



Rahul accuses AIADMK of 'surrendering' to BJP over corruption

Kanniyakumari, Apr 20: Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday alleged that the AIADMK leadership has "surrendered" to the BJP due to corruption. Addressing an election rally in Kanniyakumari, he claimed that the AIADMK has now become a vehicle for the BJP's entry into Tamil Nadu.

NATION | NEWS

Tehran will never cede control of Strait of Hormuz: Senior Iranian politician

WORLD | NEWS



Marking His Return to Telugu Screens, Dhanush Starrer 'Kara' Officially Fixes April 30, 2026 as Its Telugu Release Date

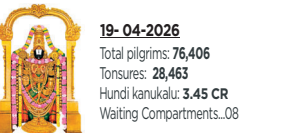
CINEMA | PAGE



SCAN FOR E-PAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA



19-04-2026
Total pilgrims: 76,406
Tonsures: 28,463
Hundi kankalaku: 3.45 CR
Waiting Compartments: 08

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens), 6 H



WEATHER 38 °C | °F
Precipitation: 10%
Humidity: 35%
Wind: 10 km/h



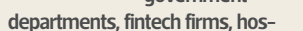
GOLD RATE 24K ₹ 1,57,420

Four students bag AIR 1; 26 score 100 percentile

New Delhi, April 20: Four male students shared the All India Rank 1 and 26 candidates scored 100 percentile in the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Main 2026 national-level engineering entrance exam as the National Testing Agency (NTA) declared the result on Monday. Kabeer Chhillar, Pasala Mohith, Chandra Sekhar and Aditya Gupta were the four AIR 1 students who scored a perfect 300-on-300 to corner AIR 1, NTA sources said, adding that Mallavarapu Aasna from Telangana was the best performing girl student. There are no girls among the 26 students with 100 percentile. A total of 16,04,854 unique candidates registered for the exam across both sessions.

100 ENTITIES ONBOARD TO USE AADHAAR-BASED OFFLINE VERIFICATION: GOVERNMENT

New Delhi, April 20: In a significant push towards privacy-friendly digital services, the government on Monday said that at least 100 entities have been onboarded as Offline Verification Seeking Entities (OVSEs) within just three months of the rollout of Aadhaar-based offline verification. The milestone, achieved by the Unique Identification Authority of India, marks a major step in enabling secure, consent-driven and paperless identity verification using Aadhaar without requiring real-time access to central databases. "These entities span a wide range of sectors, including central and state government departments, fintech firms, hospitality and event management companies, educational and examination bodies, as well as background and workforce verification organisations," the Ministry of Electronics & IT said. "Their integration into the ecosystem is expected to streamline service delivery, cut down processing time, and reduce reliance on physical documents," the ministry added. The Aadhaar offline verification system allows users to share limited and necessary identity data through methods such as QR code-based verification and digitally signed documents. This ensures that individuals retain control over their personal information.



CM Naidu Slams DMK, congress at Coimbatore rally; accuses them of betraying Women Over Reservation Bill

Coimbatore (TSIT)

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu launched a scathing attack on the DMK, Congress, and their INDIA bloc allies during an election campaign press conference in Coimbatore on [date], accusing them of betraying women by opposing key legislative reforms.

Expressing strong displeasure, Naidu asserted that by opposing the Women's Reservation Bill and the Delimitation Bill, parties like the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and Indian National Congress had effectively "defeated women."

He claimed that the bills, introduced by the central government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi with good intentions, were derailed for political reasons, and accused the opposition bloc of prioritizing politics over the welfare of women and the development of southern states.

Naidu questioned whether the DMK wants injustice toward southern states or believes women do not need reservations. He warned that according to 2027 Census projections, southern states could face significant disadvantages, and said women awaiting reservations have been disappointed due to the actions of parties like the



Addressing the media, Naidu made several key remarks:

- Blocking the Women's Reservation Bill amounts to a betrayal of women by the Congress-led DMK alliance.
- Tamil Nadu, once considered a progressive state, is now lagging economically and has witnessed multiple scams.
- The DMK must explain why it opposed the Women's Reservation Bill.
- The party allegedly obstructed due benefits meant for southern states.
- If parliamentary seats were set to increase by 50%, there should have been no objection.
- Leaders like himself have fought for decades to secure reservations for women.
- The Prime Minister intended to implement these reservations by the 2029 elections.
- The proposed Delimitation Bill would have increased seats for states like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Telangana, and Karnataka.
- Due to the DMK's stance, both women and southern states have suffered losses.

DMK. He further alleged that the political strategies of

Congress and DMK have resulted in setbacks for women.

Highlighting development initiatives, Naidu recalled the Telugu Ganga project, undertaken to supply water to Tamil Nadu, and emphasized ongoing river interlinking efforts within Andhra Pradesh. He added that a Ganga-Cauvery river linkage could resolve water scarcity issues across the country. Calling for accountability, the Chief Minister stressed that every government must adopt transparent and responsible governance practices.

In a first, CM Stalin opens veiled attack on Vijay with outsider remark



CHENNAI (TSIT):

In a veiled attack on actor and Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam president C Joseph Vijay, Chief Minister and DMK president MK Stalin on Monday asked Perambur voters whether they preferred a representative who works consistently for the constituency or "outsiders who come and stage a drama". This is the first instance of the CM attacking Vijay, even though he did so without naming him, even after the TVK chief, Vijay, launched taunts such as 'CM uncle' or 'CM sir'. Stalin's remarks, made while campaigning in Perambur for DMK candidate RD Sekar, are seen as signifi-

cant. The remarks are seen not just as criticism of Vijay's alleged inability to fulfil the duties of an MLA, but also as a kind of recognition of him as a potential threat to the ruling party candidate's victory in that segment. Without naming Vijay, Stalin maintained that personal criticism was not in line with his political approach and said he would refrain from making direct attacks.

Since launching his campaign on March 31, Stalin has largely avoided targeting Vijay and Naam Tamilar Katchi (NTK) coordinator Seeman, focusing instead on Leader of the Opposition Edappadi K Palaniswami and the Bharatiya Janata Party-led

Union government, choosing his political opponent carefully. In the larger context, the DMK president's remarks seem to make clear the TVK's possible electoral impact against the ruling party, though Arivalayam has never officially acknowledged the actor as a potential threat. Vijay, who is also contesting from the Tiruchy East constituency, has said that he would visit the constituency at least once a month if elected and would remain easily accessible to the public whenever needed.

