Description of Immovable Property	Amount Outstanding
1) Paluru Ramachandra Reddy S/o. Nagireddy, 139/A 402, 4th Floor, Harinivas Apartment, Opp. JNTU, Telangana -500072. 2) Beenaboyina Srinivas S/o. Bhikshamaiah, 1 112 115B, Near Govt. School, Tirumalagiri, Miyapur, Hyderabad, Telangana-500049. 3) Rasala Ravi Kumar S/o. Chukkiah, 1 123 A Palair, Kusumanchi, Khanamm, Telangana-507157.	Immovable: RCC roofed residential house vide H.No 2-70 of palair Gramapanchayat, Kusumanchi Mandal constructed in an extent of 290-48 sq yd. constructed plinth area 1054-05 sq yd within the following boundaries: East: Grama Panchayath Road, West: House of Yellavula Venkatarayana, North: House of Dasari Kankakiah, South: Church. CERSAI Security ID: 400021669947; Asset ID: 200021623189; Name of Title holder: Paluru Ramachandra Reddy	Rs. 23,33,684.42 (Rupees Twenty Three Lakhs Thirty Three Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Four and paise Forty Two Only), together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above Borrower (s) and / or their Guarantor(s) (wherever applicable) are hereby called upon to make payment of outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of publications of this notice, failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of this notice under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002.

Date: 15.04.2026, Place: Hyderabad & Kusumanchi Sd/- Authorised Officer, Canara Bank

**SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED**  
Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032. Administrative office: 6th Floor (level 2), Building No.02, Aurum Q park, Gan 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghanoli, Navi Mumbai-400710.

**DEMAND NOTICE**  
Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD. (Formerly known as Shriram City Union Finance Limited, amalgamated with Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited, subsequently Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited name changed as Shriram Finance Limited) We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/guarantors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non-Performing Asset in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorized Officer of SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD. under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein below under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 calling upon the following borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the notices and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. until the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of notices. The notices issued to them on their last known addresses have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same. 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.

Name of the Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantors	DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY	NPA DATE: 07.10.2024	DATE OF DEMAND NOTICE: 26.02.2026	OUTSTANDING AMOUNT: Rs. 2085411/-	LOAN AMOUNT: Rs. 1500000/-
1) Kambalappally Neelakantam, S/o: Late Kambalappally Narasimha, Age: 54 Years, Occ: Self Employee, R/o: Address - I: H.No. 10-4-10/2, Harjan Basti, Lingoguda, Lb. Nagar, Hyderabad-500035, Address-II: Plot No: 40850, Sri Baradwaz, Enclave, Bhongloor, Ibrahimpatnam, Hyderabad-501510, 8785416699. 2) Kambalappally Uma, S/o: Kambalappally Neelakantam, Age: 46 Years, Occ: House Wife, R/o: H.No. 10-4-10/2, Harjan Basti, Lingoguda, Lb. Nagar, Hyderabad-500035, 7396959981. 3) Koppoju Satish Kumar, S/o: K Narasima Rao, Age: 48 Years, R/o: H.No. 10-1-92/3196, Janaki Enclave, Lingoguda, Lb. Nagar, Rangareddy-500035, 7337265027.	Immovable: RCC roofed residential house vide H.No. 10-4-10/2, Harjan Basti, Lingoguda, Lb. Nagar, Hyderabad-500035, Address-II: Plot No: 40850, Sri Baradwaz, Enclave, Bhongloor, Ibrahimpatnam, Hyderabad-501510, 8785416699. 2) Kambalappally Uma, S/o: Kambalappally Neelakantam, Age: 46 Years, Occ: House Wife, R/o: H.No. 10-4-10/2, Harjan Basti, Lingoguda, Lb. Nagar, Hyderabad-500035, 7396959981. 3) Koppoju Satish Kumar, S/o: K Narasima Rao, Age: 48 Years, R/o: H.No. 10-1-92/3196, Janaki Enclave, Lingoguda, Lb. Nagar, Rangareddy-500035, 7337265027.				

PROPERTY ADDRESS OF SECURED ASSETS- CHKPTF230130004- DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY. All That The Plot Bearing No.2 Admeasuring 167 Sq Yds Or Equivalent To 139.612 Sq. Mts. In Sy.No.482p, 483p & 492p Situated At Bhoodan-pochampally (Village & Mandal), Yadadri-bhuvanagiri District, With In The Limits Of Bhoodan Pochampally Municipality, In Block No.33 (jalapur Road) Telangana State And Bounded As Follows: Towards East: 30 Ft Wide Road, Towards West: Neighbours Land, Towards North: Plot No-1, Towards South: Plot No-3.

In the circumstances as aforesaid, the notice is hereby given to the above borrowers, co-borrowers and/ or their guarantors (where ever applicable) to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and the mortgagors under Section 13(4) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the applicable rules there under.

Please note that under Section 13 (13) of the said Act, no Borrower shall, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.

Date: 25-04-2026 Place: Hyderabad Sd/-Authorized Officer SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD.

**Union Bank of India**  
ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH (79170), VIJAYAWADA, Located at 4th Floor, Andhra Bank Building, RR Apparao Street, Vijayawada, AP - 520001. E-mail: arb.vijayawada@unionbankofindia.bank.in

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE**  
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) / Co-obligant (s) / Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to Union Bank of India, now accounts are transferred to Asset Recovery Branch, Vijayawada the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer, will be sold through e-auction on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on 12-05-2026, for recovery of outstanding dues and other expenses due to the Union Bank of India, Asset Recovery Branch, Vijayawada from the following Borrowers and Guarantors. EMD shall be deposited and Linked/Map the EMD amount with the Property ID before End Time of Auction. It is advisable to deposit and Link / Map the EMD amount with the property ID well in advance to avoid any technical glitch.

**E-AUCTION DATE & TIME : 12-05-2026, 12.00 NOON TO 05.00 P.M (with 10 min unlimted auto extensions)**

1) Borrower(s) /Co-obligant(s)/Mortgagor(s)/Guarantor(s) : 1) Mr. Pittala Srikanth, S/o Babu, Flat No. 510, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, SKT Vishnu Srinivasam Apartment, Gokul Nagar, Mallapur Village, GHMC Kapra Circle, Uppal Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District, Telangana - 500076. 2) Mr. Pittala Babu, S/o Pittala Pochalu Malaya, H No 1-23/2, Pothkapalli Village, Odela Mandal, Karimnagar District, Telangana - 505151. 3) Mr. Pittala Srikanth, S/o Babu, H No 1-15A, Janakirampuram Village, Bantumulli Mandal- 521324, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh. Legal heirs of Late Pittala Rajendra Prasad, S/o Narasaiah, Flat No. 510, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, SKT Vishnu Srinivasam Apartment, Gokul Nagar, Mallapur Village, GHMC Kapra Circle, Uppal Mandal, Medchal - Malkajgiri District, Telangana - 500076.

Amount Outstanding : Rs 81,82,822.78/- (Rupees Eighty One Lakhs Eighty Two Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty Two and Paise Seventy Eight only) as on 31.03.2026 plus further interest, costs and charges

Description of The Properties : Residential Flat bearing No. 510 in fifth floor of "S.K.T. VISHNU SREENIVASAM" having super built up area of 1030 Sq. Feet (including common areas and one car parking) together with an undivided share of land admeasuring area of 57.31 Sq. Yards or 31.19 Sq. mts out of total extent of 2000 sq. yards or 1672 sq. mts in plot Nos. 169, 170, 171, 176, 177, 178 in Sy. No. 98 and part of 97 situated at Gokul Nagar, Mallapur (erstwhile Marriguda, hamlet of Mallapur) under GHMC Kapra Circle, Uppal Mandal, Medchal - Malkajgiri District, Telangana State. Land Boundaries: North : 30'-0" Wide Road; South : 30'-0" Wide Road; East : 30'-0" Wide Road; West : 30'-0" Wide Road. Flat Boundaries: North : Open to Sky; South : Corridor & Flat No 509; East : Corridor & Flat No 501; West : Open to Sky

Reserve Price (Rs) : 35,34,000/- EMD (Rs) : 3,53,400/- Bid Increment : Rs. 35,500/-

Bidders are advised to go through the website: <https://banknet.com> and <https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/auction-property-view-auction-property.aspx> for detailed terms and conditions of Auction Sale before submitting their bids and taking part in the E-Auction sale proceedings. To the best information and knowledge of the Authorized Officer, there is no encumbrance on the property. The interested bidder may contact the Authorised Officer / Chief Manager ascertaining the details of auction and inspection of property. Mail ID : arb.vijayawada@unionbankofindia.bank.in, Date: 09-04-2026 Place: Vijayawada Authorised Officer Asset Recovery Branch, Vijayawada

**Union Bank of India**  
ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH (79170), VIJAYAWADA, Located at 4th Floor, Andhra Bank Building, RR Apparao Street, Vijayawada, AP - 520001. E-mail: arb.vijayawada@unionbankofindia.bank.in

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE**  
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) / Co-obligant (s) / Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to Asset Recovery Branch, Vijayawada the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer, will be sold through e-auction on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on 12-05-2026, for recovery of outstanding dues and other expenses due to the Union Bank of India, Asset Recovery Branch, Vijayawada from the following Borrowers and Guarantors. EMD shall be deposited and Linked/Map the EMD amount with the Property ID before End Time of Auction. It is advisable to deposit and Link / Map the EMD amount with the property ID well in advance to avoid any technical glitch.

**E-AUCTION DATE & TIME : 12-05-2026, 12.00 NOON TO 05.00 P.M (with 10 min unlimted auto extensions)**

1) Borrower(s) /Co-obligant(s)/Mortgagor(s)/Guarantor(s) : Borrowers : 1 a) M/S SVVH Logistics, D.No 42-12-3/4, T-1, Mythili Apartment, Seethanama Nagar, Patamatalka, Vijayawada. 1b) Admin Office : M/S SVVH Logistics, Shop No 8, Pushkara Complex, Lorry Stand, Bhavanipuram, Vijayawada.-520012. 1c) Mr. Kotturu Sunil, S/o. Vijaya Kumar (Partner) Flat No.102, First Floor, "Vijayanthi Nilayam" H.No. 8-3-315/6/6A/6B, Plot No. 5, Maruthi Nagar, Yellareddyguda, Hyderabad, Telangana. 1d) Mr. Edara Lenin Babu, S/o.Sambasiva Rao (Partner) Flat No. 401, Elite Heights, LIC Colony, Vijayawada, NTR District, AP - 500008. Co-Borrower/Guarantors : 2a) Mr Kotturu Sunil, S/o. Vijaya Kumar, Flat No. 102, First Floor, "Vijayanthi Nilayam" H.No. 8-3-315/6/6A/6B, Plot No. 5, Maruthi Nagar, Yellareddyguda, Hyderabad, Telangana. 2b) Mrs. Kotturu Amisha, W/o Sunil, Flat No. 102, First Floor, "Vijayanthi Nilayam" H.No. 8-3-315/6/6A/6B, Plot No. 5, Maruthi Nagar, Yellareddyguda, Hyderabad, Telangana. 2c) Mrs. Ganne Vijayalakshmi, W/o Venkata Ratnam (Late), D.No 8-3-222/C/1/36 (A-32) Ward No. 8, Block No. 3, Lakshmi Nagar Colony (Old Layout) Madhura Nagar (New Layout) Yellareddyguda, Hyderabad, Telangana. 2d) Mrs. Edara Sunitha, W/o. Lenin Babu, Flat No. 401, Elite Heights, LIC Colony, Vijayawada, NTR District, AP - 500008.

Amount Outstanding : Rs. 2,74,99,758.17 (Rupees Two Crore Seventy Four Lakhs Ninety Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Eight and Seventeen paise only) as on 31.12.2025 along with subsequent interest and expenses

Description of The Properties : 1. EM of Residential Flat No. 102 located in First Floor of "Vijayanthi Nilayam" with a Plinth Area of 1050 Sq. Ft. with an undivided, unspecified and indivisible share of land to the extent of 35.00 Sq. Yds. Out of total extent of 337.50 Sq. Yds. Situated at H.No. 8-3-315/6/6A/6B, Plot No. 5, Maruthi Nagar, Yellareddyguda, Hyderabad, Telangana. Owners of Property: Mr. K Sunil S/o Vijay Kumar & Mrs. K Amisha W/o Sunil (Regd. Sale Deed Document No. 4325/ 2012 dated 16.10.2012) Boundaries of Residential Flat : East: Open to Sky; West: Open to Sky; North: Open to Sky; South: By Corridor & Flat No. 101. Boundaries of Land : East: By H.No. 8-3-315/5; West: By H.No. 8-3-315/7; North: By Neighbours House; South : By 30 Ft Wide Road

Reserve Price (Rs) : 58,00,000/- EMD (Rs) : 5,80,000/- Bid Increment : Rs. 60,000/-

2. EM of Residential Building with GF + 2 Upper Floors located at H.No. 8-3-222/C/1/36 (A-32), Plot No.36 of lakshmi Nagar Colony Layout (Plot No. A-32, A Block of Madhura Nagar Layout) in Sy. No. 124 & 125 part situated at Ward No. 8, Block No. 3, Lakshmi Nagar Colony (Old Layout), Madhura Nagar (New Layout), Yellareddyguda, Hyderabad, Telangana. Extent of site: 267.00 Sq. Yds. Owners of the Property: Sri Ganne Venkata Ratnam (late) S/o Yeggaiah (As per Regd. Sale Deed Document No. 231-4/1979 dated 03.08.1979. As per Actuals: East: By Plot No. 35; West: By Plot No. 37; North: By 60 Ft Wide Road; South: By Plot No. 33. As per Actuals: East: By House on Plot No. A - 31; West: By House on Plot No. A - 33 (TLR Luxury Ladies PG Hostel) North: By 60 Ft Wide Road; South: By House on Plot No. A - 29

Reserve Price (Rs) : 2,88,00,000/- EMD (Rs) : 28,80,000/- Bid Increment : Rs. 3,00,000/-

For auction related queries Contact Mr. N Girish Prasad dealing officer Contact No.9573621034 and Mr. Gopi Krishna Chief Manager Contact No.8074945928

Bidders are advised to go through the website: <https://banknet.com> and <https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/auction-property-view-auction-property.aspx> for detailed terms and conditions of Auction Sale before submitting their bids and taking part in the E-Auction sale proceedings. To the best information and knowledge of the Authorized Officer, there is no encumbrance on the property. The interested bidder may contact the Authorised Officer / Chief Manager ascertaining the details of auction and inspection of property. Mail ID : arb.vijayawada@unionbankofindia.bank.in, Date: 22-04-2026 Place: Vijayawada Authorised Officer Union Bank of India, Asset Recovery Branch, Vijayawada

**APCC condemns convening of Assembly session to blame Cong for Women Reservation Bill defeat**

Vijayawada (TSIT) Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) vice-president Kolanukonda Shivaji vehemently condemned convening of Legislative Assembly's special session by the Chandrababu Naidu government especially to blame the Congress party for the defeat of Women Reservation Bill in the Lok Sabha recently. In a statement here today, Shivaji said that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu proposed to convene a special Assembly session especially to blame the Congress and call upon people not to vote for the Congress for the defeat of the Women Reservation Bill in the Lok Sabha. The Congress party is objecting for the same, he said. The Congress leader asked the Naidu government to include the agenda of providing reservations for OBC women in the Assembly session. The APCC Vice-president also demanded in the agenda of the Special Assembly session for the acquisition of over 10,000 acres of land for the construction of Outer Ring Road and loss to the small and marginal farmers. Congress also demanded that Chandrababu Naidu prove his sincerity by passing a resolution in the special session of the Assembly, allocating 181 seats, which is 33 per cent of the 543 seats, under the 2023 Women's Reservation Act, which is in force throughout the country, by 2029. Shivaji also questioned why did the government fail to give Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam board chairman's post or Executive officer's post to women and demanded to discuss the issue in the Assembly session. Projecting construction of the capital city Amaravati as a self-financing project, the government is borrowing huge sums of money from various sources, the Congress leader alleged and questioned why is the government borrowing money if it is a self-financing project. He demanded to include the issue of land acquisition for ORR in the Special Assembly session.

struction of Outer Ring Road and loss to the small and marginal farmers. Congress also demanded that Chandrababu Naidu prove his sincerity by passing a resolution in the special session of the Assembly, allocating 181 seats, which is 33 per cent of the 543 seats, under the 2023 Women's Reservation Act, which is in force throughout the country, by 2029. Shivaji also questioned why did the government fail to give Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam board chairman's post or Executive officer's post to women and demanded to discuss the issue in the Assembly session. Projecting construction of the capital city Amaravati as a self-financing project, the government is borrowing huge sums of money from various sources, the Congress leader alleged and questioned why is the government borrowing money if it is a self-financing project. He demanded to include the issue of land acquisition for ORR in the Special Assembly session.