No plans yet to attend next round of talks with US: Iran

Tehran (TSIT)

Citing "contradictory actions" from Washington, Iran on Monday made it clear that it has not made any decision yet on participating in the next round of negotiations with the US. "So far, we have not made any decisions regarding the next round of negotiations," said Esmail Baqaei, spokesperson for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, while speaking to reporters at a weekly press conference in Tehran. The spokesperson criticised the United States, accusing Washington of engaging in con-



tradictory actions while claiming to pursue diplomacy. He mentioned that since the very beginning of the ceasefire, "bad faith and constant complaints" were faced by Iran from Washington. He clarified that the US initially claimed that Lebanon was not part of the ceasefire, despite contrary assertions.

Can't rule out BJP getting two-thirds majority: Rajnath Singh ahead of Bengal polls

Nanooor (TSIT):

With the West Bengal Assembly elections just days away, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday expressed confidence that the BJP will secure a clear majority, adding that the possibility of a two-thirds majority cannot be ruled out. Speaking to reporters, Singh said that West Bengal has witnessed an atmosphere of fear, violence, and alleged atrocities over the past 15 years. He noted that the people of the state have given three



consecutive terms to the Trinamool Congress, adding that such a long tenure should

'Bias needs proof, not perception': Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma rejects Kejriwal's recusal plea



New Delhi (TSIT)

The courtroom fell silent as Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma began dictating her order, a pause that underscored the weight of what lay before her. This was not merely about deciding a legal dispute, she said, but about confronting a direct challenge to judicial independence itself. Refusing to step aside from hearing the Delhi excise policy case, the judge dismissed all recusal applications moved by Arvind Kejriwal and other accused, holding that the pleas were driven by perception, not proof. At the centre of the controversy, she remarked, was an unusual situation: instead of the court judging a litigant, the litigant had sought to place the judge and the institution in the

dock. Recusal not a matter of convenience, but of law

Justice Sharma made it clear that stepping aside would have been the easier option. Her first instinct, she said, was to withdraw without hearing the applications after her impartiality and dignity were questioned. Yet, she chose to proceed with the hearing to ensure fairness and transparency.

The court underlined that judicial impartiality is presumed and must be rebutted with concrete material. "Apprehension alone cannot replace evidence," the judge indicated, pointing to contradictions in the applicants' submissions, on one hand asserting faith in her integrity, and on the other seeking her removal.

She cautioned that recusal cannot be reduced to a tool in the hands of litigants. If accepted on such grounds, it would open the floodgates for forum shopping and weaken the justice delivery system.

The judge firmly rejected reliance on statements attributed to Union Minister Amit Shah, observing that courts cannot be influenced by political commentary. Public statements by politicians, she noted, are beyond judicial control and cannot determine whether a judge hears a case.

PM Modi's snack moment sends jhalmuri searches to two-decade-high

New Delhi (TSIT)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's brief 'snack break' during election campaigning in poll-bound West Bengal on April 19 has taken social media by storm, with photos and videos of him relishing a local street snack and interacting with a vendor drawing massive engagement. PM Modi's visit to a jhalmuri stall has clocked more than 100 million views within 24 hours of being shared on Instagram, and garnered over 90 million views on Facebook Reels. The metrics, gathered from his personal handles, indicate strong public interest in the Prime Minister's 'jhalmuri moment' in the poll-bound state.

The Prime Minister addressed four back-to-back rallies in West Bengal on Sunday -- in Purulia, Jhargram, Medinipur, and Bishnupur. During his visit to Jhargram, he stopped at a small shop and tried jhalmuri, a popular and crunchy street snack from the state.

Photos and videos shared from the Prime Minister's personal social media accounts quickly went viral, with users



widely sharing and commenting on his interaction with the vendor and local residents. Interestingly, Google search interest for the street snack "jhalmuri" has reached its highest level in the past 22 years, according to available internet data.

In the video clip, the Prime Minister is seen enjoying jhalmuri at the local stall, interacting with residents, and sharing smiles, creating a moment of informal outreach amid the campaign trail.

The Prime Minister was also seen offering to pay. The vendor initially declined but later

accepted the payment after his insistence.

When the vendor asked if he wanted onions in the snack, the Prime Minister responded with a light-hearted remark: "Haan, pyaaz khaate hain. Dimag nahi khaate bass" (Yes, I eat onions, I just don't eat brains). The viral video also sparked a wave of reactions on social media, with many users discussing his relatable behaviour and witty humour. The breaking of protocol by Prime Minister to visit a local shop was also seen as risky and dangerous reach out, by some others.

www.southindiatimes.com

info.southindiatimes@gmail.com

DGP B. SHIVADHAR REDDY FELICITATES DSP NIKHAT ZAREEN



Hyderabad TSIT: Director General of Police B. Shivadhar Reddy on Monday felicitated DSP Nikhat Zareen at his office for her outstanding achievement at the prestigious international boxing championship held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from April 2 to 12, where she secured a bronze medal. The DGP lauded Nikhat Zareen for her exceptional performance on the international stage, stating that she has brought pride and recognition to the Telangana Police Department. He expressed confidence that she would continue to scale greater heights in her sporting career. On the same occasion, the DGP also congratulated Telangana Police personnel for their commendable performance at the 25th All India Police War Sports Cluster competitions held at Dehradun and Tehri Lake, Uttarakhand, from April 8 to 12. In the Rowing Coxless Pair - 500 meters category, Head Constable N. Ramakrishna of 1st Battalion TGSP and Police Constable J. Raju of CAR Siddipet showcased remarkable talent and secured a silver medal.

Nirmala Jaggareddy Inducts Peddapur Sarpanch, Leaders into Congress



Hyderabad TSIT: In a notable political development, TGICC Chairperson and DCC President Nirmala Jaggareddy inducted Peddapur village Sarpanch Manisha Balraj Goud along with several ward members and local leaders into the Congress party from the BRS. Ward members Patti Anasuya, Bandaraju, and Padakanti Srikanth, along with key village leaders including Anjaneyulu Goud, Narahari, Rangani Shivakumar, Rangani Kiran Goud, Chakrapani, Nalla Ramesh, Vadla Niranjan, Alivada Arun, MD Ashwak, Salman, Maqsood, M. Ravi, Akhlesh Goud, Rakesh Goud, Antham Santhosh, Shrivani Kumar, Hari Prasad, Rangani Mallesh, and Sara Satish Kumar, formally joined the Congress in her presence. Addressing the gathering, the newly inducted leaders expressed confidence that the development of Peddapur village would be accelerated under the leadership of the ruling Congress party. The programme was attended by PCC General Secretary Topaji Anantha Kishan, CDC Chairman Gadila Ram Reddy, Sadashivpet Mandal Congress President Siddanna, Sarpanches Forum President Ogu Srinivas, former Block President Magdome Patel, Kambalapalli Bharathamma Babu, Anjaneyulu, Peddapur Deputy Sarpanch Sandeep, village President Banda Arun, Bikshapathi, Komaraiah, and several party workers.