**BDL delivers indigenous heavyweight torpedo to NSTL, boosting naval capabilities**

Visakhapatnam, April 25: Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), a premier defence public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Defence, has achieved a major milestone in indigenous defence manufacturing with the delivery of a production-grade Wire Guided Heavy Weight Torpedo (WGHWT) to Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL) at its Visakhapatnam unit on Thursday. The event was attended by senior officials, including R V Hara Prasad, distinguished scientist and Director General (NS&M), A Madhavarao, Chairman and Managing Director of BDL, and Abraham

Varughese, along with teams from BDL, NSTL, and the Indian Navy, a BDL statement said late on Friday night. As the Development-cum-Production Partner (DcPP), BDL collaborated closely with NSTL to successfully realise India's first indigenous production-grade wire-guided heavy weight torpedo. The system has been developed in both practice and combat configurations and formally handed over, marking a significant step in strengthening India's self-reliance in advanced naval weapon systems under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative. The torpedo is equipped with advanced homing and propulsion systems,

along with sophisticated search, attack, and re-attack capabilities, substantially enhancing the operational readiness of the Indian Navy. Officials highlighted that the achievement reflects strong collaboration between DRDO and BDL, supported by a wide network of industrial partners, including MSMEs. The successful production of such a complex underwater weapon system underscores India's growing expertise in cutting-edge naval technologies. On the occasion, dignitaries commended the efforts of scientists, engineers, and production teams who contributed to the project.

**GITAM Labs Join National I-STEM Network to Support Researchers Across India**

The South India Times, Visakhapatnam : GITAM Deemed to be University has taken a significant step to support researchers, startups, and industry professionals across the country by making its advanced research facilities accessible through national integration with I-STEM (Indian Science, Technology and Engineering facilities Map), an initiative of the Government of India's Department of Science and Technology. In many institutions, research activities often face delays due to the unavailability of costly scientific equipment or long waiting periods for access. To address these challenges, the I-STEM portal provides a unified platform listing advanced scientific instruments available in premier institutions across the country.



advanced 3D printers. Through the I-STEM portal, researchers, academic institutions, and industry experts from across India can now check the availability of these instruments online and directly reserve slots for usage. The services are provided under the supervision of skilled technical staff, ensuring high-quality results.

in the country. The university's expert technical team will also assist external researchers in operating the equipment and collecting accurate analytical data. These facilities are expected to greatly benefit researchers requiring precise analytical data, as well as startups and young entrepreneurs who may not have the resources to establish expensive laboratories of their own. Notably, hundreds of researchers from Andhra Pradesh and other states are already utilizing these facilities through the I-STEM portal.

To promote research, GITAM has established the Murthy Labs with an investment of several crores of rupees. The facility houses state-of-the-art instruments such as Laser Scanning Microscope, Physical Property Measurement System, FESEM, 500 MHz NMR, LC-HRMS, X-ray Diffraction systems, and

**KL University Admission Counseling from April 26 to 30**

Vijayawada/Hyderabad: Admission counseling for engineering, degree, and postgraduate courses at KL University campuses in Vijayawada and Hyderabad will be held from April 26 to 30, announced Pro Vice-Chancellor Dr. Parthasaradhi Varma. Students who secured ranks in the university's



national-level engineering entrance exam, as well as those eligible through JEE percentile and intermediate (Class 12) marks, can attend the counseling and select their preferred courses. Dr. Varma stated that meritorious students participating in the counseling process will be eligible for special scholarships.

Admissions Director Dr. J. Srinivasa Rao said all arrangements have been completed smoothly. He added that the university has designed a scholarship scheme prioritizing talented students. Detailed information about the counseling process is available on the university's official website.

**Minister Kandula Durgesh Pays Tributes to Former CM Nandendra Bhaskara Rao**

Hyderabad/Amaravati, April 23: State Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh paid rich tributes to the mortal remains of former Chief Minister Nandendra Bhaskara Rao during his last rites. The minister visited the residence of Nandendra Manohar in Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad, where he

offered floral homage to the departed leader. Durgesh expressed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and consoled them in their moment of grief, praying for strength and courage to overcome the loss. Later, the minister participated in the funeral proceedings.

Speaking on the occasion, Kandula Durgesh recalled the invaluable contributions of Nandendra Bhaskara Rao as a public representative and as Chief Minister in the erstwhile united Andhra Pradesh. He described Bhaskara Rao's services to the state's development as unforgettable and

**HSL RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD**



The South India Times, Visakhapatnam : Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) has received prestigious recognition for its outstanding contribution to digital transformation in the mar-

itime sector. The award was presented at the PSE Excellence Awards-2026 event held in Hyderabad on Saturday. On behalf of HSL, Deputy General Manager (IT & ERP) TVNB

Suryanarayana received the award. The recognition was given in the Enterprise Applications category for the successful implementation of SAP S/4 HANA and key digital reforms. The organization stated that HSL is taking significant steps to modernize its operations through the comprehensive use of digital systems, enhancement of operational efficiency, and data-driven decision-making. These initiatives have strengthened the organization's performance and positioned HSL as a forward-looking entity in the maritime sector. At the event, more than 30 public sector enterprises were recognized across various categories, with HSL being one among them. Officials stated that the organization continues to stay ahead in the use of technology, innovation, and in achieving the goals of Digital India.

**GITAM SCHOLAR DR. KISHORE EARNS PH.D. WITH BREAKTHROUGH IN SOLAR CELL RESEARCH**



Hyderabad (TSIT): GITAM Deemed to be University has congratulated Dr. Kishore M on successfully earning his Ph.D. in Chemistry under the guidance of Prof. Rambabu Gundla from the Department of Chemistry, School of Science. Dr. Kishore's research focused on the design and development of advanced hole transporting materials (HTMs) for perovskite solar cells, a rapidly emerging technology in the renewable energy sector. His work involved synthesizing novel benzo[1,2-b:4,5-b']dithiophene-based organic

materials aimed at addressing critical challenges related to efficiency and stability in solar cell performance. The study revealed that the newly developed HTMs offer excellent thermal stability, efficient charge transport, and favorable energy alignment. Significantly, dopant-free perovskite solar cells incorporating these materials achieved a power conversion efficiency of up to 21.14%, along with improved operational stability. The research highlights the importance of innovative molecular design in developing cost-effective and high-performance solar technologies, contributing to sustainable energy solutions. GITAM leadership, including Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof. D. S. Rao, Resident Director D.V.V.S.R. Varma, School of Science Principal Dr. M. Reza, and Head of the Department Dr. Gousia Begum, congratulated Dr. Kishore for his notable academic achievement and valuable contribution to scientific research.

**Grand 10th Annual Convocation of IIM Visakhapatnam Held in Vizag**



The South India Times, Visakhapatnam. The 10th Annual Convocation of the Indian Institute of Management Visakhapatnam was held in a grand manner. A total of 665 students received their degrees during the ceremony, which took place in the presence of distinguished guests, faculty members, and families of the students. The convocation was inaugurated by the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Hari S. Bhartia. IIM Visakhapatnam Director, Professor M. Chandrasekhar, presented the Director's report, highlighting the institution's progress over the past decade. He elaborated on significant advancements in academic programs, research development, industry collaboration, and international partnerships.

Chairman Hari S. Bhartia congratulated the students and emphasized the importance of innovation, entrepreneurship, and emerging technologies, particularly artificial intelligence. He advised students to maintain quality in their thinking, courage in decision-making, and integrity in their actions. Chief Guest Zarin Daruwala, CEO of PL Capital Group, in her convocation address, urged students to cultivate humility, ethical values, and a problem-solving mindset. On this occasion, degrees

were awarded to 342 MBA students, 163 EMBA students, 40 EPGDPM students, 62 PGP/PGMCI students, 57 PGP/PMCI students, along with one PhD scholar. Among the top performers, Sanjay Pathak secured the first rank in the PGP program, while Samruddhi Mangrulkar secured the second rank. In EMBA, Mahabir Ghosh and Sonam Gupta emerged as toppers. The ceremony concluded on a proud note, with IIM Visakhapatnam reaffirming its commitment to shaping future leaders.

**SRM University-AP Marks 10th Research Day, Honours Scholars and Faculty for Excellence**

Amaravati: SRM University-AP celebrated a significant milestone with the 10th edition of its Research Day, showcasing a decade of academic excellence and innovation. The event provided a vibrant platform for research scholars and students to present their work, exchange ideas, and promote interdisciplinary collaboration. Dr. S.S.V. Ramakumar, Chief Technology Officer and Executive Vice President of AM Green, attended as the chief guest and delivered a keynote on energy transition from an Indian perspective. Highlighting the Princeton Wedge Approach, he stressed the need for step-by-step solutions to address climate change. He also noted key



energy trends for 2025, including rising gas demand, increased adoption of solar and wind energy, declining fossil fuel usage, and a shift toward advanced biofuels. He commended the university's initiatives in emerging technologies

and green hydrogen, calling it a leader in sustainable innovation. Prof. D. Narayana Rao, Executive Director (Research), SRM Group, emphasized the institution's commitment to building a strong research ecosystem aligned with national priorities in science and technology. He also announced plans to establish a Centre for ANRF-Translational Research Innovation and Initiative (ATRII) to transform research into real-world applications. Vice Chancellor Prof. Ch. Satish Kumar highlighted the importance of strengthening research culture, while Prof. C.V. Tomy noted the overwhelming response with 574 research abstracts submitted across diverse fields. The event recognized excellence with 30 gold medals, special awards, seed grants, and faculty honours, reaffirming SRM University-AP's dedication to advancing impactful research and innovation.

**KIMS Cuddles Doctors Give New Lease of Life to Newborn**

Kurnool, April 25, 2026: In a rare and life-saving medical intervention, doctors at KIMS Cuddles, Kurnool, successfully performed a complex surgery on a newborn baby on the seventh day after birth, saving the infant's life. Sharing details of the case, Consultant Pediatric Urologist Dr. Sai Prasuna said that the baby, born to a couple from Gadwal district in Telangana, had not passed stools even two days after birth, causing concern among the parents. The child was immediately brought to KIMS Cuddles, Kurnool, for evaluation. Upon examination, doctors diagnosed the baby with Hirschsprung's disease, a congenital con-



dition in which nerve cells responsible for bowel movements are absent in a portion of the intestine. As a result, the affected segment fails to relax, preventing the normal passage of stool. This can lead to intestinal blockage, abdominal distension, and serious infections. "In newborns, the first 48 hours after birth are critical. Failure to pass

stools during this period is considered a 'surgical warning sign,'" the doctor explained. As hours passed without bowel movement, the baby developed symptoms such as abdominal swelling and greenish vomiting by the second day, indicating worsening of the condition. The medical team decided to perform surgery on the seventh day

after birth. Traditionally, this condition required a two-stage surgical approach, involving an initial procedure to create a colostomy (external opening for stool passage), followed by a second corrective surgery later. However, the KIMS Cuddles team adopted an advanced Transanal Endorectal Pull-Through (TERPT) procedure, which allows surgeons to correct the defect in a single stage without any external incisions. "This technique eliminates the need for a colostomy bag and enables complete correction in one surgery. It is safer, leaves no visible scars, and ensures faster recovery for the baby," Dr. Sai Prasuna said.

## Hectic activity in K'taka Cong: Shivakumar camps in Delhi; Siddaramaiah meets supporters



Bengaluru, April 25 : There is hectic political activity taking place in Karnataka Congress with Deputy Chief Minister, D.K. Shivakumar camping in Delhi to meet leaders of the Gandhi family and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah holding a closed door meeting with his supporters in Bengaluru.

Congress sources state that the controversy surrounding Davanagere bypolls has given opportunity to Shivakumar to initiate action against CM Siddaramaiah camp leaders. They also indicate that CM Siddaramaiah's camp will come up with a counterstrategy soon.

Although the two leaders had earlier projected unity through joint appearances, including breakfast

meetings, recent developments suggest that the leadership debate may resurface prominently after the bye-election results.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah held a meeting with his close ministers, even as Shivakumar and his brother D.K. Suresh headed to Delhi.

While both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar have publicly displayed unity, their supporting legislators have issued contrasting statements.

Siddaramaiah's son, Congress MLC Yathindra Siddaramaiah, asserted that his father would continue as Chief Minister for a full five-year term. On the other hand, legislators aligned with Shivakumar have claimed that he

would assume the Chief Minister's position within the current tenure.

Until recently, the Congress high command was occupied with elections in five states. With those polls now almost concluded, the arrival of Shivakumar in Delhi has fuelled political curiosity.

On the other hand sources confirmed that CM Siddaramaiah convened a closed-door meeting with trusted ministers at a private venue on Cunningham Road in Bengaluru, reportedly to discuss Cabinet reshuffle and internal party concerns. Ministers including Bhairati Suresh, G. Parameshwara, K.H. Muniyappa, Satish Jarkiholi, B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan, and Dinesh Gundu Rao were said to be present.

The meeting is believed to have focussed on concerns that close aides of the Chief Minister are being targeted and on Siddaramaiah's perceived silence. Participants reportedly expressed apprehension that unilateral decisions within the party could harm senior leaders' standing and alienate communities ahead of the 2028 Assembly elections. There was also a call for Siddaramaiah to intervene more actively to prevent damage to the party.

## Justice Lisa Gill Sworn In as First Woman Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court



Justice Lisa Gill made history on Saturday by taking the oath as the first woman Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court. The swearing-in ceremony was held at the Raj Bhavan in Amaravati, where Governor Justice S. Abdul Nazeer officially administered the oath of office. Prior to the ceremony, Chief Minister N.

Chandrababu Naidu paid a courtesy visit to Justice Lisa Gill. He extended his warm wishes and congratulated her on the historic milestone of becoming the first woman to head the state's highest judicial institution.

Hailing from Chandigarh, Justice Gill brings decades of extensive legal experience to her new role. After secur-

ing her law degree from Punjab University, she commenced her legal practice as an advocate in 1990. Throughout her career, she built a strong foundation by handling a wide array of civil, criminal, and constitutional cases at the Punjab and Haryana High Court. She was later elevated as a judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court in

March 2014.

Her appointment is being viewed as a significant moment for the state's legal framework. Members of the legal fraternity have expressed optimism, anticipating that the Andhra Pradesh judicial system will gain new momentum and clear direction under the seasoned leadership of Justice Lisa Gill.

## Vaibhav Suryavanshi Smashes 36-Ball Century as RR Set 229-Run Target for SRH



Rajasthan Royals' young sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi delivered a batting masterclass, smashing a phenomenal 36-ball century to propel his team to a massive 228

for 6 against Sunrisers Hyderabad in the ongoing IPL 2026 season. The high-scoring encounter unfolded at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur. Sunrisers Hyderabad cap-

tain Pat Cummins won the toss and elected to bowl first, a decision that quickly backfired. Although opener Yashasvi Jaiswal departed early for 10, Vaibhav Suryavanshi launched a relentless assault on the SRH bowling attack. He signalled his intentions instantly by hammering four consecutive sixes in the very first over. Suryavanshi was eventually dismissed for a blistering 103 off just 37 deliveries, an innings laced with 12 massive sixes and five boundaries. Notably, his 36-ball ton is now the third-fastest century in Indian Premier League history. He found solid support from Dhruv Jurel, who scored a well-paced 51 off 35 balls. The duo forged a crucial 112-run partnership off 62 balls for the second wicket, stabilizing the innings while maintaining a staggering run rate. In the death overs, Donovan Ferreira provided the finishing touches with a rapid 33 off 16 deliveries, pushing the final total well past the 220-run mark. The Sunrisers' bowling lineup struggled severely under the onslaught. Shakib Hussain emerged as the most expensive bowler, conceding 62 runs in his four overs. Captain Cummins was the lone economical figure, finishing with impressive figures of 1 for 27. Sunrisers Hyderabad now face a monumental chase to secure a victory.