VENKATESH GOUD TAKES CHARGE AS SI OF PEBBER POLICE STATION

Wanaparthy, April 20: Venkatesh Goud assumed charge as the new Sub-Inspector (SI) of Pebber Police Station in Wanaparthy district on Sunday.



He replaces SI Yugandhar Reddy, who has been transferred to the Nagarkurnool District SP Office on VR (voluntary retirement). Prior to this posting, Venkatesh Goud served as SI at Lingala Police Station in Nagarkurnool district. He has earlier worked as Town SI in Wanaparthy and at Khilla Ghanpur Police Station. Known for his clean record and dedicated service, Venkatesh Goud earned recognition for his effective policing and coordination with tribal communities in the Nallamala forest region. Locals expressed confidence that he would strengthen law and order in the Pebber mandal. On the occasion of assuming charge, Pebber Municipal Chairman Akki Susheela Srinivas Goud,

Jai Goud movement leader Suguru Rajashekar Goud, along with leaders from various political parties and members of the Goud community, felicitated him with shawls. Speaking on the occasion, leaders emphasized that public cooperation with the police is essential to maintain peace and security. They expressed hope that Venkatesh Goud would continue his dedicated service and effectively address local issues. Wanaparthy district correspondent of Praja Pratibha, Ravi Shankar Goud, congratulated the newly appointed SI.

SANITIZATION IN GURUKULS MUST BE IMPROVED: COLLECTOR HAIMAVATHI

The South India Times Husnabad: District Collector K. Haimavathi has issued directives to officials to enhance sanitation standards across all welfare educational institutions within the district, emphasizing that kitchens, restrooms, classrooms, and the entire school premises must be maintained in a state of continuous cleanliness. As part of the 'Welfare Week' activities—being conducted this week under the broader 'Praja Palana Pragathi Pranalika (People's Administration and Progress Plan) 99-day program—she paid a surprise visit on Monday to the Tribal Welfare Boys' Gurukul School located at Jillelagadda in Husnabad Mandal. During this visit, the Collector inspected the school kitchen and personally examined the food being served to the students.

CLIX CAPITAL SERVICES PVT. LTD. (CLIX)
Registered Office: W2/14, 1st Floor, West Patel Nagar, Delhi, 110008

POSSESSION NOTICE (Appendix IV) Rule 8(1)

Whereas the Authorized Officer of CLIX CAPITAL SERVICES PVT. LTD. (CLIX), a Non-Banking Financial Company duly incorporated and registered under the Companies Act, 1956, having its Registered Office at: W2/14, 1st Floor, West Patel Nagar, Delhi, 110008, under the provisions of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act) (hereinafter referred to as "Act") and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice to the following borrowers and co-borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower(s) and co-borrower(s) have failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 as per under mentioned Date. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of "CLIX" and interest charges thereon. The attention of the Borrower 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 & Address of Borrower/Co-Borrower: 1. KOKKILIGADDA CHINNA VENU S/O MANIKYALAR KOKKILIGADDA, No. 26/579-3 Jalaj Petnamachilipatnam Krishna Andhra Pradesh-521001, Also At: Residential Site Old Municipal Ward No. 28, Jallalpet, Machilipatnam Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh-521001. 2. KOKKILIGADDA LAKSHMI W/O KOKKILIGADDA CHINNA VENU, No. 26/579-3 Jalaj Petnamachilipatnam, Krishna Andhra Pradesh - 521001, Also At: Residential Site Old Municipal Ward No. 25, Present Ward No. 28, Jallalpet, Machilipatnam Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh-521001

Demand Notice Dated: 19-Jan-2026, Date of Possession: 15-04-2026.
Amount of Demand Notice: Rs. 49,86,965.52/- as on 19.01.2026

Details of Property: All That The Piece And Parcel Of Residential Site With RCC Roofed Building And Other Equipments In An Extent Of 181.99 Sq. Yds. (Such As Out Of 282.49 Sq. Yds. Sold An Extent Of 50.31 Sq. Yds To Pula Saram And An Extent Of 50.19 Sq. Yds To S. Ravith Through Sale Deed Dated 26-12-2014 Vide Document No. 907/12019 And 307/12019 Respectively) Situated At Present D No 26/579, Old Municipal Ward No. 25, Present Ward No. 28, Jallalpet, Machilipatnam Krishna District With All Easementary Rights Within The Limits Of The Sro, Machilipatnam, Krishna District Acquired The Same Through Registered Partition Deed No. 227/2014 Dated 26-12-2014 And Rectification Deed No. 71/19/2015 Dated 24-08-2015 Reg. At Sro, Machilipatnam, Krishna District With All Easementary Rights.

Date: 15-04-2026, **Place:** AP **Sd/- Authorized Officer, CLIX Capital Services Pvt. Ltd.**

Groundbreaking Ceremony Held for Bomb Detection Equipment Block in Vijayawada

Vijayawada, April 20: City Police Commissioner S.V. Rajasekhara Babu conducted the bhumi puja (groundbreaking ceremony) for the construction of a Bomb Detection Equipment Block at the NTR Police Commissionerate on Monday.



The initiative comes as part of efforts to strengthen security measures within the NTR District Police Commissionerate limits, especially during visits by dignitaries, VIPs, and other high-profile individuals. The facility will play a crucial role in ensuring smooth and incident-free conduct of security arrangements, narcotics operations, criminal investigations, and official tours. Currently, bomb detection squads led by CSW officer S.V.D.

Prasad, comprising trained personnel, are actively engaged in conducting inspections to detect explosives as a preventive security measure. In this context, the new block will be constructed at the City Armed Reserve Ground to house bomb detection equipment and personnel. The project is expected to significantly enhance the operational efficiency and preparedness of the police force in handling sensitive security situations.

MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LTD.
FORMERLY MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE PVT. LTD.
CIN: U65922KL2019PC93179, 8/56 A, Padmaprabha Building, Near Sreeram Swami Temple, Cheruvu, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala 690057.