## Ranveer Singh mimicry row settled, K'taka HC accepts apology



Bengaluru, April 25 : The Karnataka High Court on Saturday accepted an undertaking by Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh, known for his role in 'Durandhar', to visit the Chamundeshwari Temple in Mysuru and tender an apology for his mimicry of a deity depicted in the film Kantara Chapter-2. Meanwhile, the complainant and advocate Prashant Methal stated in Bengaluru that the matter has been settled and that the court will issue an order in this regard soon. The bench, headed by Justice M. Nagaprasanna, accepted Ranveer Singh's undertaking to make amends for his mimicry of the temple deity's depiction in the film. The court observed that it would pass a formal order after recording the actor's apology and indicated that it may direct him to visit the temple within four weeks. Senior counsel Sajjan Poovayya, appearing for Ranveer Singh, submitted that the actor had filed a revised affidavit offering an unconditional apology. He also stated that Ranveer Singh would visit Chamundi Hill and tender his apology for the act of mimicry. Speaking to the media at the Bengaluru Police Commissioner's office, the complainant, advocate Prashant

Methal, said that the Ranveer Singh case had been settled. He said that arguments were heard on the affidavit submitted to the court, which stated that the actor would visit Chamundi Hill in Mysuru "in due course". He added that they had raised arguments on what "due course" implies, whether it is 15 days, 30 days, one year, or even 10 years. The actor's counsel submitted that, due to security concerns, a specific timeline could not be provided. After Durandhar 1 and 2, there appears to be a need for enhanced security. Methal said they expressed confidence in the Karnataka Police, who can provide foolproof security when the actor visits. He further stated that the bench agreed with this position. The affidavit has been filed, stating that he will come soon and apologise before the goddess. He added that forgiveness is a fundamental principle of all religions. Since he has tendered an apology, no further punishment is necessary. He said it is appropriate to end the matter here and that it would not be proper to continue. It can be recalled that the controversy, often referred to as the "Kantara mimicry row", arose from an incident during the 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa on November 28, 2025.

## 'Kejriwal is corrupt and liar', 'Did not join BJP under any compulsion': Swati Maliwal

New Delhi, April 25 : A day after former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP Swati Maliwal, along with six other Rajya Sabha MPs, including Raghav Chadha, joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), she cited AAP Convener Arvind Kejriwal's "corruption, hooliganism and lies" as the reason. Maliwal also clarified that she has not joined the BJP under any compulsion. During an interaction with IANS, she rekindled her time with the AAP.

Maliwal said: "I have been working with Arvind Kejriwal since 2006. I left my home, gave up my job, and stayed in jhuggi areas for seven years, supporting him in every movement."

However, reiterating her allegations from 2024, she added, "Arvind Kejriwal got me brutally beaten by his aides at his residence. When I tried to file an FIR, I was threatened and intimidated. Even over the past two years, several attempts were made to force me to withdraw the FIR."

She also accused Kejriwal of being an "anti-woman person". Maliwal asserted that she had tried to improve the party for the past two years, however, she said that change is not possible with "so much of money game".

"I tried to raise issues in the past two years but no body listened to me," she claimed. Referring to previous instances of



several leaders quitting the AAP, Maliwal said, "Every good person has left Arvind Kejriwal at some point or the other. When one realises that he (Kejriwal) is corrupt and a liar, he or she leaves him."

"There are thousands of volunteers whose names we might not know, they also have left the AAP. Arvind Kejriwal had shown a dream to all of us but later he himself became corrupt," she added.

Blaming Kejriwal for focusing to lead a luxurious life, she said: "Simplicity was one of our very important aspects when we started, that has been completely lost by Arvind Kejriwal."

Maliwal alleged that after losing the Delhi Assembly polls, the AAP Chief is now running the Punjab government "via remote control".

"He (Kejriwal) has imposed all the rejected MLAs from Delhi on Punjab. Didn't he find any Punjabi to appoint to

any of the commissions? And Bibhav Kumar, who hit me and had behaved so rudely, Arvind Kejriwal has given that man Z security in Punjab. He has appointed that person as the Chief Advisor to (Punjab Chief Minister) Bhagwant Mann," she alleged.

Moreover, she added, "He (Kejriwal) has made the AAP government in Punjab as a personal ATM. Due to him, today Punjab has drowned into corruption."

The MP further blamed the AAP for illegal sand mining and drug mafia "taking over" Punjab. She accused the AAP of using Punjab in order to lead a lavish lifestyle.

"Punjab will never forgive them," she asserted. Sharpening the attack on her former party, Maliwal alleged that for the last two years, despite being the only woman AAP MP, she was not allowed to speak in the Parliament out of the party's allotted time.

## Trump cancels negotiators' Pakistan trip, citing 'tremendous' infighting in Iran leadership

New York, April 25 : US President Donald Trump on Saturday night cancelled his negotiators' trip to Pakistan because of the confusion over who is in charge of Iran and the "tremendous infighting" among their leadership. After Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi landed in Islamabad on Friday, Trump's Spokesperson Karoline Leavitt had announced that the negotiators, Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner and his Special Representative Steve Witkoff, would go there.

She said Vice President JD Vance would be standing by to join them if it seemed useful. Striking an optimistic note, she said the US had "certainly seen some progress from the Iranian side in the last couple of days". However, Tehran had already ruled out direct talks with Washington by Araghchi, who was in Islamabad. Significantly, Iran's Parliament Speaker Bagher Ghalibaf, a hardliner who led the Iranian team in the April 11 direct talks with the US,

was not going to Islamabad. Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Esmail Baqaei, who accompanied Araghchi, said on X, "No meeting is planned to take place between Iran and the US. Iran's observations would be conveyed to Pakistan". Araghchi tried to pass off the Islamabad visit as a routine affair of bilateralism that was part of a swing through Oman and Russia. Oman had acted as the go-between in the indirect negotiations in Geneva a couple of



days before Israel bombed Iran, with the US joining in, making it a confrontation between the US and Iran. Russia is one of Iran's supporters, providing it with intelli-

gence and material help, and diplomatic support. In his short post on Truth Social, Trump did not make any fresh threats against Iran, but said, "We have all the cards, they have none! If they want to talk, all they have to do is call!" "Too much time wasted on travelling, too much work! Besides which, there is tremendous infighting and confusion within their 'leadership'," he said. The split in Iran's leadership, between moderates and hardliners, came to the fore last week

when Araghchi, considered a moderate, declared on Friday that the Strait of Hormuz was open, only to have the hard-line Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) reinstate it on Saturday. After attempts at restarting the stalled negotiations in Islamabad last weekend and earlier this week failed, Trump extended the ceasefire indefinitely, but kept the Naval blockade of Iranian ports. In threats against Iran in the past, he had said he would wipe out its civilisation and take out all its bridges and

power stations. Tasnim, the semi-official news agency, said that negotiations "depend on the lifting of the US naval blockade". "Officials have argued that the continued blockade constitutes a violation of the truce," it added. It said that Araghchi met with Pakistan's military chief Asim Munir, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and briefed them on "Tehran's positions regarding the latest ceasefire developments" in the Iran war.

EDITORIAL

*Collapse of the AAP  
Mirage: From Anna's  
Square to the Ruins of a  
Broken Promise*

The departure of seven MPs from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is unfolding a situation that is bruising, public and irreversible. It admittedly elicits a vicarious sense of justice among those who watched the AAP weaponise falsehood against the Congress for over a decade. The lies were elaborate, the propaganda industrious, and the damage real. Schadenfreude, in this instance, is not an entirely dishonourable emotion.

And yet, two wrongs have never made a right. Alongside this spectacle of self-implosion runs a far more sinister story: the BJP's continued practice of purchasing mandates through lure and coercion, of engineering defections, of bending democratic institutions to achieve what Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh ideologues have long dreamed of: a single-party state. The AAP crisis cannot be allowed to obscure that existential threat to Indian democracy. The promise that was never meant to be kept Let's recall 2011. A man in a Gandhi topi stood at Jantar Mantar and spoke of an India scrubbed clean of corruption. Arvind Kejriwal had won the Magsaysay Award for championing the Right to Information. He had filed a signed affidavit pledging never to use an official car or government bungalow. He had demanded a Lokpal so powerful it could, in the words borrowed from his Janlokpal Bill, "break open the almirahs of the Prime Minister." Gullible, idealistic, genuinely good-hearted Indians believed him. They believed because they wanted to believe. Today, that same man travels in large cavalcades at public expense. He fought bitterly in court to secure a Lutyens' Delhi bungalow. His official chief minister's residence was refurbished at a cost that scandalised even his admirers. As admin incharge of the Congress Party, I may also take the liberty of sharing that no top leader of Congress has ever misused public funds to have a luxurious living. The bungalows belonging to the Gandhi's even have a spartan style. People were merely amused to see the kitchen of Sonia Gandhi, when Rahul Gandhi released a video discussing food with his mother. It was simply a middle-class kitchen of the 80s. Frugal living!

The Lokpal that Kejriwal once made a national cause has now become a historical footnote. No one today even recalls that India has one. And the Lokayukta in Delhi? Kejriwal stonewalled its appointment for years. Punjab's Lokayukta, first appointed under a Congress government, survives, but the official website is not consistently accessible to the public. The fraud on the people of India is total.

One important historical correction must be made here. The Lokpal movement was not Kejriwal's original idea - it was mooted decades ago by Shanti Bhushan, leading lawyer and politician.

It was Sonia Gandhi who resolved to legislate a Lokpal, announcing it in her presidential address at the Burari convention of the AICC in 2011. It was her sincerity and political will that produced the Lokpal Act during UPA-2, after extensive consultations and study by a joint parliamentary committee.

Kejriwal was an opportunist who recognised a wave already created by Congress, rode it and then, with shameless cunning, turned it against the very party that had initiated it. Congress's own failure to forcefully underline Sonia Gandhi's foundational contribution is a matter of serious introspection.

The ideology-free vacuum and its consequences AAP's most lasting and most corrosive legacy is not corruption. It is the active delegitimation of ideology itself. Kejriwal did not merely lack a political ideology. He propagated against the very concept. He presented ideology as an obstacle to governance, a distraction from the practical business of delivering services. Governance, he insisted, was a managerial problem, not a moral or political one. This was a profoundly dangerous idea. It created an ideological vacuum in Indian politics at precisely the moment when the RSS-BJP combine was prepared to fill any available space with its far-right, communal, anti-constitutional worldview. AAP's assault was directed specifically at the constitutional, republican, secular legacy of the Congress, the legacy of Gandhi, Nehru, Ambedkar, and the independence movement. It succeeded in weakening that tradition. And into the space it cleared, marched something far darker.

The consequences were predictable. A party without ideological moorings must navigate by the winds of popular sentiment. Kejriwal chose to be led by surveys rather than values, mob mood rather than constitutional principle. This is majoritarianism. Not democratic, not egalitarian, but a system that finds a common enemy, inflames primal passions, and converts public anger into personal power. The Delhi riots of February 2020 were the most devastating verdict on this ideology-less governance. A city under the AAP government burned. Then the chief minister, for days, he was conspicuously absent, silent and passive. When AAP did speak, it found its voice to malign the Tablighi Jamaat over COVID-19. It was a baseless, communally charged attack on a Muslim organisation. The party that had claimed to stand above communalism collapsed, silently, into it.

**The mirror and the original**

In retrospect, the structural similarity between AAP and BJP was always hiding in plain sight. Both built their power on a cult of personality. Both weaponised media. The RTI champion, Kejriwal moved first to exclude journalists from Delhi Secretariat the moment he came to power, a playbook Modi had already written in Gujarat and would later deploy nationally. Both relied on the management of popular sentiment. The difference is this: Modi's BJP is honest about its authoritarianism within its support base. The RSS's communal project is no secret to those who vote for it. The edifice is aligned with the foundation. AAP, by contrast, built a democratic facade over an authoritarian structure. When the facade fell, as it inevitably must, there was nothing behind it. You cannot sustain a political movement that rides on democratic and republican aspirations while delivering an authoritarian regime. The supporters of AAP were not ill-intentioned; they were deceived. And deceit, unlike conviction, has no endurance.

# Hindutva To Parivartan: Decoding Shift In BJP Campaign Strategy From 2021

In any election, for any political party, voting is never shaped by a single issue, a single agenda, or one isolated political plank. Elections are always fought on multiple layers. That is the context in which this election in West Bengal also has to be understood. As the principal opposition force in Bengal, the BJP too has adopted multiple strategies in its campaign. What is striking this time is the visible shift from its 2021 approach. In that Assembly election, the campaign was far more sharply defined by Hindutva, particularly hard-line Hindutva, with the slogan of Jai Shri Ram dominating almost every political theatre. The slogan itself had become a mode of politics. But electoral politics is also a process of trial and error. And the BJP appears to have understood something important about Bengal. Mamata Banerjee's deployment of Bengali identity politics has worked, to a large extent, as a counter to hyper-Hindutva. There is a broader social understanding that Bengali identity has historically been mixed, Aryan and non-Aryan strands, layered histories, and plural inheritances. Socially and culturally, Bengalis often see themselves as pluralistic, heterogeneous, and in a broad sense, secular. Because of that, a monolithic Hindutva framework does not always sit naturally with Bengal's political culture. Sanatan civilisational themes may have resonance, but in the electoral arena, aggressive Hindutva as a singular campaign idiom has limits in Bengal. And the BJP seems to



have recalibrated accordingly in 2026. That does not mean Hindutva has disappeared. It remains the party's core ideological anchor. 'Jai Shri Ram' is still present. Even after the first phase of polling, on Friday, while travelling along the banks of the Ganges at Gwalior Ghat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi heard supporters raising Jai Shri Ram slogans, and he responded in kind. After some time, that was seen as a signal that the slogan remains part of the campaign grammar. But noticeably, in the opening stretch of the campaign, PM Modi had emphasised Jai Maa Kali, Jai Maa Durga, invoked Mahishasur Mardini, and spoke of divine protection for Bangla. That itself reflected a tonal adjustment. The larger strategic shift, however, is

unmistakable: from Hindutva to Parivartan. Even on Friday, in a press conference, Home Minister Amit Shah made that point directly. He said this is not about changing an MLA, a cabinet, or even merely changing a chief minister. This is about changing Bengal. That formulation matters. The BJP is presenting itself not as the force creating change, but as the vehicle through which the people of Bengal are changing the regime. PM Modi too, in Panihati, framed it similarly: Bengal wants freedom - freedom from violence against women, freedom from unemployment, freedom from deteriorating law and order, and what he repeatedly described as 'jungle raj'. This election's slogan is less "religious mobilisation" and more

"regime change". The Parivartan rallies reflect this. Four or five major yatras have revolved around that theme, and almost every top BJP leader has been part of what can only be called a carpet-bombing campaign strategy centred on change. Through this shift from hyper-Hindutva to Parivartan, the BJP is trying to activate anti-incumbency. And after 15 years in power, anti-incumbency, as many would say, is almost a law of political nature. District by district, there are visible signs of discontent. And the BJP believes it is the only viable beneficiary of that mood because the Left and Congress remain organisationally weak. Though the Congress has shown signs of renewed aggression. Mamata Banerjee long occupied much

of Congress's traditional political space in Bengal. Rahul Gandhi appears conscious of that. That is why Adhir Chowdhury has again been fielded from Murshidabad. Rahul Gandhi has campaigned in North Bengal, sharply attacked Mamata Banerjee, and is returning for the second phase. The Congress seems to sense that there is an anti-Trinamool undercurrent. There used to be a cynical saying in some Left circles: 'Aage Ram, Pore Bam', let Ram come first, then the Left can revive later. But this time, even the Left realises that if the BJP fully captures Opposition space, the future of the Left itself could be in question. That has made them more aggressive, too. But the BJP, meanwhile, has broadened its strategy fur-

ther, raising infiltration, or ghuspethiya, and border concerns and trying to consolidate Bengali anxieties not through Ayodhya or Ram Mandir, which interestingly has not been central this time, but through security and identity politics. Even among women voters, the BJP has sought to challenge one of Mamata Banerjee's strongest social constituencies. The women's reservation issue has been used politically. PM Modi has framed the BJP as the protector of women. He has even referenced remarks made by Mamata Banerjee after the RG Kar episode, questioning how a chief minister could suggest women should avoid moving out at midnight, and turned that into a larger critique about women's security. Even the symbolic presence of Abhaya's mother, Ratna Debnath, at Panihati lent emotional and political weight to PM Modi's visit. All this shows that the strategy this time is layered, calibrated, and multi-pronged. And at the centre of much of this is Amit Shah. In many ways, this entire strategic shift bears Amit Shah's imprint. His extended stay in Kolkata itself is significant. Staying for days, holding meetings late into the night with BJP leaders, personally reviewing constituency-wise calculations, and repeatedly telling candidates: increase the margin, increase the margin. It is not only about winning seats. It is about generating confidence and creating the atmosphere that victory is within reach and that each candidate has a duty not merely to win.