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Manappuram Home Finance Ltd (MHFL) under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 9 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the borrowers and co-borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower has failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken actual possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said "Act" read with rule 9 of the said Rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Manappuram Home Finance Ltd as mentioned below for each of the respective properties:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower and Co-Borrower/ Loan Account No./Branch	Description of Secured Asset in respect of which interest has been created	Date of Notice sent & Outstanding Amount	Date of Actual Possession
1	SYED SUNEETHA & SYED MAHAABOOB BASHA / MIL026015957 / KADAPPA	RCC House Having D. No -10/1079, Sy.No.163/2 Pyli an extent of 02:727 Cents or 132.5 Yds. Gudum Cheruvu Village, Situated at Gudum Cheruvu Village, Rajeev Nagar Colony, in ward No. 10, Gudum Cheruvu Panchayath, Jammalamadugu Mandal, YSR KADAPPA Dist., Jammala madugu, RD GUDUMCHERUVU, CUDAPPAN ANDHRA PRADESH, Pin: 516434, EAST- Joint wall and House of C. Venkata Subbiah, WEST- Rastha, SOUTH- Joint wall and House of C. Venkata Subbiah, NORTH-Rastha	11-01-2025 & Rs. 882140/-	16-04-2026

Place: KADAPPA, **Date:** 21-04-2026 **Sd/- Authorized Officer, Manappuram Home Finance Ltd.**

CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA APPOINTS SHRI PICHAYYA AS ZONAL HEAD OF HYDERABAD ZONE

Hyderabad: Central Bank of India has announced that Shri Pichayya, General Manager, has officially assumed charge as the Zonal Head of the bank's Hyderabad Zone. The zone encompasses seven regions spread across three states - Telangana, Karnataka, and Hyderabad (as a distinct operational area within the bank's zonal structure).



Shri Pichayya joined the bank on December 9, 1993, as a Clerk. With over three decades of experience in diverse areas of banking, he brings a wealth of expertise to his new role. He has previously served as Regional Head in Chennai, Nagpur, and Kolkata South. Known for his extensive experience in Digital Payments and the Transaction Banking department, Shri Pichayya has also worked at the bank's Central Office before being promoted to

General Manager and subsequently appointed as Zonal Head of Hyderabad. In his present assignment, he will focus on strengthening banking operations across the zone, ensuring alignment with the bank's strategic objectives, and driving growth, efficiency, and digital transformation in the region. His journey from clerk to zonal head stands as a notable example of career progression through dedication and domain expertise within the organization.

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

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

Whereas, The Authorized Officer of the Secured Creditor mentioned herein, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Act), 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s) and the public in general that the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of NHFL has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned against each property. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The borrower(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the NHFL for the amount mentioned below and interest and other charges thereon.

Loan Account Number	Borrower(s) & Property Details	Amount & Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Possession Status
LNCUDLOH-08230034366	1.VENKATA RAMANA BALIPOGU (BORROWER) 2.REDDY RANI BALIPOGU (CO-BORROWER)	Rs. 5,29,135/- (Rupees Five Lakh TwentyNine Thousand One Hundred ThirtyFive Only) DATE: 18-Apr-2025	17-Apr-2026	PHYSICAL POSSESSION

PROPERTY BEARING: ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE PROPERTY BEARING HOUSE NO 2/38 SITUATED 2ND WARD, SUDAMALLA VILLAGE, RAMAPURAM MANDAL, ANNAMAIHAH DISTRICT IN SY.NO 391/5 PYKI ADMEASURING 190 SQ YARDS SITUATED IN SUDDAMALLA VILLAGE, RAMAPURAM MANDAL, ANNAMAIHAH DISTRICT.A.P THE FOLLOWING BOUNDARIES ARE EAST: ROAD, WEST: HOUSE AND SITE OF M.NAGAMALLAIAH, NORTH- HOUSE OF RAMA CHANDRAPU KRISHNAIAH, SOUTH-HOUSE OF BALIPOGU NAGABHUSHANAM

LNCUDLAP-12220027825	1.SHANKARA DERANGULA 2.NAGARATNA DERANGULA	Rs. 4,96,710/- (Rupees Four Lakh Ninety Six Thousand Seven Hundred Ten Only) DATE: 13-Mar-2025	17-Apr-2026	PHYSICAL POSSESSION
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PROPERTY BEARING: ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROPERTY BEARING HOUSE NO 2/6/A SITUATED IN 2ND WARD RACHAPALLI VILLAGE, RAMAPURAM MANDAL, ANNAMAIHAH DISTRICT IN SY.NOS 436-1 & 436-7, ADMEASURING 421.33 SQ YARDS SITUATED IN RACHAPALLI VILLAGE, RAMAPURAM MANDAL ANNAMAIHAH DISTRICT, A.P THE FOLLOWING BOUNDARIES ARE EAST: ROAD, WEST: SITE OF CHAMARTHI RAMANAMMA, NORTH: HOUSE OF NAGAMUNI, SOUTH: ROAD, MEASUREMENT - ON EAST-WEST SIDE-30.5 FEET OR 9.30 METERS, ON NORTH-SOUTH SIDE 25 FEET OR 7.62 METERS TOTAL AREA 421.33 SQ YARDS

Date: 21-04-2026 **Place:** Andhra Pradesh **Sd/- Authorized Officer, NIWAS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED**

KL University Entrance Results Out; Counselling from April 26-30

Visakhapatnam: KL University has released the results of its national entrance examination for admissions into engineering and various other courses at its Vijayawada and Hyderabad campuses. The results were announced on Monday by State Assembly Speaker C.H. Ayyanna Patrudu at Novotel Hotel in Visakhapatnam. Speaking on the occasion, the Speaker appreciated the university's merit-based admission system and congratulated students who secured national-level ranks.

Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd.