## Protest Origins To Major Rebellion: Story Of AAP So Far

There was a time when the Aam Aadmi Party was not just a political party; it was an emotion, an uprising, a moral assertion against a system perceived as corrupt. It rose from the dust of Ramlila Maidan, powered by the movement led by Anna Hazare, with Arvind Kejriwal as its most visible face. But this is also where the story begins to turn interestingly, and somewhat ironically. Because a movement that set out to "change the system" slowly began to resemble the very system it once opposed. The first cracks appeared early. As activism transitioned into politics, the paths of Anna Hazare and Arvind Kejriwal diverged. The simplicity of protest gave way to the strategy of power. Allies like Baba Ramdev drifted apart. The language of moral absolutism softened into the grammar of political convenience. And then came the first big irony - in politics, "never" often quietly becomes "sometimes." The same Indian National Congress that was fiercely attacked became the very support system for forming a government. Leaders once targeted for imprisonment - Sonia Gandhi, Lalu Prasad Yadav, Mulayam Singh Yadav - suddenly became part of the political ecosystem AAP learned to navigate. And the contradictions didn't stop there. At one point, sharp criticism of MK Stalin - and later, public camaraderie. The shift wasn't subtle; it was symptomatic of a larger transformation. A party that once claimed to be "different" was beginning to look very familiar. AAP's politics developed a peculiar rhythm - storms of allegations, followed by silences of resolution. Big accusations were made against powerful figures, yet rarely pursued to their logical legal conclu-

sions. And in the two cases that did escalate, against Nitin Gadkari and Arun Jaitley, public apologies marked an unexpected end. This was a party that promised "evidence-backed anti-corruption," but often concluded with "apology-backed closure." Then came power and with it, scrutiny. Governance in Delhi was packaged through narratives like mohalla clinics and education reforms, yet these too attracted criticism and counterclaims. The promise to transform the Yamuna River into something like the Thames gradually became a rhetorical fixture rather than a visible transformation. On pollution, the blame game evolved, initially directed at Punjab, and later, when Punjab came under AAP's control, redirected elsewhere. The problem remained. Only the excuse changed geography. Meanwhile, allegations of corruption began to surface, liquor policy controversies, administrative questions, and the now widely discussed "Sheesh Mahal" narrative, which stood in stark contrast to the party's original image of austerity and simplicity. And then came the internal story - arguably the most revealing chapter. A party that once championed internal democracy saw the steady exit or marginalisation of prominent voices. Yogendra Yadav and Ashutosh were among the early exits. Later, tensions involving figures like Swati Malival added to the narrative. This is not unusual in politics, but here, it carried a sharper irony. Because this was the same party that had criticised others for "high command culture." A pattern began to emerge: any leader who grew too prominent risked becoming inconvenient for Arvind Kejriwal.

# INDIA-SOUTH KOREA RELATIONS TODAY



India-South Korea relations are gaining new importance in today's global era. Both countries are champions of democratic values, economic development, technological progress, and regional peace. The shifting balance of power in Asia, China's growing assertiveness, supply chain crises, the Ukraine war, Middle East tensions, and growing competition in the Indo-Pacific region have provided opportunities for India and South Korea to draw closer. The two countries have enjoyed friendly relations for years, but the time now demands that these relations be further enhanced with new energy, new direction, and practical cooperation. India-South Korea relations are not limited to modern diplomacy, but also have strong cultural and historical roots. Civilizational links between the two countries date back to ancient times. The mention of Princess Suriratna of Ayodhya, known in Korea as Queen Hyo Hwang-ok, connects the two countries culturally. This relationship continues to be the basis of emotional ties between the peoples of today. Consequently, the potential for cultural exchange, tourism, and public relations between the two countries is immense. India and South Korea established formal diplomatic relations in 1973. Since then, relations between the two countries have steadily progressed. In 2010, the relationship was elevated to a Strategic Partnership and later upgraded to a Special Strategic Partnership. This demonstrates that both countries view each other as long-term partners. High-level visits, foreign ministerial meetings, business dialogues, and defense talks continue to strengthen these ties. South Korea is an important economic partner for India. South Korea is technologically advanced, industrial-

ly strong, and has an export-oriented economy, while India, with its large market, young population, and rapidly growing economy, is attracting global attention. This presents immense potential for trade and investment between the two countries. Bilateral trade has grown in recent years and has reached approximately \$27 billion. However, this remains low compared to its potential. India's trade deficit with South Korea also remains a concern. Major South Korean companies have long been investing in India. Korean companies have a strong presence in sectors such as electronics, automobiles, mobile phone manufacturing, steel, shipbuilding, and infrastructure. South Korean investments could be extremely useful in boosting India's manufacturing sector. Korean technology and capital can play a significant role in initiatives such as "Make in India," "Digital India," "Startup India," and "Green Energy." Nevertheless, there are some challenges. The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was implemented in 2010, with the aim of boosting trade. However, the expected results have not been fully realized. Non-tariff barriers, quality standards regulations, complex regulatory processes, logistical problems, and market access difficulties continue to hinder trade growth. India will need to diversify its exports, while South Korea will need to provide more opportunities for Indian products and services. Today, major changes are taking place in the global supply chain. Companies are seeking to reduce their dependence on China and are seeking new production centers. This situation presents opportunities for both India and South Korea. If South Korean companies establish large-scale production centers in India, they will benefit from a large market, affordable labor, and a strategic location. India will benefit from increased technology, employment, and export potential. Electronics, semiconductors, battery manufacturing, automobiles, defense production, and shipbuilding are areas where cooperation could grow rapidly. Cooperation between the two countries is also crucial from a strategic perspective. India supports a free, open, and inclusive order in the Indo-Pacific region. South Korea also supports regional stability and maritime security. China's aggressive policies, pressure

on sea lanes, and regional tensions have forced many countries to seek new partners. India and South Korea could be natural allies in this regard. However, South Korea's security priorities differ somewhat. Its primary focus remains the North Korean nuclear threat and its military alliance with the United States. India's concerns, on the other hand, relate to China, the Indian Ocean, border security, and regional balance. Nevertheless, the two countries share common interests in several areas. Joint work could be undertaken in defense industry cooperation, cybersecurity, maritime surveillance, counterterrorism efforts, and new military technologies. South Korea has established a strong global presence in the defense sector. It possesses modern defense production capabilities. If India emphasizes joint production, technology transfer, and research collaboration, both countries could benefit. India's self-reliant defense policy and South Korea's technological capabilities can create new possibilities. Technology has become a crucial pillar of international relations today. Artificial intelligence, 5G, 6G, semiconductors, robotics, green energy, electric vehicles, and digital innovation will shape the economy of the future. South Korea is among the leading countries in these areas, while India is rapidly advancing thanks to its digital talent, software capabilities, and startup ecosystem. If the two countries work together to build a "digital bridge," a new model of technological leadership could emerge in Asia. Education and human resources cooperation can also strengthen ties. Indian students can access higher education, research, and technical training opportunities in South Korea. Korean students can benefit from India's culture, history, yoga, Ayurveda, information technology, and management education. University partnerships, scholarships, and joint research programs could provide a strong foundation for future collaboration. Cultural ties between the two countries are growing rapidly. Korean music, films, and television programs have grown in popularity in India. South Korea is seeing a growing interest in Indian yoga, food, dance, and spiritual traditions. This cultural connection is not just a means of entertainment, but also a means of fostering trust and understanding between peoples.

## BJP SLAMS KARNATAKA GOVT OVER INTERNAL RESERVATION DECISION, CALLS IT UNJUST

Bengaluru, Apr 25 (UNI) Leader of the Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Council, Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, on Saturday criticised the state government's decision on internal reservation, terming it arbitrary and detrimental to Scheduled Caste communities.

Addressing mediapersons at the BJP state office, Jagannath Bhavan, he alleged that the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government had taken a decision in a manner that "left communities to fend for themselves," without a clear or just framework. He further claimed that the Deputy Chief Minister was not present during the decision-making process, indicating possible internal differences within the government.

Narayanaswamy questioned the delay of nearly three years in



arriving at the decision, stating that it could have been completed within a few months. He said internal reservation was crucial for filling nearly four lakh posts and alleged that the government was caught in a "crisis of its own making," resulting in injustice to Scheduled Castes. He also pointed out that over 56,000 youth were awaiting recruitment and accused Congress ministers of failing to stand up for their respective communities. He alleged that

the decision would not stand legal scrutiny and said the BJP would oppose it. Former union Minister A. Narayanaswamy said the government had effectively "driven the final nail" into the issue of internal reservation after three years, and accused it of misleading Dalits. He announced that the BJP would launch protests against the decision. Criticising the Chief Minister, he alleged that multiple commissions had been constituted and their reports subsequently rejected, and urged that no retired judges should accept positions in such commissions. State BJP Vice-President N. Mahesh said that during the tenure of former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, reservation for SCs and STs had been increased in 2022, benefiting students in professional courses over the past four academic years.

## BWSSB Offers Rainwater Harvesting to Cut Penalties

In view of a possible monsoon deficit, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board has launched an initiative to boost groundwater levels and reduce dependence on surface water sources in Bengaluru.

BWSSB Chairman Dr. Ram Prasath Manohar announced that the board will install state-of-the-art rainwater harvesting (RWH) systems in buildings of willing customers, aiming to accelerate adoption across the city.

The new third-generation RWH technology is designed to function in minimal space, addressing a major concern among residents. Equipped with advanced features such as SS316 anti-choke mesh, high-velocity streamliner



design, and over 90% water recovery using gravity through a 60-micron filter, the system ensures efficient and high-quality water filtration.

Officials stated that the

system also includes an automatic waste expulsion mechanism, enhancing water purity and reducing maintenance requirements. The initiative is expected to significantly

reduce dependence on Cauvery River and groundwater resources.

Currently, BWSSB collects nearly 3 crore per month as penalties from customers who have not

installed rainwater harvesting systems. Under the new scheme, the board will bear the installation cost initially and recover it in phases, equivalent to the penalty amount, offering financial relief to residents while promoting sustainable water use.

The system has already been successfully implemented at 75 pilot locations, delivering promising results. Residents have reported improved water quality and reduced water bills. Based on this success, BWSSB is planning a large-scale rollout across the city.

The proposal will be further discussed in the upcoming BWSSB board meeting before final implementation.

## IKS Health Announces Agreement to Acquire TruBridge to Strengthen Access to Rural and Community-Based Healthcare

Bengaluru : Inventurus Knowledge Solutions, Inc. ("IKS"), the U.S. subsidiary of Inventurus Knowledge Solutions Limited (NSE: IKS ("IKS Health"), a global leader in care enablement solutions, announced it has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire TruBridge, Inc. (NASDAQ: TBRG) ("TruBridge"), a prominent provider of healthcare technology solutions for rural and community hospitals. This proposed strategic acquisition underscores a commitment to broaden access to high-quality care and support the clinicians and hospitals that serve communities across the United States.

Today, nearly one in five Americans face challenges accessing care. By bringing together IKS Health's comprehensive care enablement capabilities that serve a range of healthcare organizations with TruBridge's deep expertise in supporting rural and community hospitals through revenue cycle management and electronic health record (EHR) solutions, the combined healthcare technology company is expected to strengthen local healthcare systems, and enable patients to receive essential care closer to home while also enhancing care delivery across the ambulatory and acute care continuum.

Post closing, the combined company will deliver continuous improvement and connected workflows to the core of rural healthcare and to medical groups overall, combining agentic artificial intelligence (AI) with human-in-the-loop expertise to proactively address complex operational challenges. As the platform incorporates a broader range of clinical and

financial data, it is designed to become increasingly intelligent and efficient. This growing intelligence, reinforced by human insight, is anticipated to ensure community hospitals and medical groups have the financial resilience and advanced support needed to focus on the health of their patients.

"By welcoming TruBridge, IKS Health is extending its proven, clinician-first experience to the vital rural and community hospital market," said Sachin K. Gupta, Founder and Global CEO of IKS Health. "This new entity supports our long-term vision of building a comprehensive care ecosystem for all types of healthcare organizations. By pairing TruBridge's essential system of record with our AI-driven system of action, we are moving beyond simply recording data to actively solving the complex operational challenges facing providers today. The combined entity will work toward ensuring community care teams have the same access to advanced technology and financial resilience, enabling them to deliver exceptional care close to home."

Together, the organization will bring modern revenue cycle management, predictive analytics, and advanced EHR capabilities to support more than 2,000 healthcare organizations and over 150,000 clinicians with a broad portfolio of AI-driven and human-led solutions designed to improve clinical, operational, and financial excellence.

"I am excited for TruBridge and IKS Health to combine forces and expand the focus on strengthening rural and community healthcare," said Chris Fowler, President and CEO

of TruBridge. "IKS Health shares our passion to improve provider experiences and financial results, ultimately leading to healthier lives and positive patient outcomes. It's rewarding to know that our employees will have more ways and opportunities to deliver exceptional value to our customers and their patients."

Under the terms of the agreement, TruBridge shareholders will receive \$26.25 in cash for each share of common stock. The acquisition has been approved by the Boards of Directors of IKS Health, IKS, and TruBridge, and is expected to close during the third calendar quarter of 2026, subject to the satisfaction of customary closing conditions, including the requisite shareholder approvals and the Hart-Scott-Rodino (HSR) notification and waiting period. In connection with the transaction, TruBridge has entered into voting and support agreements with TruBridge's largest shareholders, Pinetree Capital Ltd., L6 Holdings Inc. and Ocho Investments, LLC, who have agreed—subject to the terms of the agreements—to, among other things, vote the shares they control, representing in total approximately 27% of TruBridge's outstanding shares of common stock, in favor of the transaction.

IKS will finance the acquisition primarily through the incurrence of new indebtedness, including a term loan underwritten by Citibank, JPMorganChase, and Deutsche Bank, which is subject to satisfaction of customary conditions (including approval of the shareholders of IKS Health).

## Guru Muni Narayana Prasad passes away

Thiruvananthapuram, April 25 : Renowned spiritual teacher, philosopher, and head of the Narayana Gurukulam, Guru Muni Narayana Prasad, passed away in the early hours of Saturday at the age of 87. He breathed his last at around 3:55 am while undergoing treatment at a private medical college hospital in Venjaramoodu, near here. He had been ailing with age-related health issues for

some time. Born in 1938, Muni Narayana Prasad began his professional life as an engineer before turning to spirituality. A close disciple of Nitya Chaitanya Yati, he later succeeded him as the Guru of the Narayana Gurukulam in 1999. Under his leadership, the Gurukulam expanded its presence and activities across India and abroad, fostering philosophical inquiry, education, and spiritual dialogue.

## Dr. Rajkumar is the only person who always drew everyone's attention with a smile without losing patience and tolerance : Tejaswi Surya



Bengaluru: Dr. Rajkumar is the only person who always drew everyone's attention with a smile without losing patience and tolerance in any difficulty, be it happiness or sadness, he is always a great actor. Dr. Rajkumar, said Tejaswi Surya, MP from Bangalore South Lok Sabha constituency. He spoke at the unveiling of the statue of Dr. Rajkumar built by the Dr. Raj fan club in front of Shanti Uphara Hotel

in Jayanagar assembly constituency.

As an example of this, Veerappan, even when Dr. Raj Kumaranna was kidnapped, did not get distracted and faced everything with a smile no matter what the difficulty was.

The MLA of the constituency, C. K. Ramamurthy, said that if there was anyone who acted in mythological, social, godly roles, whatever they were, it was Dr. He described him as

Rajkumar alone. If his struggle and achievements are to be preserved even after a thousand years, it will be possible through the construction of statues, which will be an example for the next generation.

Mrs. Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar, founder of P. R. K Production, spoke and said that Dr. Rajkumar is a great achiever in acting, he is a sweet face at home or in front of the common people. I did not have any kind of pride that he was a great actor, I appreciated him as the only person who sees everyone as equal in society, even if he is poor. Former BBMP members and Dr. Babu, president of the Kannada club of Rajkumar fans, and fans were present.

## PhysicsWallah's Prarthana Nagappa Secures State Rank 1 in Karnataka SSLC with 100% Score



Bengaluru : Education company, PhysicsWallah (PW) celebrates the success of Prarthana Nagappa Biradar Patil, who scored 100% in the Karnataka Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC) Exam 2026.

A resident of Athani in Belagavi, Prarthana scored full marks in every subject totalling 625 out of 625 marks. She credited her school teachers and parents for their support while also thanking her online teachers.

"I made a study timetable with daily targets and tried to follow it sincerely. My school teachers were very helpful in helping me prepare for both internal and external exams and my parents' were with me every step of the way," Prarthana said, while adding, "I also studied online with PhysicsWallah and my teachers there helped me get conceptual clarity. Plus, self-study became much easier with all the practice questions & revision classes."

She prepared for her SSLC examinations through PW's Udaan batch along with PW's free modules designed specifically for the Karnataka SSLC syllabus. Along with consistent classroom learning at school, she focused on solving previous years' question papers and strengthening her understanding across subjects. Alakh Pandey, Teacher, Founder and CEO of PhysicsWallah, said, "Prarthana's result reflects the impact of disciplined preparation, conceptual clarity, and consistent revision. At PW, we aim to make quality learning resources accessible to students preparing for different state boards, and we're proud to have offered support to our students through this important phase." This year, over eight lakh students appeared for the Karnataka SSLC examination. Prarthana's performance places her among the highest scorers in the state and highlights how a combination of focused classroom learning and structured online support can contribute meaningfully to success.