Corporate Office: Unit No. 19-NE, 19th Floor, The Ruby, Senapati Bapat Marg, Near Ruparel College, Dadar (West), Mumbai, Maharashtra- 400 028

POSSESSION NOTICE (As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd. (MHIL) under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorized Officer of the company to the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd. for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Loan Account No./Branch	Brief details of secured assets	Date of Demand Notice & Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.)	Possession Taken Date
1.	Dande Kallappa/ D Venkatamma/ 071-07100193 & ANA-NHL-000261/ Anantapur	S.No:2659, Plot No:61 D.No:5-156,5th Road Near Saibaba Temple, Anantapuramu Municipal Corporation, Anantapuramu Dist, Andhra Pradesh- 515004, N-25 Wide Road, South-Door No-5-114 of M Radha, East-House No.5-155, West-Plot No.60 House of Ramappa	20-Jan-25/ Rs. 11,67,010/- Rupees Eleven Lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Ten Only & Rs. 6,78,108/-Rupees Six Lakh Seventy Eight Thousand One Hundred Eight Only.	08-04-2026

Date: April 21, 2026 **Place:** Anantapuramu **Sd/- Authorized Officer, Muthoot Homefin (India) Limited**

HINDUJA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

Registered office at 27-A, Developed Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, Tamil Nadu. E-mail: auction@hindujahousingfinance.com

APPENDIX- IV A [SEE PROVISIO TO RULE 8 (6)]

Public Notice For E-Auction Cum Sale (Appendix - IV A) (Rule 8(6))

Sale of Immovable property mortgaged to Hinduja Housing Finance Limited (HHF) having its Corporate Office at 167-169, 2ND Floor, Little Mount, Saidapet, Chennai - 600 015, and Regional Office at- Hinduja Housing Finance Limited- Door No. 54-16-3/1, 3rd Floor, Central Excise Colony, Rajahmundry, Near Loyala College Main Gate, Vijayawada - 520006 under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter "Act"). Whereas the Authorized Officer (AO) of HHF has taken the possession of the following property pursuant to the notice issued U/S 13(2) of the Act in the following loan accounts/prospect nos. with a right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS & AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" based on the dates mentioned below for realization of the amount due to the Secured Creditor from the borrowers and guarantors. The sale will be done by the Authorized Officer through e-auction platform provided at the website: www.banksauctions.com

DATE OF INSPECTION OF PROPERTY: 20-05-2026 - 1100 HRS -14 HRS | EMD LAST DATE: 26-05-2026 TILL 5 PM. DATE/ TIME OF E-AUCTION: 27-05-2026 - 1100 HRS-1300 HRS. | BID INCREASE AMOUNT: RS. 10,000/-

Borrower(s) /Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Date of Physical Possession: 11-04-2026	Reserve Price	Total Outstanding
1. Mr. Balaji Chinthappa Borrower 2. Mrs. Nagalakshmi Chinthappa/ Co-Borrower R/o. D.No. 10-2-8/2, Chiranganipalem Village, Bhimavaram Mandal, West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh - 534201. Loan No. AP/VWD/ELRU/A00000221.	Demand Notice Date and Amount: 24-04-2025 Rs. 13,58,656/-	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs. 1,64,970/-	As On Date 13-04-2026 Rs. 15,29,824/-

Description of the Immovable property/ Secured Asset: West Godavari District, Gunupudi Sub District, Palakonda Mandal, Vissakeroi Gram Panchayat Area, Vissakeroi Village, in R.S. No. 351/2, an extent of 108.6 sq.yds of site along with RCC Daba House is being bounded by: D.No 6-128 East: Nalli Raja Rao site, South: Joint Way, West: Dundi Joshi site, North: Arappalli Pala Rao site.

Borrower(s) /Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Date of Physical Possession: 28-02-2026	Reserve Price	Total Outstanding
1. Mr. Durga Mallikharajuna Rao Peddappu Borrower 2. Mrs. Padmavathi Peddappu Co-Borrower D.No:5-58, Sivayangam veedhi, Padi meeda, kalla, west godavari dist, Bhimavaram, Andhra Pradesh - 534237. Loan No. AP/VWD/ELRU/A00000108.	Demand Notice Date and Amount: 23-06-2025 Rs. 13,34,410/-	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs. 1,60,450/-	As On Date 02-03-2026 Rs. 14,75,395

Description of the Immovable property/ Secured Asset: All that the land and R.C.C. Building consisting Ground and First Floor constructing in an extent of 60 Sq. Yards or 50.15 Sq. Mts situated in R.S. No. 155/1, Door No. 5-58, Asst No. 98, Kalla gram Panchayat area, Kala village, Kalla Mandal, SRD Akividu, West Godavari District along with all easementary rights being bounded by: East: Site belongs to Ganti Ganegaiah - 47 links; South:Panchayat Road-27 links; West: Joint Passage - 45 links; North:Property belongs to Ganti Polaiiah and others- 27 links.

Borrower(s) /Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Date of Physical Possession: 13-03-2026	Reserve Price	Total Outstanding
1. Mrs. Meri Kumari Yalla Borrower 2. Mr. Venkateswara Rao Yalla Co-Borrower D.No:18-11-21, Baduguvai Veedhi, Chinnna Peta, Bhimavaram Ward-23, West Godavari District, A.P - 534201. Loan No. AP/VWD/ELRU/A00000077.	Demand Notice Date and Amount: 12-06-2025 Rs. 39,29,765/-	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs. 6,58,845/-	As On Date 16-03-2026 Rs. 42,52,253/-

Description of the Immovable property/ Secured Asset: All that the land and R.C.C. Building in an extent of 352.2 Sq Yards or 206.1 Sq Mts bearing D.No. 19-7-13 Asst No. 107/15008 situated in R.S. No. 489/15, Door No. 18-17-3, Bhimavaram Municipal area, Bhimavaram Taluk, Bhimavaram SRD, West Godavari District, along with all easementary rights, being bounded by: East: ACC roofed house belongs to Dagarapu Subbarao and Road, South: ACC roofed shed house belongs to vaddi Pallamma, West: Others Building, North: Andros Building in which a total 354.2 sq.yds or 206.1 Sq.mts of site with RCC building

Borrower(s) /Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Date of Physical Possession: 31-03-2026	Reserve Price	Total Outstanding
1. Mr. Murali Mohan Katuru Borrower 2. Mrs. Kondeti Anura Kumari Co-Borrower, D.No: 1-72, R.S.No. 89/2, Tadepalli, Chaltapalli, Ghantasala Mandal, Krishna A.P- 521132. Loan No. AP/VWD/GDVD/A00000225	Demand Notice Date and Amount: 19-03-2025 Rs. 6,15,013/-	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs. 26,078/-	As On Date 16-05,013/-

Description of the Immovable property/ Secured Asset: Krishna District, Movva Sub-Registrar Office Limits, Ghantasala Mandal, Tadepalli Gram Panchayat, Tadepalli Village, R. Survey No: 89/2A, Door No: 1-72, Assessment Admeasuring an extent of 242.00 Sq. Yds. or R.C.C. Daba, A.C.C. L & B, A.C.C. Shed along with being bounded and measured by: North: Site of Kondeti Manikyang, South: Site of Kolluri Pothuraja, East: Site of Komukurri Srinivasa Rao, West: Panchayathi Road