## Obstruction to Census Duty: Abuse of Female Staff - Case Registered



Bengaluru: An incident has come to light where officials engaged in the National Census-2027 work were obstructed and verbally abused while discharging their duties within the jurisdiction of Bengaluru North City Corporation.

On April 20, Smt. Veena, an enumerator assigned to Ward No. 43, visited Peri Monarchy Apartment located near Sultanpalya Main Road, R.T. Nagar, to collect census information. However, the concerned

resident refused to provide the required details. Subsequently, on April 25, during verification, Smt. Rashmi R, Supervisor (Circle-2), visited the location and sought the necessary census information. The resident not only refused to cooperate but also obstructed the census work and verbally abused the female staff using inappropriate language. Based on the complaint, Dr. Lokesh, Census Charge Officer, has registered a case against the concerned individual under Section 11(1) of the Census Act, 1948, and Sections 223 and 79 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Warning Census work is a matter of national importance, and obstructing officials in the discharge of their duties is a punishable offence. Strict legal action will be taken against such acts, warned Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar.

Public Advisory from commissioner The Commissioner has appealed to the public to cooperate with enumerators and provide accurate information, as it is the legal duty of every citizen.

## BDA Announces '1.5 Million Native Plants Planting Initiative on World Environment Day' — A Landmark Urban Greening Drive

Bengaluru : Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has announced the launch of an ambitious environmental initiative titled the '1.5 Million Native Plants Planting Initiative' on June 5, World Environment Day, aimed at significantly enhancing Bengaluru's green cover through large-scale native plantations across multiple locations in the city. Under the leadership of the Chairman, BDA, N. A. Haris M.L.A., this initiative marks a major step towards sustainable urban development and ecological restoration, reinforcing the Authority's commitment to building a greener and more climate-resilient Bengaluru.

In the context of rising temperatures and the Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect being experienced across Bengaluru, this initiative is designed as a strategic intervention to mitigate heat stress, improve



microclimates, and enhance urban livability. The program aims to plant 15 lakh (1.5 million) native saplings under CSR through a coordinated, time-bound effort involving government agencies, civic bodies, institutions,

NGOs, volunteers, and active citizen participation, encouraging partnerships for long-term environmental stewardship.

With 41 days of preparatory planning underway, BDA is putting in place robust mechanisms to ensure effective execution, monitoring and long-term sustainability of the plantations. As part of this initiative, BDA will also be seeking to achieve a Guinness World Record, reflecting the scale and collective effort envisioned for this drive.

Speaking on the occasion, N A Haris, Chairman, BDA, stated: This initiative represents our commitment to securing Bengaluru's ecological future. By prioritizing native species and community participation, we are creating a model for sustainable urban greening that will benefit generations to come."

## Ashwini Vaishnav Inaugurates 'Aditya' Complex at BEML, Bengaluru

### ENVISIONS SEAMLESS CONNECTIVITY FOR SOUTHERN METRO CITIES

Bengaluru, April 25: Ashwini Vaishnav, Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting, and Electronics & IT, inaugurated the 'Aditya' complex at BEML's Tippasandra campus in Bengaluru on Friday. The state-of-the-art facility is dedicated to manufacturing high-speed rail components, marking a significant step in India's indigenous engineering capabilities. The newly launched complex will focus on developing B-28 coaches for high-speed trains. Highlighting the complexity of high-speed rail technology, the Minister described the initiative as a major milestone in strengthening India's self-reliance in advanced transportation systems.

Emphasising future connectivity, Vaishnav noted that high-speed rail will transform intercity travel, making major cities function



like extended urban clusters. He cited the example of travel between Chennai and

Bengaluru, which is expected to reduce to just 73 minutes, effectively integrating the two cit-

ies. On rail expansion, the Minister announced improved connectivity between Mumbai and Bengaluru, including a new Mail Express with LHB coaches via Hubli and the upcoming Vande Bharat Sleeper Express service. He also confirmed that a Vande Bharat Express service between Mangaluru and Bengaluru will be launched soon, with key technical upgrades such as electrification of the Hassan-Mangaluru section and installation of Automated Emergency Braking systems. Praising engineers at the Tippasandra facility, the Minister said their work on next-generation rolling stock is crucial to India's vision of becoming a developed nation. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to expanding infrastructure while ensuring environmental sustainability and public awareness.

## 'BJP BIGGEST PURCHASER OF AAP MPS', CLAIMS DMK, SAFFRON PARTY HITS BACK

CHENNAI: The DMK on Saturday accused the BJP of resorting to "fraudulent and anti-democratic tactics" and said the saffron party was the "biggest purchaser of AAP MPs." The BJP, however, refuted the charge and said the Aam Aadmi Party MPs were dissatisfied with their leadership and hence wanted to join the BJP.

AAP Rajya Sabha MPs Raghav Chadha and Sandeep Pathak on Friday announced that they were joining the BJP along with five other MPs of the party. Addressing a press conference in the national capital, Chadha had said that seven out of 10 Rajya Sabha MPs of AAP were set to merge with

the BJP, even as AAP leader Sanjay Singh on Saturday said the party would write to the Rajya Sabha chairman to seek the disqualification of seven of its MPs, who quit the party a day ago, from the Upper House.

Reacting to the development, DMK spokesperson TKS Elangovan said, "The BJP is the biggest purchaser of MPs and MLAs. They will resort to any fraudulent activity. They have no faith in democracy. They want to somehow capture power. They will do all wrongs, all anti-democratic, anti-constitutional activities to come to power. That is the BJP. The worst political party in India is the BJP." This also

showed that most of their MPs and MLAs in many states were from other parties, Elangovan told PTI Videos. "After winning, they will take them. That is BJP," he added.

Meanwhile, welcoming AAP MPs into the BJP, the party's Tamil Nadu chief spokesperson Narayanan Tirupathy said the Rajya Sabha members were dissatisfied with their party. "Also, the amount of pain that they underwent with the APP leader Arvind Kejriwal and also how they looked at BJP's performance, our Prime Minister Narendra Modi's development agenda and all these factors made them decide to

## TELUGU DEVOTEES BRING BRICK RITUAL TO TIRUVANNAMALAI, TEMPLE AUTHORITIES ORDER REMOVAL

TIRUVANNAMALAI: Then, a popular belief in Telugu-speaking states, devotees stacking bricks in prayers to build their house, has become a common sight in Tiruvannamalai's Arunachaleswarar temple. Southern Railway: One-way special train to start from Tiruchy to Tambaram from April 26. In the last few years, the temple has gained traction among devotees from neighbouring states, especially Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, with even establishments in the temple town adding Telugu in their nameboards. The globally-renowned temple, Panchabootha sthalam of Lord Shiva representing fire, attracts lakhs of devotees every year. The temple gets particularly overcrowded on weekends and full moon days (pournami), which is considered auspicious to circumambulate the Annamalai hill (girivalam). The most sought-after event conducted by the temple is the lighting of the Karthigai Deepam atop the Annamalai hill, which is held in the November-December period. In recent days, devotees from other states were seen stacking bricks one over another in the fifth prakaram of the Arunachaleswara temple after offering prayers. The act was linked to their wish to build their own houses. Observing this, more visitors, including men and women of all ages, began following the practice. This sight was common even along the hillpath to the Venkateshwara temple in Tirupati, and now has become a common sight here. However, when the matter came to the notice of the temple administrators, workers were immediately deployed to remove the bricks.



## TRADE UNIONS SEEK NOD FOR MAY DAY EVENTS DURING MODEL CODE PERIOD

CHENNAI: The All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) and the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), Tamil Nadu units, on Saturday urged the Chief Electoral Officer to permit May Day celebrations, including flag hoisting, processions and public meetings, across the State. Southern Railway: One-way special train to start from Tiruchy to Tambaram from April 26. In a representation to the CEO, the unions said May Day, observed as a day of labour rights, commemorates workers who fought

for the eight-hour workday and laid down their lives. In Tamil Nadu, central, State, and regional trade unions annually mark the day by hoisting flags at offices and workplaces, paying homage at the May Day martyrs' memorial at the May Day Park in Chennai, and organising processions and public meetings in the evening. Highlighting that the Model Code of Conduct will remain in force until the declaration of Assembly election results, though polling has concluded, the

unions noted that religious festivals and activities of cultural and social organisations have been permitted both before and after polling. They alleged that officials were treating trade unions on a par with political parties and denying permission despite requests. Flagpoles had been removed for the elections and would need to be reinstalled for the observance, they said, adding that preventing this or insisting on their immediate removal after flag hoisting would not be appropriate.

## 'One Health' approach key to tackling emerging threats: experts at IMSACON 2026

CHENNAI: Emphasising the need for an integrated response to emerging health threats, experts at the 41st National Conference of the International Medical Sciences Academy (IMSACON 2026) called for stronger cross-sector collaboration under the 'One Health' framework to safeguard public health. Speeding MTC bus hits passengers at Perungalathur bus stop; 68-yr-old woman dies. The conference, hosted by Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), brought together leading clinicians,



researchers and policymakers for two days of scientific deliberations on infectious diseases, non-communicable conditions, and emerging technologies in healthcare. Officiating Director D Kadambari said, "The 'One Health' approach integrates human, animal and environmental health systems to enable early detection and coordinated responses to

future outbreaks." Former Director S C Parija flagged antimicrobial resistance as a "growing multi-sector threat requiring unified action". IMSA President Dr K Jagadeesan stressed expanding collaborative research and academic outreach to deepen awareness and preparedness. Prof J Shammugam underscored continuous surveillance to prevent zoonotic spillovers. Woman found dead at home in Tiruvallur. The conference featured national and international experts discussing oncology, AI in medicine, molecular diagnostics and public health surveillance, reinforcing its role as a key

# Global Education Trends: The Rise of Internationally Recognized Qualifications

Global education trends suddenly have seen a rise in internationally recognized qualifications. There is an immense change seen in the globalization of public, or government-sponsored, education systems. Not only have this but both the quantity of schools and the enrollment of students gone through multiple advancements over the years. On the same note, the disciplines and subjects taught in schools have expanded beyond language and arithmetic to encompass the sciences and the arts. In the globalized world of today, boundaries no longer exist for education. The increasing influence of globalization on business practices has led to a rise in the need for internationally recognized certifications. Professionals today want to establish careers that cross continents rather than being restricted to local job markets. Certifications like ACCA (Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) and CMA (Certified Management Accountant) have gained prominence by providing a globally accepted stamp of expertise. In this article, we'll explore how globalization has influenced education, the growing importance of global qualifications, and how certifications like ACCA and CMA open doors to international opportunities. However, these certifications require certain eligibility criteria to be met.



As globalization continues to reshape industries, the need for professionals with skills that transcend borders has never been more critical. One of the biggest trends in education today is the rise in students studying abroad and seeking international qualifications. This shift reflects the growing ambition of students who aspire to work for multinational corporations or in industries that value global perspectives. According to data from UNESCO, the number of students pursuing education abroad has more than doubled in the last decade. Simultaneously, multinational companies are on the rise, and many of these organizations prefer candidates with credentials that are recognized across various regions. In fact, a report by PwC found that over 75% of companies seek employees with globally recognized certifications, as these professionals bring a broad understanding of international business standards and practices.

What Makes ACCA and CMA Internationally Recognized?

ACCA and CMA stand out as two of the most widely accepted certifications in the fields of finance, accounting, and management. One of the reasons for their international recognition is the alignment of these qualifications with global standards.

For example, ACCA's curriculum is based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), which are widely used in major global markets. This means that ACCA-qualified professionals are well-equipped to handle financial reporting in any country that follows these standards. Similarly, the CMA certification focuses on management accounting and financial decision-making at a global level, preparing professionals to contribute to international business strategies.

These certifications are recognized in countries all around the world, including key financial hubs like the UK, the US, Canada, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia. Their global accreditation ensures that professionals holding ACCA or CMA can work in multiple regions without needing additional local qualifications.

How Global Certifications Benefit Careers?

Having a global certification like ACCA or CMA opens up a wide range of opportunities across borders. These qualifications allow professionals to pursue careers in finance, accounting, and management anywhere in the world. Whether it's working as a financial analyst in the US, an auditor in the UK, or a CFO in Dubai, these certi-

fications are recognized and respected by employers.

Take, for instance, the role of a financial analyst. An ACCA-certified individual not only understands local financial regulations but is also adept at handling international financial reporting, which is crucial for companies with a global presence. Similarly, a CMA-qualified professional brings expertise in strategic financial management, which is valuable for organizations looking to optimize their operations on an international scale.

For professionals looking to move abroad or work for a multinational company, having a globally recognized certification makes the transition smoother. These qualifications demonstrate that they are equipped to handle the complexities of global markets, making them highly sought-after candidates in industries like banking, consulting, and corporate finance.

The Role of Higher Education in Supporting Global Careers

These days numerous colleges have started to offer professional programs that are a marvelous combination of academic degrees with professional certifications. For instance, courses such as CISSP, AWS, DevOps, ACCA, Data Analytics, Financial Reporting, and CMA, etc has seen an increased demand all around the world. These courses are there to provide students with an impactful base in their subject of study as well as skills that are useful in the global labor market. For example, some universities

now offer integrated degree programs that include ACCA or CMA as part of the curriculum. Through these programs, students can earn both an internationally recognized certification and a degree. Furthermore, there are internships and exchange programs that can lead to prospects for international mobility. The students will benefit from having exposure to a diverse cultural and professional setting.

In a world where businesses and careers are increasingly global, the value of internationally recognized certifications cannot be overstated. ACCA and CMA are two examples of how professionals can equip themselves with the skills and knowledge to thrive in multiple countries and industries. These parallel systems may complement, compete with, or even conflict with existing state-sponsored systems of schooling, and they provide challenges that current school systems, as in the past, must confront and reconcile as well as they can.

It definitely makes sense for highly ambitious students to pursue certifications from a globally recognized institution in addition to their academic degrees. This is solely to make sure they are interconnected with the labor market. A profession in accounting or finance with a CMA or ACCA designation may hold the key to unlocking international prospects for you. Disclaimer: This article is part of sponsored content programme. The Tribune is not responsible for the content includ-

## Biologists Have Tracked 66 Million Years of Mammalian Diversity

Researchers at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln studied North America's fossil record over 66 million years, revealing insights into mammalian diversity and ecological shifts that could inform current conservation strategies. To comprehend the present, looking to history can be enlightening. Recent research from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln delved into the fossil record spanning 66 million years, examining shifts in mammalian ecosystems and species diversity across North America. The study, led by Alex Shupinski, who earned her doctorate in May, and co-authored by Kate Lyons, associate professor in the School of Biological Sciences, provides a large-scale view of how species diversity changed over the first 65 million years of the Cenozoic era — up until the arrival of humans — and how climate and other environmental factors, including changing landscapes, affected animal life on the continent.



The findings published in Proceedings of the Royal Society B also provide a glimpse into how mammals rebounded following the last mass extinction event — the eradication of non-avian dinosaurs. Ecological Changes Over Time In the field of conservation paleobiology, tracking past changes in ecosystems over long periods of time helps scientists and the public better understand biodiversity crises happening today, and this current study offers a thorough analysis of the age of mammals and hints at what may come next. "If we are looking at the modern (crises) and we see a similar response in the functional diversity of modern community structures, it may be a conservation tool as we can highlight some of these communities that are experiencing the most disturbance and that are at highest risk of change and disturbance in their ecological services and function," Shupinski said. "Beginning 66 million years ago, we go from a completely subtropical environment across North America to grasslands to a frozen savanna, and finally, reaching the Ice Age," Shupinski said. "It's showing how species changed through time, through many ecological, environmental and climatic changes and it allows us to compare across those events and at different spatial scales." In the field of conservation paleobiology, tracking past changes in ecosystems over long periods of time helps scientists and the public better understand biodiversity crises happening today, and this current study offers a thorough analysis of the age of mammals and hints at what may come next.

"If we are looking at the modern (crises) and we see a similar response in the functional diversity of modern

community structures, it may be a conservation tool as we can highlight some of these communities that are experiencing the most disturbance and that are at highest risk of change and disturbance in their ecological services and function," Shupinski said. The researchers sliced the fossil record of the Cenozoic era into million-year increments and used three indices of functional diversity — which quantifies changes in community structures using mammalian traits — to examine mammalian communities on both a local and continental scale. For most of the Cenozoic era, local and continental measures of functional diversity differed, but surprisingly, during the first 10 million years of the era, immediately following the extinction of non-avian dinosaurs, all measures of functional diversity, both locally and across the continent, increased. "That was fascinating to see, that for most of the Cenozoic, functional diversity was uncoupled across time and spatial scales, except this one time," Shupinski said. "For 10 million years, all the measures are changing in the same way. Then, around 56 million years ago, we get this massive immigration of mammals into North America from other continents, and at that point, we see a divergence of functional diversity. "Communities are changing at different times, at different rates, and in different directions," she said. "We might see locally, the diversity of roles increasing, but continentally, they're decreasing."