Borrower(s) /Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Date of Physical Possession: 25-01-2023	Reserve Price	Total Outstanding
1. Mr. Prasad Chinthappa pudi Borrower 2. Mrs. Sarojini CH. Co-Borrower, D.No: 44-55/4, Beerappa Nagar, Jagathgirigutta, Outubullapur, Rangareddy, Hyderabad-500037. Loan No. AP/VWD/BENZ/A00000120	Demand Notice Date and Amount: 25-01-2023 Rs. 41,49,829/-	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs. 9,09,531/-	As On Date 20-04-2026 Rs. 43,13,312/-

Description of the Immovable property/ Secured Asset: All that Piece and Parcel of the Property situated at R.S.No.67/1C,D.No.26-14-7 Tanuku Sub Division, Tanuku Mandal & Municipality, SRD, Tanuku West Godavari District, an extent of 102.3 Sq. Yds. or 85.53 Sq.mts within the limits of SRD Tanuku, West Godavari District being bounded by: East: Passage leads to Smt. Devadasu Esteru Rani, South: Passage leads to Smt. Devadasu Esteru Rani West: Land belongs to Karumuri Naga Chintharao, North: Municipality Road

Borrower(s) /Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Date of Physical Possession: 05-02-2026	Reserve Price	Total Outstanding
1. Mr. Rajah Abdul Borrower 2. Mrs. Parvin Abdul Co-Borrower, D.No: 3-1-6, Ramarajapur, Cheruvu Sireesha Co-Borrower, D.No: 3-1-6, Ramarajapur, Cheruvu Centre, Vindayapuram, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, India - 520013. Loan No. AP/VWD/BENT/A000001049	Demand Notice Date and Amount: 06-11-2025 Rs. 41,28,133/-	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs. 5,29,162/-	As On Date 20-04-2026 Rs. 44,52,178/-

Description of the Immovable property/ Secured Asset: Property an extent of 168.07 Sq. Yards residential Site along with Constructions there in bearing D.No. 11-241D, Situated at R.S.No.90/2, 2] Pag 64/1 of Mangalajayee Village, Mangalajayee Municipal Area, Mangalajayee Sub District, Guntur District being bounded by: East: Property belongs to Dasari Rajaji, Dasari Ramesh, South: Property belongs to Dasari Jayarao, West: Feet Vaddi Own Path Way, North: Property belongs to Dasari Aditya.

Borrower(s) /Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Date of Physical Possession: 09-04-2026	Reserve Price	Total Outstanding
1. Mr. Vaddipati Harikrishna Borrower 2. Mrs. Narayana Vaddipati Co-Borrower, D.No: 18-12-5, Near Futurepath High School, 6th Line, Ammavoddi Kotta, Kedareswarapeta, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, India - 520003. Loan No. AP/VWD/BT/A00000288	Demand Notice Date and Amount: 09-12-2025 Rs. 17,28,832/-	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs. 1,88,880/-	As On Date 20-04-2026 Rs. 18,76,471/-

Description of the Immovable property/ Secured Asset: SCHEDULE-B ITEM 1 (50 SQ. YARDS) Property an extent of 50 Sq. Yards along with constructions therein bearing D.No. 17-22-17, Assessment No. 102809601, situated at TS.No.179/2 of Tenali Municipal Survey 7th Ward, 5th Block, Tenali Town, Salpeta, Hindu Muslim Road, Tenali Sub Registrar District, Guntur District being bounded by: East: Compound Wall belongs to Gaddam Pinnamma, South: Way, Site belongs to Pasm Ramanna Others Site, West: House Site belongs to Athalur Raghavara, North: Property belongs to Banala Vateswarulu and Others, Property an extent of UDS 3 Sq. Yards out of 6 Sq. Yards Site Way therein bearing Door No. 17-22-17, Assessment No. 102809601, situated at TS.No.179/2 of Tenali Municipal Survey 7th Ward, 5th Block, Tenali Town, Salpeta, Hindu Muslim Road, Tenali Sub Registrar District, Guntur District being bounded by: East: Property belongs to Gaddam Pinnamma, South: Way, West: Property belongs to Pasm Ramanna, North: 1st Item Property, ITEM 3 (3 SQ. YARDS) Property an extent of UDS 3 Sq. Yards out of 6 Sq. Yards Site Way therein bearing Door No. 17-22-17, Assessment No. 102809601, situated at TS.No. 179/2 of Tenali Municipal Survey 7th Ward, 5th Block, Tenali Town, Salpeta, Hindu Muslim Road, Tenali Sub Registrar District, Guntur District being bounded by: East: Municipal Bazar, South: Others Property, West: Way between Chennuru Venkateswarulu and Others, North: 2nd Item Property, Property belongs to Pasm Ramanna, Compound Wall belongs to Gaddam Pinnamma, ITEM 1 (50 SQ. YARDS) + ITEM 2 (3 SQ. YARDS) + ITEM 3 (3 SQ. YARDS) A TOTAL EXTENT OF 56 SQ YARDS

MODE OF PAYMENT: ALL BIDDERS SHALL BE REQUIRED TO DEPOSIT THE FOLLOWING:

"HINDUJA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED" PAYABLE AT VIJAYAWADA OR THROUGH RTGS/NEFT.

Special Instructions / Caution: Bidding in the last minutes/seconds should be avoided by the bidders in their own interest. Neither Hinduja Housing Finance Limited nor the Service Provider will be responsible for any lapses/failure (Internet failure, Power failure, etc.) on the part of the bidder in such cases. In order to ward off such contingent situation, bidders are requested to make all the necessary arrangements / alternatives such as back-up power supply and whatever else required so that they are able to circumvent such situation and are able to participate in the auction successfully.