Lyons said that some of the changes among mammalian species can be explained by environmental changes, including cooling and warming periods or when heavily forested areas were usurped by grasslands, but that the large-scale environmental changes did not rise to the level of disruption caused by the mass extinction of dinosaurs. "That is why this could potentially be a way to pinpoint areas of the globe or communities that are under particular stress," Lyons said. "We may be entering a sixth mass extinction event, and if so, we might expect to see communities that are on the vanguard of that extinction respond in a similar way, based on the patterns we see after the extinction of the non-avian dinosaurs."

# Shipping Firms Pay Record Premiums To Bypass Hormuz Chaos

As tensions linked to the Iran conflict disrupt the Strait of Hormuz, shipment businesses are paying up to \$4 million for last-minute transit slots through the Panama Canal, triggering a major shift in global trade routes. With regular bookings exhausted, companies are turning to costly auctions to avoid long delays and to avoid the waterway off Iran's coast, as rerouted cargo drives a surge in demand for canal crossings. What Are The Current Transit Costs? The standard cost for a vessel to transit the canal typically falls between \$300,000 and \$400,000, with the exact figure determined by the ship's specifications. Historically, companies seeking to expedite their journey by securing an earlier crossing slot would incur an additional premium ranging from \$250,000 to \$300,000. However, recent market shifts have seen this supplementary cost surge significantly, with the average auction price for an early transit now reaching approximately \$425,000. The Panama Canal serves as a critical artery for global trade, facilitating the trans-



port of diverse goods, including automotive components, agricultural grain, and consumer electronics, between China and Europe, as well as between China and the US East Coast. While the canal does handle some petroleum shipments, it is not a viable large-scale substitute for the Strait of Hormuz due to significant physical limitations. The primary constraint lies in the canal's dimensions. Ricaurte Vásquez, the canal's administrator, clarified that the sky-high fees are not a result of structural congestion or a backlog of

ships at the canal. Instead, the price surge is driven by last-minute shifts in global trade and a heightened sense of urgency among vessel operators following the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Panama's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has formally condemned the seizure of the MSC Francesca, a Panama-flagged, Italian-owned container ship, by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) on Wednesday. The ministry characterised the act as an "illegal seizure" and a "grave attack on maritime security," noting that

the vessel was forcibly diverted into Iranian territorial waters while transiting the Strait of Hormuz. The Strait of Hormuz, which carries 20% of global oil and 11% of seaborne trade, has been effectively closed for nearly two months due to the Iran war, with Iran reportedly using sea mines and threatening tolls. Oil prices have jumped from around \$66 to over \$107 a barrel, fuelling inflation fears and prompting shippers to seek safer alternatives. Experts warn this breakdown in long-standing maritime conven-

tions could usher in a costly new era for global shipping. Operational and political flashpoints intertwine Panama's windfall from diverted traffic comes alongside a diplomatic blow, as its government accused Iran of seizing a Panama-flagged vessel in the Strait of Hormuz. The seizure underscores the intersection of operational challenges with geopolitical tensions. Such incidents heighten uncertainty for shipowners and insurers, who may avoid Hormuz even after a peace deal until security is verifiably restored. Future scenarios for maritime trade If the Hormuz closure persists, Panama Canal premiums could rise further, straining supply chains and pushing some trade to alternative chokepoints like the Suez or Cape routes. Conversely, a resolution could ease congestion but leave a lingering precedent for toll imposition in other straits, as seen in recent comments about the Malacca Strait. Either path signals a shift toward more politicised and costly control of global shipping arteries.

# China car giant BYD says it can thrive without US

The recent surge in fuel prices due to the war in Iran has spurred demand for electric vehicles around the world, and Chinese car makers are making the most of the opportunity. China is the world's top producer of EVs, and while its manufacturers remain largely shut out of the major car market of the United States, they are benefiting from an uptick in interest and orders via dealerships across Asia and elsewhere. BYD, which overtook Tesla as the world's largest seller of electric vehicles last year and is expanding aggressively overseas, is at the centre of this shift in focus. "We survive and are successful without the US market today," BYD executive vice president Stella Li told the BBC at the Beijing Auto Show. Instead of aiming for US customers, the company says its challenge is meeting increased demand in other regions, including Brazil, the UK and Europe. "Consumers feel the daily savings when oil prices increase. EVs help them save money every day," Li said. "Actually, we are now suffering [insufficient] capacity. Our demand is much higher than what we can supply." BYD is betting on its new "flash charging" technology which Li



describes as a "game-changer" to help overcome one of the biggest barriers to EV adoption - concern over charging speeds. Flash charging can add hundreds of kilometres of range in minutes - a development Li said could persuade previously reluctant customers to consider an EV and allow BYD to compete more widely. At this year's Beijing Auto Show, now the largest industry event in the world, more than 1,400 vehicles from hundreds of Chinese and foreign companies were on display with Chinese car-makers centre stage. BYD's global push is unfolding against a complex geopolitical backdrop. Chinese EV-makers face tariffs and regulatory scrutiny in global markets, particularly in the world's largest consumer market, the US. The US has

criticised Chinese government subsidies and voiced concerns over data protection and national security. But Li said the firm was winning greater brand recognition in other markets, including the UK. While they were once known for undercutting rivals on price, Chinese firms are increasingly competing on technology - particularly in batteries, charging infrastructure and software integration. "We are not just a car company. We produce one-third of global smartphone components, we are a leading player in battery storage, solar panels, buses, and trucks. So BYD is an ecosystem," said Li. Robots and flying cars The Auto Show displayed examples of innovation from other firms, going far beyond the cars themselves.

## ASUS LAUNCHES EXPERTBOOK ULTRA, AN AI-POWERED FLAGSHIP OF THE INDUSTRY, PERIOD! THAT IS BUILT FOR BRILLIANCE



India April 2026: ASUS today, announced the launch of ExpertBook Ultra, the absolute industry flagship, along with a significant expansion in the versatile ExpertBook P series portfolio for a truly Worry-free business experience. The ASUS ExpertBook Ultra is a Copilot+ PC designed to enable CXOs and Business Leaders to achieve True Focus and an Ultra State of Mind where Brilliance is Born, through an Ultra-Light design, Elite Cutting-

Edge AI-Powered Performance, Vivid Display, Immersive Audio, All Day Battery, Ultimate Typing experience, Segment leading Military grade Durability, Enterprise-Grade Security, Super Premium Enterprise Grade Service Support, and Seamless Expandability. The ExpertBook P series has also expanded with ExpertBook P3 and ExpertBook P5 also brings high-performance AI productivity and future-proof

scalability to manage the dynamic demands of enterprises and businesses across India. These new business laptops are unified by the ASUS 'Worry-Free Business' commitment, blending elite performance, security, durability, connectivity, and mobility, with India's most comprehensive commercial support ecosystem. The ASUS ExpertBook Ultra is positioned to be The Flagship of the Industry. Period! It is an ultra-portable flagship

laptop meticulously crafted from AZ31B magnesium-aluminum alloy, a material typically reserved for Aerospace and Formula 1 applications, with a Nano Ceramic surface with a 9H hardness rating. It is engineered to deliver an unprecedented balance of performance, durability, aesthetics, and user experience. The ExpertBook Ultra defies the established laws of physics, as it seamlessly integrates the latest Intel® Core™ Ultra Series 3 processor, an incredibly powerful GPU, and an advanced NPU into a single heterogeneous AI computing platform in an aerospace-grade chassis and is featherlight starting from 0.99 kg. This new Copilot+ PC is engineered as a future-proof asset, designed to induce a state of 'Brilliance' - an elite cognitive flow state where technology becomes invisible - empowering leaders to execute their vision with total clarity and zero friction.

## RELIANCE INDUSTRIES Q4 REVIEW:

# Brokerages Stay Bullish Despite Weak Results, Energy Pressure

Reliance Industries' March quarter earnings missed Street estimates, with the drag coming largely from its energy businesses and softer retail margins. Macquarie called it a "soft print," pointing to weakness in oil-to-chemicals and upstream operations. It also flagged a more structural concern - upstream gas EBITDA appears to be in decline, and the brokerage sees incremental downside risk if energy weakness lingers, especially after recent cuts to consensus earnings forecasts. Reliance Industries Q4 Results Key Highlights (Consolidated, QoQ) Revenue up 11% to Rs 2,94,059 crore versus Rs 2,64,905 crore (Bloomberg Estimate: Rs 2,82,748 crore) Ebitda down 4% to Rs 44,141 crore versus Rs 46,018 crore (Estimate: Rs 47,343 crore) Margin contracts 240 basis points to 15.0% versus 17.4% (Estimate: 16.7%) Profit down 9% to Rs 16,971 crore versus Rs 18,645 crore (Estimate: Rs 16,944 crore)



Still, the quarter wasn't without offsets. Jio continued to clock healthy subscriber additions, helping cushion the miss. Macquarie believes this, along with likely positive sentiment around a potential Jio listing, could keep the stock supported. It has maintained an Outperform rating on Reliance Industries, with a target price of Rs 1,570. Morgan Stanley struck a similar balanced tone. The brokerage has retained its Overweight rating on the stock, with a target price of

Rs 1,803. While overall performance was largely in line, it highlighted retail as a clear bright spot. Growth was led by quick commerce, fashion, and grocery, while the FMCG segment stood out with revenues more than doubling. On the flip side, Morgan Stanley flagged underperformance in oil-to-chemicals margins versus peers, along with higher costs weighing on upstream profitability. For a meaningful rerating, the brokerage believes two levers matter: tighter energy and chemical

markets, and sustained traction in retail's top-line growth. It does, however, see early signs of improvement emerging across chemicals, fuels, and consumer businesses. Macquarie on Reliance Industries Macquarie maintains an Outperform rating with a target price of Rs 1,570. Q4 was a soft print. The miss was driven by weakness in the Energy divisions and lower margins in Retail. Jio subscriber growth remained supportive. Upstream gas EBITDA is seen in structural decline, with KGD6 production past its peak. The brokerage flags additional downside risks from continued weakness in the Energy segment. However, it remains constructive, expecting positive sentiment to build ahead of the Jio listing. Morgan Stanley on Reliance Industries Morgan Stanley maintains an Overweight rating with a target price of Rs 1,803. Retail growth surprised positively, led by quick commerce, fashion and grocery.

## AXIS BANK DECLARES FINAL DIVIDEND; APPROVES RAISING RS 55,000 CRORE VIA DEBT, EQUITIES

Axis Bank on Saturday informed the exchanges that its board has declared a final dividend of Rs 1 per equity share, while also approving the plan to raise up to Rs 55,000 crore via debt and equity. The dividend, which is subject to approval of the members of the bank at the ensuing Annual General Meeting, will be paid within 30 days from the date of conclusion of the AGM, an exchange filing stated. The record date for determining the shareholders' eligibility was not disclosed. Also, the private lender said, it has secured the board's nod to raise up to Rs 35,000 crore via the issuance of debt instruments, including long term bonds, masala bonds, green bonds, and other debt securities. Separately, another Rs 20,000 crore is planned to be raised via the issuance of convertible securities or equity shares through qualified institutional placement (QIP), or through American



Depository Receipts (ADRs) or Global Depository Receipts (GDRs), it stated. This takes the total planned fundraise to Rs 55,000 crore. Axis Bank, on Saturday, also declared its fourth quarter results. Net profit rose 9% from the previous three months to Rs 7,071 crore, marginally above the consensus estimate of Rs 6,958 crore, as shared by the analysts tracked by Bloomberg. The bottomline was down 0.8% from Rs 7,117 crore a year earlier. The lender said

tax expense for the quarter was lower by Rs 2,193.2 crore after income-tax authorities allowed depreciation on intangible assets linked to the acquisition of Citi's India consumer business. Net interest income, the difference between interest earned and interest paid, rose 5% from a year earlier to Rs 14,457 crore, missing the Rs 14,727-crore Bloomberg estimate. Net interest margin was 3.62%, compared with 3.64% in the previous quarter.

## L&T Finance Ltd. posts record Rs. 3,003 crore FY26 profit, unveils Lakshya 2031 growth plan

L&T Finance Ltd. (LTF) records highest ever consolidated annual Profit After Tax (PAT) of Rs. 3,003 Crore (before effect of Labour Code considered in Q3FY26) in the financial year ended March 31, 2026 (FY26), up 14% Year-on-Year (YoY) and consolidated PAT of Rs. 807 Crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2026, up 27% YoY. Accelerates technology deployment momentum to fully transform to an AI-enabled lender. Strong retail franchise with a Retail Book Size of Rs. 1,19,508 Crore, up 26% YoY for the financial year ended March 31, 2026. Highest ever annual retail disbursements for the financial year ended March 31, 2026 stood at Rs. 83,213 Crore, up 39% YoY. Consolidated Book stands at Rs. 1,21,728 Crore for the financial year ended March 31, 2026. Launches 5-year strategic plan Lakshya 2031. Continuous improvement in credit cost and profitability trajectory. Board recommends a



dividend of Rs. 2.75 per equity share for financial year ended March 31, 2026. L&T Finance Ltd. (LTF), one of the leading Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) in India has recorded highest ever consolidated Profit After Tax (PAT) of Rs. 3,003 Crore (before effect of Labour Code considered in the third quarter ended December 31, 2025) for the financial year ended March 31, 2026, up 14% YoY. The Company has posted a PAT of Rs. 807 Crore, up 26% YoY for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2026. The retail book now stands at Rs. 1,19,508 Crore, up 26% when compared with retail book for the financial year ended March 31, 2025.

The Company has also recorded highest ever annual retail disbursements at Rs. 83,213 Crore, up 39% YoY and highest ever quarterly retail disbursements at Rs. 24,107 Crore, up 62% for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2026. After successfully executing its strategic plan Lakshya 2026, the Company announced its next 5-year strategic plan Lakshya 2031. As a part of its Lakshya 2031 strategy, the Company aims to balance resilient growth with consistent returns and truly transform into a Risk-first, Technology-first, Multi-product Retail Financier of Choice. The Company will be focusing on tech-enabled granular exe-

cution and will work towards consistently achieving a Book Growth of over 20%, maintaining Credit Cost of less than 2%, achieving Return on Assets (RoA) between 3% - 3.2%, and Return on Equity (RoE) between 16% - 18%. The Company's customer-facing PLANET app, which has emerged as a powerful digital channel for customers, crossed more than 2.40 Crore downloads as of March 31, 2026, comprising more than 19.2 Lakh customers on the rural side. As of March 31, 2026, this channel has done collections of over Rs. 9,500 Crore while servicing over 12 Crore requests and has sourced loans of around Rs. 29,000 Crore.

Commenting on the financial results Mr. Sudipta Roy, Managing Director & CEO, LTF, said, "FY26 has been a good year for us, despite significant headwinds in our micro-finance business in the initial months of the year and the end of the year closing with geopolitical tensions. Through the course of the year, we remained steadfast in our approach—tightening credit and risk administration frameworks, strengthening collections infrastructure, accelerating our AI-led technology transformation and continuously focusing on growth across all our business lines. On the microfinance business, our focus was on navigating the cycle with prudence and our efforts have yielded results, with business parameters across both disbursements and collection efficiencies now reverting to near pre-crisis levels, giving us confidence that the financial year beginning April 1, 2026 (FY27) will be a stable and productive year for this segment."

# Iran's foreign minister says he shared Tehran's 'views' on ending war at Islamabad talks

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi was heading up talks with Pakistan earlier, but who is actually making decisions in the country? BBC Persian's Amir Azimi has more. Formally, the answer is clear. Mojtaba Khamenei has assumed the role of supreme leader following the killing of his father, Ali Khamenei, on the first day of the war on 28 February. But in practice, the picture is far murkier. Mojtaba Khamenei has not been seen in public since taking power. That absence matters. In Iran's political system, authority is not just institutional - it is also performative. On paper, diplomacy sits with the government. Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi continues to represent Tehran in talks with the US, under Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian. Araghchi's role looks operational rather than directive. His brief reversal over whether the



Strait of Hormuz was open or closed offered a rare glimpse of how little control the diplomatic track has over military decisions. Pezeshkian, meanwhile, has aligned with the broader direction of the regime without visibly shaping it. But neither appears to be setting strategy and their authority is further put into question

by the fact that Iran's delegation is headed by Parliament Speaker Mohammad-Bagher Ghalibaf. A former Revolutionary Guard commander, Ghalibaf's position is precarious - active but not clearly authorised. He insists his actions align with Mojtaba Khamenei's wishes, yet there is little visible evidence of direct co-ordination.