TERMS & CONDITIONS OF ONLINE E-AUCTION SALE:- 1. The Property is being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS, WHATEVER THERE & WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS". As such sale is without any kind of warranties & indemnities. 2. Particulars of the property / assets (viz. extent & measurements specified in the E-Auction Sale Notice has been stated to the best of information of the Secured Creditor and Secured Creditor shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission. Actual extent & dimensions may differ. 3. E-Auction Sale Notice issued by the Secured Creditor is an invitation to the general public to submit their bids and the same does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or representation on the part of the Secured Creditor. Interested bidders are advised to peruse the copies of title deeds with the Secured Creditor and to conduct own independent enquiries (due diligence) about the title & present condition of the property / assets and claims / dues affecting the property before submission of bids. 4. Auction/bidding shall only be through "online electronic mode" through the website https://www.banksauctions.com Or Auction provided by the service provider M/s C1 India Private Limited, who shall arrange & coordinate the entire process of auction through the e-auction platform. 5. The bidders may participate in e-auction for bidding from their place of choice. Internet connectivity shall have to be ensured by bidder himself. Secured Creditor/ Service provider shall not be held responsible for the internet connectivity, network problems, system crash own, power failure etc. 6. For details, file, procedure and online bidding on e-auction prospective bidders may contact the Service Provider M/S C1 India Pvt. Ltd. Plot No- 68, 3rd floor Sector 44 Gurgaon Haryana -122003 (Contact no. 7291981124,25,26 |Support Email - Support@banksauctions.com , Mr. P.Dharani Krishna Mob. 9948182222, Email: andhra@c1india.com. 7. For participating in the e-auction sale the intending bidders should register their name at https://www.banksauctions.com in advance and shall get the user id and password. Intending bidders are advised to change only the password immediately upon receiving it from the service provider. 8. For participating in e-auction, intending bidders have to deposit a refundable EMD of 10% OF RESERVE PRICE (as mentioned above) shall be payable by interested bidders through Demand Draft/NEFT/RTGS in favour of "Hinduja Housing Finance Limited" on or before 26-05-2026. 9. The intending bidders should submit the duly filled in Bid Form (format available on https://www.banksauctions.com) along with the Demand Draft remittance towards EMD in a sealed cover addressed to the Authorized Officer Hinduja Housing Finance Limited, Regional Office Door No. 54-16-3/1, 3rd Floor, Central Excise Colony, Road No.1, Near Loyala College, Main Gate, Vijayawada, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh-520008 latest by 05:00 PM on 26-05-2026. The sealed cover should be super scribed with "Bid for participating in E-Auction Sale- in the Loan Account Nos. (as mentioned above) for property of (as mentioned above) 10. After expiry of the last date of submission of bids with EMD, Authorized Officer shall examine the bids received by him and confirm the details of the qualified bidders (who have quoted their bids over and above the reserve price and paid the specified EMD with the Secured Creditor) to the service provider M/S. C1 India Private Limited to enable them to allow only those bidders to participate in the online inter-se bidding / auction proceedings at the date and time mentioned in E-Auction Sale Notice. 11. Inter-se bidding among the qualified bidders shall start from the highest bid quoted by the qualified bidders. During the process of inter-se bidding, there will be unlimited extension of "10" minutes each, i.e. the end time of e-auction shall be automatically extended by 10 Minutes each time if bid is made within 10 minutes from the last extension. 12. Bids once made shall not be cancelled or withdrawn. All bids made from the user id given to bidder will be deemed to have been made by him alone. 13. Immediately upon closure of E-Auction proceedings,

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NAIDU'S BIRTHDAY MARKED BY STATEWIDE FREE MEAL DRIVE; Rs.76 Lakh Donation Feeds Thousands at Anna Canteens



He also appreciated the role of ISKCON Foundation for supplying nutritious and tasty food through a centralized kitchen system. The Chief Minister noted that while 269 Anna Canteens are currently operational, 62 were recently inaugurated and five more are ready to be launched soon. Praising his wife's gesture, Naidu said her donation set an inspiring example, calling Annadanam (food donation) the most sacred form of charity. He urged citizens to voluntarily contribute—whether for a meal or a day—to support the initiative and transform it into a people's movement. "No one in the state should go hungry. Andhra Pradesh has always been an 'Annapurna'—a state that feeds the nation," he said, adding that the government seeks public participation not out of compulsion, but to build a culture of compassion. He also linked the initiative to the P4 model, encouraging the top 10% of society to support the bottom 20%, thereby reducing economic disparities and strengthening democracy. Reflecting on past policies, Naidu criticized the previous administration for shutting down Anna Canteens, questioning their approach toward welfare. "If feeding the poor was opposed, people must reflect on such governance," he remarked. Concluding his address, the Chief Minister expressed deep satisfaction at seeing the happiness of beneficiaries and reiterated his vision.

had breakfast. During the visit, Naidu interacted with locals and enquired about the implementation and effectiveness of government welfare schemes. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister emphasized that Anna Canteens were established to ensure access to hygienic and dignified meals for the underprivileged. He expressed satisfaction over the cleanliness and management of the Patamata canteen and highlighted that people can access quality food at just Rs.5. Naidu pointed out that daily wage workers, auto drivers, and the urban poor often spend up to Rs.100 for a meal outside, making subsidized canteens a vital support system.

Amaravati/Vijayawada: (TSIT) The birthday of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu was celebrated with great enthusiasm across the state on Monday, with a major focus on welfare initiatives benefiting the poor. On the occasion, his wife Nara Bhuvaneshwari donated Rs.76 lakh to cover the operational expenses of Anna Canteens for a day. As a result, free meals were served in all 269 Anna Canteens across Andhra Pradesh, providing relief to thousands of beneficiaries. The Chief Minister, along with his wife, visited the Patamata Anna Canteen in Vijayawada, where they personally

DINAKAR BACKS CENTRE'S BILLS ON WOMEN'S RESERVATION AND DELIMITATION, SLAMS OPPOSITION



Amaravati: Lanka Dinakar, Chairman for the implementation of the Twenty-Point Programme (Viksit Bharat - Swarna Andhra Pradesh), has expressed gratitude to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for supporting the bills introduced by the Central Government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He stated that these measures aim to safeguard the interests of Andhra Pradesh and southern India in matters of women's reservation and delimitation. Addressing a press conference, Dinakar criticized the Congress-led INDIA alliance, alleging that its conduct in the Lok Sabha obstructed women's empowerment and harmed SC, ST, BC, and other communities. He accused the opposition of resisting proposals such as a 50% increase in Lok Sabha seats, which, he said, would ensure fair representation without reducing any state's share. Dinakar warned that conducting delimitation based on the 2011 or 2026 census could adversely impact southern states. He asserted that the Centre's proposal to expand Lok Sabha seats from 543 to 813 would maintain proportional representation while enabling the implementation of women's reservation. He further stated that delays in delimitation and opposition to reforms could deprive women of increased parliamentary representation. Emphasizing long-term governance, Dinakar said the Centre's approach balances population changes with equitable political representation across regions.

Daily Rituals at Swarnagiri

Yadadi Bhongir TSIT: At the divine shrine of Swarnagiri, the temple priests reverently performed the "Suprabhata Seva" (morning awakening service) for Lord Sri Venkateswara—the visible deity of the Kali Yuga—during the early hours of the morning. Subsequently, within the temple precincts, the "Sahasranamarchana" (worship with a thousand divine names) and the "Sri Sudarshana Narasimha Havanam" were conducted. Furthermore, at the "Srivari Vaibhavotsava Mandapam", the daily "Kalyana Mahotsavam" (celestial wedding ceremony) of the Lord was celebrated with great pomp and grandeur, accompanied by the chanting of Vedic mantras and auspicious musical notes.