In a system that depends on signals from the top, that ambiguity is telling. Pakistani PM Shehbaz Sharif has just shared an update on X following talks with Iran's Foreign Minister, Abbas Araghchi. "Had a most warm, cordial exchange of views on the current regional situation. We also discussed matters of

mutual interest, including the further strengthening of Pakistan-Iran bilateral relations," he writes. It follows earlier comments from Pakistan's deputy prime minister, Ishaq Dar, who said the meeting between Sharif and Araghchi "lasted around two hours approx". "The Prime Minister emphasized on the importance of dialogue and diplomacy for the peace and stability in the region and beyond," he writes. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has now left Islamabad, according to Iran's state-run IRNA. A short while ago the news agency Reuters news agency shared photographs of a motorcade, which it said was believed to be Araghchi's, leaving the Pakistani capital. Iranian MP Mahmoud Nabavian has threatened regional countries with destructive action if the US attacks again. "Regional movements indicate the new folly of the evil

American regime," he writes on X. "The leaders of the regional countries should know that this time, Iran's crushing response will lead to the complete cessation of regional oil production, the destruction of all infrastructure, and the displacement and refugee status of their people," he adds. Nabavian is a hardline MP who was part of Iran's delegation at the first round of talks in Islamabad. US President Donald Trump has extended a ceasefire with Iran for an unspecified period. However, US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said yesterday that the US was "locked and loaded" on Iranian infrastructure. Iran has attacked what Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi described as the "presence of the US" in Gulf countries since the war began. We now know that Iran's foreign minister has met Pakistan's prime minister and the head of the army.

## THIRTY-ONE SLOTHS DIE IN FLORIDA BEFORE OPENING OF ATTRACTION



Thirty-one sloths planned for a new "slothnarium" in Florida died before the attraction's planned opening, authorities have found. The mammals were planned to be showcased at a permanent, public exhibit at Sloth World in Orlando, set to open this spring. Many of the sloths died due to conditions at a Florida warehouse where they had been shipped, according to a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) report released on Friday. Others arrived in Florida already dead or appeared in ill health and later died, the report states. The owner of

Sloth World has denied allegations in the report and said there was "so much false and inaccurate information out there right now". "The truth is, we lost sloths that had a virus of which showed barely any symptoms and was undetectable even after necropsy," Ben Agresta, the owner of Sloth World, told Fox-35 in Orlando. The BBC has contacted Sloth World, along with its listed owner and representatives. Sloth World is advertised as Orlando's only "slotharium", with a rainforest-inspired habitat "designed exclusively with sloth well-being in mind."

## Thousands at risk after multi-million dollar Everest flood warning system left to rust



An early flood warning system designed to save the lives of thousands of people in the Everest region may no longer be working, Nepalese officials have admitted to the BBC, after it was allowed to fall into a state of disrepair. The disclosure came after villagers in the local Sherpa communities told the BBC no inspection of the UN-supported project had been carried out for many years after the dangerous Imja glacial lake was last drained in 2016. Since then, no maintenance has been undertaken, which means siren towers have been left to rust, while some have even had their batteries stolen, according to locals. On top of this, the satellite data reception transmitting the lake's water level - which can then be used to send out mobile phone alerts to locals - has been unreliable, officials at Nepal's department of hydrology and meteorology (DHM) told the BBC. The Imja lake, which sits at a little over 5,000m (16,400ft) above sea level, has not burst since it was drained a decade ago - at which point, it was almost 150m deep in places. Back then, the depth of the lake was reduced by about 3.5m as part of a \$3.5m

risk reduction project, which included the early warning system. But scientists warn global warming-induced fast melting glaciers are causing many Himalayan glacial lakes to expand dangerously - meaning they can then burst out and sweep away downstream settlements, trekking routes and bridges. Ice loss rates have doubled in the Hindu Khush Himalaya region since 2000, according to a recent assessment by the Kathmandu-based International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development. Experts say rising temperatures have also left mountains less stable, unleashing rockfalls and triggering catastrophic floods. In the Everest region alone, there have been at least five floods from glacial lakes in the last five decades, leaving those living in Imja lake's path fearing for the future. "Going by the state of the siren towers, we don't expect to get any flood warning from them even when Imja lake bursts out," said Ang Nuru Sherpa, chairman of the Chaurikharka buffer zone area adjoining the Sagarmatha national park in the Everest region.

## THE VIRAL MANIFESTO OF 'ANTI-WOKE' TECH BOSS WITH NHS AND DEFENCE CONTRACTS



It's not often a thousand-word social media post from a US tech firm goes viral. But the post from Palantir - a 22-point manifesto of sorts - currently has over 30 million views on X. It is the work of the controversial company's co-founder and chief executive, who has criticised the belief that all cultures are equal and called for

universal national service. Alex Karp also called the disarmament of Germany and Japan after World War Two an "over-correction", backed AI weapons and condemned "ruthless exposure" of the private lives of public figures. Karp's views matter - his company's growing roster of UK government contracts include the NHS, the Ministry of Defence (MoD), the Financial Conduct Authority and 11 police forces. Not to mention its multi-million dollar deals with the US and other powerful governments. But as the firm increasingly embeds itself in public bodies, the opinions and influence of its leaders leave some fearful.

## Explosions and gunfire as armed groups launch co-ordinated attacks across Mali

Explosions and sustained gunfire have been reported in Mali's capital, Bamako, as armed groups launch apparently co-ordinated attacks across the country. The military said in a statement on Saturday that "fighting is ongoing", adding "our defence and security forces are currently engaged in repelling the attackers". Witnesses have told news agency Reuters of explosions and gunfire around Kati, home to a major military base outside the capital. Soldiers have been deployed to block off roads in the area. There are also reports of attacks in Gao and Kidal in the north, and Sevare in central Mali, in what one analyst described as the largest jihadist attack in years. Mali has for years been plagued by



jihadist insurgencies by groups affiliated with al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group, as well as a separatist movement in the country's north. Reports suggest the assault by the separatist Azawad Liberation Front (FLA) - which seeks a breakaway ethnic Tuareg state - was primarily focused on northern cities, while the jihadist group Jama'at

Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM) had staged simultaneous attacks on multiple locations across the country. Mali's military said it was fighting unidentified "terrorist groups" and the situation was under control, but unconfirmed reports suggest fighting continues. While some residents describe calm in most parts of the capital, there are ongoing reports of

gunfire in some areas. Checkpoints have been established on roads leading to the airport and vehicles are being searched, according to reports. One resident, who was travelling back to Bamako from Ethiopia, told the BBC all flights into the city had been cancelled early on Saturday. It is not yet clear whether the reported attacks have affected the airport. The UK Foreign Office has advised against all travel to Mali following the attacks, adding Bamako International Airport had been temporarily closed. Ulf Laessing, head of the Sahel programme at the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Mali, told the BBC the incident appeared to be the "largest co-ordinated jihadist attack on Mali for years".

## Palestinians in West Bank and some in Gaza vote in local elections

Palestinians are voting in local elections on Saturday, including the first poll of any kind to be held in Gaza since 2006. Elections are taking place across the occupied West Bank, as well as in Deir al-Balah in central Gaza where Hamas operates. Hamas was not allowed to stand and several other factions have boycotted it over a requirement that candidates recognise the authority of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO), which dominates the Palestinian Authority (PA) governing the parts of the occupied West Bank not under Israeli control. Fatah, the faction led by President Mahmoud



Abbas and which dominates the PLO, was violently ousted from Gaza after the last elections there, which Hamas won triggering a power struggle between the two groups. More than a million voters across the Palestinian territories are eligible to take

part, according to the Ramallah-based Central Elections Commission, including 70,000 in Deir al-Balah, where 12 polling stations were scheduled to operate. Results are expected late on Saturday or on Sunday. While Hamas was not on the ballot in Deir al-

Balah, Reuters news agency reported that one slate of candidates was widely seen as being aligned with it. The central city was chosen as the sole Gaza area where elections would take place as it was not as badly damaged as other places during the Israel-Hamas war. A fragile ceasefire is in place as part of President Trump's 20-point peace plan, which halted the fighting in October last year. Hamas continues to operate in parts of Gaza where Israeli forces have withdrawn from, and Reuters reported that its police force was involved in security operations around polling stations.

## KATYA ADLER: EUROPE'S NATO ALLIES PUSH BACK AT REPORTED US THREAT TO SPAIN

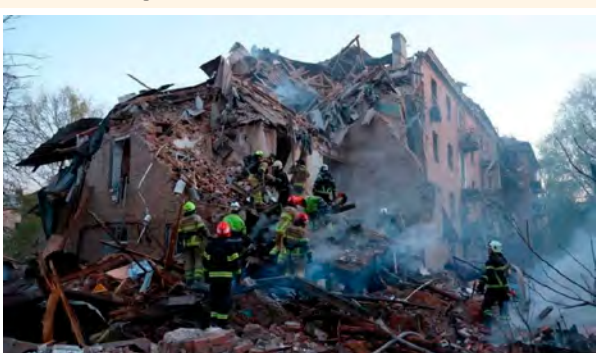


It's become a joke - through gritted teeth - these days in EU circles, that whenever leaders meet, as they did these last two days in Cyprus - expecting to discuss practicalities, such as the new EU budget - they get railroaded by yet another crisis. There is the ongoing energy crisis provoked by the US-Israel war on Iran, Russia's aggression in neighbouring Ukraine, now in its fifth year. And this Friday morning, souring relations between Europe and the United States, along with a potentially devastating defence impact, reared its Medusa-like head. Again. "No worries," Spain's determined-to-appear-calm prime minister, Pedro Sanchez, said to waiting journalists as he arrived at the leaders' summit. "We are fulfilling our obligations toward Nato." What did he feel compelled to say he wasn't fretting about? An email, originating from the US Pentagon and first reported by Reuters on Friday had

leaked, suggesting measures for the US to punish allies it believed had failed to support the US-Israel campaign against Iran. The email said the US could seek to suspend Spain from Nato over its stance. There is actually no provision in the Nato treaties to expel a member country. And any action to bar Spain from filling key civilian or military roles in Nato, also alluded to in the email as possible punitive action, would have to be taken unanimously amongst all Nato members. Fellow EU leaders at the Cyprus summit, who are also in Nato, leapt to Spain's defence. Dutch prime minister Rob Jetten said he wanted to be "crystal clear" that Spain was and would remain a full Nato member. He said European countries were currently "doing a great deal to strengthen Nato". That, he said, was also in America's interest. A high-ranking German official said "Spain is a member of Nato."

## Seven dead in major Russian attack on Ukraine

At least seven people were killed in Russian strikes across Ukraine overnight, including five in the central city of Dnipro, where officials said an apartment building was hit. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said the latest attack lasted "practically all night", while rescue workers were still searching for survivors under rubble in Dnipro on Saturday morning. British jets were scrambled from Romania during the heavy attack when Russian drones were detected near the border, though the UK Ministry of Defence rejected a report it had shot some down. Meanwhile, Ukraine carried out some of its longest-distance drone strikes deep inside Russian territory. In Yekaterinburg, almost 1,000 miles (1,600km) from



Ukraine's border, the governor said six people were injured when a building was struck - while in nearby Chelyabinsk, a local leader said drones targeting an industrial facility were intercepted. Russian missiles and drones also targeted the northern city of Chernihiv, where officials said two people were killed, as well as Odesa and Kharkiv. Ukrainian authorities said they repelled the

vast majority of the more than 600 Russian drones, which appears to have been the largest attack in several days. Zelensky wrote on social media: "The Russians' tactics have not changed: strike drones, cruise missiles, and a significant amount of ballistics." "Most of the targets are ordinary infrastructure in cities. Residential buildings, energy, and enterprises have been damaged." Russia's

Ministry of Defence said it had shot down 127 drones over more than a dozen regions. The department also said it had taken control of Bochkove, a village in the Kharkiv region, on Saturday morning, according to state-linked news agency Tass. The settlement is close to Ukraine's northern border with Russia, where invading forces have made repeated attempts to push further south towards the city of Kharkiv. Ukrainian authorities have not commented on Russia's claim to have gained control of the village, nor has BBC News been able to independently verify it. Elsewhere, Romania's defence ministry said it was investigating "the fall of an object" on its territory close to the Ukrainian border during the Russian attack.

## US JUSTICE DEPARTMENT DROPS PROBE INTO FED CHAIRMAN JEROME POWELL

The US justice department is dropping its investigation into the Federal Reserve chairman, Jerome Powell, over alleged building cost overruns. US Attorney Jeanine Pirro said instead there would be an internal investigation led by the central bank's inspector general. President Donald Trump has said the cost of the Fed's building renovations were too high, as part of a long-standing feud with Powell. Powell's term is nearing its end and the US Senate is considering Trump's nominee for his replacement, Kevin Warsh. A key Republican, Thom Tillis, has withheld his support for Warsh unless the Trump administration would drop its investiga-

tion into Powell. "American taxpayers deserve answers about the Federal Reserve's fiscal mismanagement, and the Office of the Inspector General's more powerful authorities best position it to get to the bottom of the matter," said White House spokesman Kush Desai in a statement. "The White House remains as confident as before that the Senate will swiftly confirm Kevin Warsh as the next Federal Reserve Chairman to finally restore competence and confidence in Fed decision-making." In her post on X, Pirro said she would not "hesitate to restart a criminal investigation should the facts warrant doing so". The Fed declined to comment.



# IPL 2026: Rajasthan Royals Set 228/6-Run Target for Sunrisers Hyderabad



Punjab Kings scripted history with their six-wicket win over Delhi Capitals in an IPL 2026 match at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, Delhi, on Saturday. They completed the highest successful chase in IPL history. In pursuit of a target of 265, PBKS reached home in 18.5 overs. Prabhsimran Singh (76 off 26) and Priyansh Arya (43 off 17) took Punjab off to a terrific start before Shreyas Iyer (71 not out off 36) finished the game for the side. Earlier, KL Rahul hit a mind-boggling 152 not out as DC posted a mammoth total of 264 for 2 after opting to bat first. Rahul scored his 152 not out off 67 balls, with the help of 16 fours and nine sixes. Nitish Rana also contributed to DC's total with 91 off 44 balls. His innings was laced with 11 fours and four sixes. The duo stitched a 220-run partnership off 95 balls for the second wicket. The 152-run knock by Rahul is the highest score by an Indian batter in IPL history. This is it from this space, folks! We hope you liked our coverage of the game. Meanwhile, stay connected to NDTV Sports as Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has been firing on all cylinders in the second match of the double-header day. To follow the live blog of the match, [CLICK HERE](#).

Goodbye! Punjab Kings have chased down a 265-run target with seven balls to spare! This is an unbelievable victory by the side, which remains unbeaten in IPL 2026. They won the game against Delhi Capitals by six wickets. This is the highest successful run-chase by a team in IPL history. PBKS have broken their own record of 261 against KKR in 2024. Punjab Kings are cruising towards victory. T Natarajan was smashed for 16 runs. Shreyas Iyer hit a six and a four before Shashank Singh got a thick outside edge to beat short third for a boundary. PBKS need 23 off 18 balls. This was an eventful over from Kuldeep Yadav. Shreyas Iyer was dropped once and ended up smashing the spinner for three sixes and one four. A total of 23 runs came off the over. Iyer also raced to his half-century. Punjab Kings need 39 off 24 balls. This is their game to lose. 15.2 - Karun Nair has dropped Shreyas Iyer again! He has dropped the Punjab Kings captain for the second time in three balls. On this occasion, Iyer miscued Kuldeep Yadav's delivery to long-on. Nair settled under it, but the ball slipped out of his hands once again. 14.6 - Shreyas Iyer has been dropped at long-off.

KL Rahul Breaks 150-Barrier In IPL, Becomes The Highest Indian Scorer Ever With Terrific Knock For DC vs PBKS



Unstoppable, unbelievable - adjectives are falling short for KL Rahul after what he produced for Delhi Capitals against Punjab Kings in an IPL 2026 match. On a hot afternoon in the national capital on Saturday, Rahul turned up the heat further with a mammoth 152 off 67 balls. His innings included 16 fours and nine sixes. It is the highest individual score by an Indian in IPL history, surpassing Abhishek Sharma's 141 (SRH vs Punjab Kings, 2025). This also marks just the third 150-plus score in IPL history, after Chris Gayle's 175 (RCB vs Pune Warriors, 2013) and Brendon McCullum's 158 (KKR vs RCB, 2008).

## Why Ishan Kishan Is Not Leading Sunrisers Hyderabad In IPL 2026 Match vs Rajasthan Royals

Ishan Kishan didn't come out for the toss of Sunrisers Hyderabad's IPL 2026 game against Rajasthan Royals on Saturday as the former team's regular skipper, Pat Cummins, returned to action. In the absence of Cummins, Kishan was appointed captain of SRH and led the side in seven games. Cummins missed the first half of IPL 2026 as he was recovering from a lumbar bone stress injury in his back. Upon his return, Cummins took over the captaincy of SRH, with Kishan being included in the playing XI only as a player. Sunrisers Hyderabad skipper Cummins won the toss and decided to bowl first against Rajasthan Royals in match number 36 of IPL 2026



at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur on Saturday. Cummins replaced Dilshan Madushanka, while Praful Hinge was added to the playing XI in place of Harsh Dubey. Speaking during the toss, Cummins said, "We're going to have a bowl first. The wicket looks good, but we have to see what we

need to chase down. (How are you feeling?) Still really fresh. It's been a little while, but I've had really good preparation, a couple of bowls over here. I haven't played a game for a while, so we'll see how we go. But the body feels awesome. I've come in for Madushanka, and Hinge has come in for

Harsh Dubey." RR skipper Rryan Parag said, "We were looking for the same as well, but having said that, over the last couple of seasons, we haven't really done well chasing. So I'm happy with defending as well. I think we've played most of our cricket here, the majority of our cricket here. We know this wicket really well. We have had our camp right since the season started as well. Seems like a pretty good wicket. Maybe a little bit of dew coming in later on, but it won't really play that much of a role. I feel the openers have done really well, but they can continue doing well, and hopefully we can pick up our slack. (Combination the same?) No, we're going for one instead of three-two."

## Anushka Sharma's Guilty Expression After 'Money Splashing' Act On Virat Kohli's Six Caught On Camera

Royal Challengers Bengaluru continued their high-flying run in the top half of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 season, securing yet another victory to boost their play-off hopes on Friday. Chasing a target against the Gujarat Titans, RCB rode on Virat Kohli's brilliant 81 to overhaul the total with seven balls to spare. Although Kohli received a lifeline right at the start of his innings, he made sure GT came back to regret the dropped catch when he was yet to open his account. Before being dismissed by Jason Holder, Kohli had hit eight fours and four sixes. One of the sixes that the RCB icon hit even had his wife,



Anushka Sharma, celebrating in the stands. Anushka, who has attended almost all of RCB's home games this season at the Chinnaswamy Stadium, was seen making a money-splashing gesture in the stands. However, as soon as the cameraman turned his attention

towards her, she realised that it was not an act she should have done on camera. Her 'guilty expression' said it all. As for the match, Kohli scripted history as he became the first batter in the Indian Premier League (IPL) to hit 800 fours. Kohli achieved the milestone

during his knock of 81 runs. Virat Kohli now has 807 boundaries to his name in 274 IPL matches, the most by any batter in the tournament's history. He is well clear of the second-placed Shikhar Dhawan, who has 768 fours to his name. Kohli also became only the third batter to smash 300 sixes in IPL history, after Chris Gayle (357) and Rohit Sharma (310). Kohli now has 303 maximums to his name. Kohli scored 81 runs off 44 balls against GT, hitting eight boundaries and four sixes. With this knock, he also claimed the Orange Cap for being the leading run-scorer in the IPL 2026 at the moment.

## WHY IS KELLY NOT AN AUTOMATIC STARTER FOR ARSENAL OR ENGLAND?

The shirt-twirling. The historic goals. The open-mouthed delight. Chloe Kelly is firmly etched into football folklore. An extra-time winner at Euro 2022 to clinch England's first international title and the decisive penalty three years later to retain the trophy made sure of that. Despite those defining interventions for the Lionesses, Kelly's impact has faded. Rarely a starter for Arsenal, the 28-year-old managed just nine minutes off the bench in England's recent World Cup qualifiers with Spain and Iceland. As the Gunners' attentions turn to a Champions League semi-final against Lyon on Sunday, BBC Sport assesses why Kelly is not an automatic choice for either club or country. In 2022-23, fresh off her Euros heroics, Kelly was an integral part of



Gareth Taylor's Manchester City side and started all but one of their Women's Super League fixtures. Since then, it has been a different story. Dogged by injuries, she has made more appearances off the bench in the past three years than she has started games, with her time at City unravelling before her switch to Arsenal in January 2025.

Shortly before that move, Kelly went public on a "disappointing" and "not right", external situation having started just one match for City in the WSL in 2024-25. The move to Emirates Stadium began promisingly. She started nine of Arsenal's remaining 14 games, including the Champions League final victory over Barcelona.

## Defending Champion Carlos Alcaraz To Miss French Open With Wrist Injury

Two-time reigning French Open champion Carlos Alcaraz said on Friday he will not play at this year's tournament as he recovers from a wrist injury. The Spaniard said the call was made after undergoing tests on his right wrist, ruling him out of the year's second Grand Slam and the Italian Open. "We have decided that the most prudent thing to do is to be cautious and not participate in Rome or Roland Garros," Alcaraz said on social media. "This is a difficult time for me, but I'm sure I will come out of it stronger," Alcaraz added, saying that he and his team would monitor his recovery before deciding when and where he would return. Alcaraz sustained the injury during the first round of the Barcelona Open last week, where he beat Otto Virtanen but subsequently pulled out of the tournament. The 22-year-old announced his withdrawal from the Madrid Masters on April 17, increasing concerns over whether he would be able to appear at the French Open. Alcaraz became the youngest man to complete the career Grand Slam in January with his triumph at the Australian Open. He holds a 22-3



record this season and also won a title in Doha. Ranked second in the world, Alcaraz lost top spot following his defeat by Jannik Sinner in the Monte Carlo Masters final on April 12. The seven-time Grand Slam winner triumphed at Roland Garros in 2024 and 2025. He saved three championship points against Sinner last year in the longest French Open final in history.

## IPL 2026: CSK Pacer Khaleel Ahmed Undergoes Successful Surgery After Quadriceps Injury



Chennai Super Kings (CSK) pacer Khaleel Ahmed has undergone successful surgery after suffering a quadriceps injury earlier in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 season, the franchise said in a statement on Saturday. Khaleel sustained an injury to his right quadriceps during his side's match against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) at the Chepauk Stadium on April 16. In an X post on Saturday, CSK confirmed that Khaleel has undergone successful surgery. "Wishing him strength and a quick recovery," CSK said on X. The pacer has been ruled out of IPL 2026 after suffering a right quadriceps injury. The franchise confirmed that the injury will

take over 12 weeks to heal and wished him a speedy recovery. "OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT Khaleel Ahmed has been ruled out of IPL 2026 after sustaining a right quadriceps injury in the game against KKR. Wishing Khaleel a speedy recovery. #WhistlePodu." "The injury sustained will take more than 12 weeks to heal," CSK had said in the statement. In the five matches that Khaleel has played in the IPL 2026 season, he has taken just two wickets at an average of 73.00 and an economy rate of 8.67, with best figures of 1/24. In his previous season with CSK, Khaleel had taken 15 wickets in 14 matches at an average of 29.80, with best figures of 3/29 and an economy rate of 9.57.



LeBron James made a three-pointer to force overtime before the Los Angeles Lakers moved to the brink of a

## James leads Lakers to brink of play-off series win

score with 13 seconds left against the Houston Rockets and almost clinched victory as he hit the rim with a three-pointer on the buzzer. But the Lakers went on to win 112-108 in overtime to claim a 3-0 lead in the best-of-seven first round of the play-offs. James, 41, again stepped up in the absence of the injured Luka Doncic and Austin Reaves, claiming a team-high 29 points and 13 rebounds. Marcus Smart also recorded a double-double, scoring eight of his 21 points in overtime and adding a team-high 10 assists. "With two of our best players down, we've got to

play desperate," said Smart. "We've got to be the most desperate team." "That's how we've been playing, and that's how we're winning, right? The chemistry has been good, and you're starting to see guys' confidence go up because of that." An ankle sprain ruled out Houston's leading scorer Kevin Durant for the second time in the series. The Rockets also host game four on Sunday and must win to prevent the Lakers earning a sweep of the series and booking their place in the Western Conference semi-finals. Conference rivals San Antonio lead the

Portland Trail Blazers 2-1 after fighting back to claim a 120-108 win on the road. Stephen Castle scored 33 points for the Spurs while rookie reserve Dylan Harper added career bests of 27 points and 10 rebounds. Victor Wembanyama was on the Spurs bench but could not play as this season's defensive player of the year remained in concussion protocol after suffering a head injury in game two on Tuesday. The Boston Celtics took a 2-1 lead over Eastern Conference rivals Philadelphia as they claimed a 108-100 win at the 76ers.



## RS Infotainment's MANDAADI Shoot Wrapped After an Intensive Schedule — Post-Production Work in Full Swing

RS Infotainment, led by Elred Kumar, has officially wrapped up the shooting of its upcoming sports action drama MANDAADI. The film was shot over a long and challenging schedule, with a major portion filmed in the coastal regions of Ramanathapuram. The team worked in tough conditions to bring a realistic and powerful feel to the story. From intense action scenes to emotional moments and visually appealing sailboat race sequences, every part of the film was shot with great care and effort. Directed by Mathimaran Pugazhendhi, MANDAADI is set in a unique sports backdrop and tells a story that is deeply connected to its setting. With filming now finished, the movie has entered the post-production stage, and work is moving ahead quickly. Actor Soori plays the lead role and has put in a lot of hard work for the film, especially in terms of physical preparation. His performance is expected to be one of the main highlights. The film also marks the Tamil debut of Suhas, who steps into a strikingly different space with a negative-shaded role. Sporting a complete makeover, the actor put in intense preparation to convincingly portray the character. Demonstrating strong commitment, he dedicated nearly 100 days of call sheets to the project and is now looking to expand his



presence in the Tamil market with this film. Mahima Nambiar stars as the female lead, while seasoned performers Sathyaraj, Ravindra Vijay, Mithun, and Bala Saravanan play key supporting roles, further elevating the film's ensemble strength. The film has a strong technical team as well. Music is composed by GV Prakash Kumar, while SR Kathir handles the cinematography. The production design is by DRK Kiran, editing by Pradeep E Ragav, and action sequences are choreographed by Peter Hein, Dilip Subbarayan, and Mahesh Mathew. At present, the team is busy with

post-production work such as editing, sound design, visual effects, and music. They are working carefully to make sure the film turns out to be engaging and high in quality. MANDAADI is set in the world of coastal fishing communities. The title refers to a skilled leader who guides fishing trips using knowledge of the sea, winds, and waves. This idea of leadership, experience, and survival forms the heart of the story. After creating curiosity with its first look, the film is now moving ahead to its next stage, building excitement among audiences. More updates about MANDAADI are expected soon.

## SAMANTHA'S BANGARAM SHOULDN'T SLOW DOWN



Samantha Ruth Prabhu's upcoming film Maa Inti Bangaram started its promotional journey on a promising note. The first trailer generated good buzz, and the initial single received a decent response from audiences. Adding to the momentum, a recent promotional event saw the song getting an even better reception, boosting expectations around the film. However, the momentum seems to have slowed down in the past few days.

## 'Kanna' Movie Teaser Grand Launch

Kanna is the latest film jointly produced by Madhuri Presents, Passionate Film Makers and Cinematic Visual Studio. The teaser launch event of the youth full entertainer film Kanna under the direction of SN Rajasekhara Reddy was held grandly. Hero Chaitanya Rao, hero Karthik Sivan, heroine Geetika Rathan, Manju Venkat, film actors, technicians and others participated in this program as the chief guest. The Kanna teaser released through Chaitanya Rao's hands has been released. The makers said that the film will be released in 2026. Hero Karthik Sivan, heroine Geetika Rathan, Kittayya, Rupesh, Prem Krishna, Suraj, Ram Patas, Venu, director Nani Kasaragadda, Ravindra, Venky, Murali, Bantu, Manju Venkat, Deva, Vrindavanam movie team, makers and others participated in this teaser launch event. On this occasion, actor Venky said... It may be a small film but it will be a film that will be remembered by all. He thanked director Rajasekhara Reddy for giving him a chance in this film. Heroine Geetika Rathan said that if you look at the teaser, it does not seem like a short film. He said that he



played the role of Satya in this movie. He said that after watching this movie, everyone will remember him as Satya. Thanks to director Rajasekhara Reddy for giving such a good opportunity.

Everyone was asked to support the film. Hero Karthik Sivan said.. Thanks to hero Chaitanya Rao who came when called. Currently, he does not have any film back-ground. He said that his back-ground is his father who has guided him till now. Also, after watching the movie, he said that this movie will become a back-ground for him.

## SS RAJAMOULI PRESENTS VARANASI AT MEXICO CCXP, SHOOTING UPDATES



SS Rajamouli's upcoming film, Varanasi, starring Mahesh Babu, Priyanka Chopra, and Prithviraj Sukumaran, began its global promotions this week at CCXP in Mexico, one of the biggest pop culture events in the world. The film's producer, SS Karthikeya, spoke on stage about the scale and vision of the project and unveiled never-before-seen footage from the film.

**PANEL HIGHLIGHTS AND AUDIENCE REACTIONS**  
The panel, moderated by ScreenRant's Liam Crowley, included a video message from Rajamouli, where he shared his thoughts on Mexican influences in Baahubali and the global success of

RRR. The event also featured exclusive behind-the-scenes footage of Varanasi. Some visuals from the panel showed empty seats and viewers walking out, leading to discussions online about the reception of the film among international audiences. However, many fans defended the panel, pointing out that images showing empty seats did not reflect the entire audience. Photos of SS Karthikeya interacting with attendees after the panel showed a lively crowd seated and standing behind him. Others noted that empty seats were common across panels at CCXP, not just for Varanasi. Varanasi is a time-travel adventure blending Indian mythology and history with science fiction.

## Kiara Advani's cross pendant sparks conversion buzz

Kiara Advani has found herself at the centre of an unexpected conversation, and this time it has little to do with a film. At the GQ Most Influential Young Indians Awards 2026, Kiara stepped out in a black leather dress, styled with layered pearls and a delicate cross pendant. While the look aligned with global red carpet trends, it didn't take long for social media to zoom in on the cross, especially given that Kiara is widely known to come from a Hindu background. That is where the speculation began. Sections of the internet started drawing conclusions, with some questioning whether the accessory hinted at a religious shift. In a country where identity

and symbolism carry weight, even a small detail like jewellery can quickly turn into a larger narrative. However, the reality may not be as dramatic. Kiara's family background is not one dimensional. Some reports suggest that her maternal grandmother was Christian, adding context many online reactions seem to overlook. At the same time, cross motifs are extremely common in global luxury fashion. Brands like Chrome Hearts have long used such symbols as part of their design language, often detached from religious meaning. With no official comment from Kiara or her team, everything remains speculative. It could simply be a case of global fashion meeting an

audience that tends to read deeper into symbols. Sometimes, what looks like a statement is just a styling choice, let us know your opinion in the comments. Kiara's family background is not one dimensional. Some reports suggest that her maternal grandmother was Christian. The discussion quickly gained traction online, with some users referencing her Sindhi roots and her 2023 wedding to Sidharth Malhotra. However, several fans and fashion observers defended Kiara, pointing out that cross motifs are commonly used in high-end fashion for their gothic aesthetic rather than religious symbolism. Interestingly, this comes shortly after actor Trisha Krishnan was seen with a

cross in her car. On the professional front, Kiara is gradually returning to public appearances after taking a six-month break following the birth of her child. She has been actively attending events and making fashion statements. Kiara is also gearing up for her upcoming film



"Toxic," where she stars alongside Yash. The film is expected to release in June.

## TOO MUCH AI FOR MYTHOLOGY IS NOT A GOOD SIGN!

The upcoming Hindi film Dronacharya is making headlines as one of the latest AI-driven projects in Indian cinema. Presented by Vibhu Agarwal and Kanhiya Mittal, and produced by Bharat NextGen Digital Pvt Ltd, the film is gearing up for a theatrical release in June 2026. The trailer, which dropped recently, offers a glimpse into a technologically advanced retelling, with the tagline hinting at the legendary guru who "didn't just train warriors, but created legends."

While the concept has generated curiosity, it has also sparked debate. The increasing number of AI-based films in the industry is raising concerns among cinema lovers.



## Concept Poster Released on the Occasion of Hero Keshava Kalavapalli's Birthday

Bajarangi Creations and RR Creative Creations, jointly producing a new-age romantic entertainer, have unveiled the concept poster of their upcoming film on the occasion of lead actor Keshava Kalavapalli's birthday. The film is being produced by Papireddy Kalavapalli and Ramireddy Alluri, and is set against the rustic backdrop of Rayalaseema, particularly Kadapa. The project promises to present a refreshing love story rooted in regional flavor and emotions. Director U. Hemareddy, who earned appreciation for his previous film AP04 Ramapuram, is helping this project and is introducing Keshava Kalavapalli as the male



lead. Music for the film is composed by Vinod Vaila. The makers have officially announced that the shooting of the film will commence in the first week of June. Further details regarding the rest of the cast and technical crew will be revealed soon.