Grand Celebrations Mark CM Naidu's 76th Birthday



at the Ashajyothi Handicapped Welfare Society under the leadership of Vijay Dairy Chairman Chalasani Anjaneyulu. The celebrations were conducted in a grand manner, reflecting admiration and respect for the Chief Minister. As part of the program, a cake was cut and sweets were distributed among the attendees. Organizers also extended support and encouragement to differently-abled individuals and orphaned children.

Advertisement for Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. featuring a table of mortgage notices. The table includes columns for S.N., Borrower(s)/Loan A/c No., Demand Date & Amount, and Mortgage Property Description. It lists various property details, including location, area, and mortgage terms, for multiple borrowers across different regions.

Advertisement for BAJAJ FINANCE LIMITED. It includes the company logo, registered office address, and a detailed 'POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)' under Section 13(2) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. The notice describes the terms of a loan and the consequences of default.

Advertisement for HINDUJA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED. It features the company logo and a 'PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION CUM SALE (APPENDIX - IV A) (RULE 8(1))'. The notice details the terms and conditions for the auction of an immovable property, including the location, area, and the process of bidding.

EDITORIAL

Lights, Camera, Sarkar

The neon-lit history of Tamil Nadu politics isn't written in ink; it is etched in celluloid and projected at 24 frames per second. The silver screen has never been just entertainment. It has been the primary incubator for political power for over 50 years. The celluloid screen is where a man's mythology is manufactured before it is tested at the ballot box. The journey from reel life to real life, from the cinema hall to the secretariat is the climactic career arc. Joseph Vijay Chandrasekhar, "Thalapathy," the Commander is the newest debutante switching roles as the state heads to the polls on April 23, 2026. Public attention will measure his bid to be a real-life Jana Nayagan; this is Vijay's riskiest production. It is moot whether Vijay is the new Enga Veettu Pillai the state has yearned for or another Puli whose roar fades after the show.

History is replete with many film stars aspiring to aspire. Does Vijay have it? The gold standard for the transition from films to politics is MGR - the celluloid giant who turned films into a political laboratory. MG Ramachandran - MGR, Makkal Thilagam, "Darling of the People" evangelised as he acted. The films, the script and the dialogues were verily aspiration wrapped in ideology, ambition in motion. In Enga Veettu Pillai, he said, "Once I take oath the poor will not suffer," and Tamil Nadu roared in approval. He was the labourer-messiah of the poor in Rickshaw Karan, the wandering king of Nadodi Manan who delivered justice - a manifesto disguised in a double role. He was always the sub-altern avatar, the mama's boy, the lady's saviour. By the time he completed his two-decade internship in the DMK, he was ready to step out of the reels and into real life. He and his 80,000 fan clubs wrote a new script in 1972 forming the AIADMK.

His protege, Jayalalitha, learnt at his feet and rose from his leading lady to propaganda secretary to heir-at-large. Jayalalitha leveraged resilience from Adimai Penn, to survive a brutal and public inheritance battle after MGR's death. Her rise is an all-time masterclass on capitalising opportunity in grief. Her grasp of politics and gravitas in administration enabled her to take the seat of chief minister five times. Every welfare idea of hers - Amma canteen or Amma medicine - is a legend and has been dubbed in other states. Vijayakanth, "Captain," had political acumen and challenged the status quo. Displaying innate screen sense he arrived at his party's launch in MGR's old van, positioning himself as the dark-skinned avatar of MGR. He had done the tutorials, paid obeisance to mass misery. Ramanaa, Rajadhi Raja portrayed the patriotic, anti-corruption hero who takes on a broken system with bare hands. In real life he had the potential to disrupt the duopoly of DMK-ADMK but his party, the DMDK which won 29 seats in 2011 lacked the cadre and organisation to leverage his halo.

The lesson from history is clear: the screen character must morph into the street character, bleed and blend into the landscape and yet retain the messianic presence. The transition is not easy nor is it automatic. For years folks would quote Rajnikanth "Naan late-aa vandhalum, latest-aa varuvein". (Even if I come late, I will come as the latest) from his hit Baba to argue, insist that the mega star would join politics and that hope has faded with the credits.

Like Rajnikanth aka Shivaji Gaekwad, Vijay has been auditioning for the role, seen with folks from the national parties and strategists of the regional parties. The superstar brings with him an arsenal none of his predecessors could imagine. Vijay arrives with an army of Gen Z (and a chunk of millennial fans) who have watched and whistled as he broke systems on screen. Unlike Kamal Hassan, whose appeal was limited to the cerebral types, Vijay straddles mass not class, rural and urban appeal. However, he has rarely been heard before his debut this year to speak on issues or take a stand. Vijay and his team would like the voters to believe that he has spoken through his films. Mersal attacked GST and healthcare inequity, and the outrage only made it more popular. Sarkar mobilised the "common man" against dynastic corruption; its hero returns NRI wealth and demands accountability. Master played an idealist inside a broken institution and asked whether a flawed man could still be the right man. Kaththi was an agrarian crisis wrapped in a mass entertainer. Bigil used women's football as a metaphor for collective dignity against caste and entitlement. There is a clear attempt, at least in the titles, to forge a broad coalition. Vijay consciously promoted the concept of whistle revolution, egging folks to blow the whistle on wrongdoing, a kind of vigilante reformer through his films, for some time before he put up the first posters and founded the TVK. His party shadow-market and tested his ideas; his fan clubs won over a hundred seats in local body polls. If private polls are to be believed Vijay and the TVK are a draw among the 30 to 45 age band, those who have voted for and experienced both Dravidian parties and who ostensibly are looking for a third alternative. The fact that his draw survives his and his party's missteps - including the stampede in Karur - is a worry for both the AIADMK and DMK fronts. Typical of Tamil Nadu assessments of Vijay's prospects are tags based on his hit or flop films; it ranges from being tagged as the next Prashant Kishore-led Jan Suraj to a super disrupter like Vijayakanth and DMDK. Pollsters are divided on who the TVK will damage more - the anti-incumbency votes which AIADMK is wooing or the minority and youth votes DMK is betting on.

Vijay is challenged by a gap on his CV which cannot be upskilled - the lack of an active internship and the absence of an ideological north star is a glaring vulnerability. MGR had Dravidian foundationalism as his political DNA. Jayalalitha apprenticed under MGR for over a decade before she bid for and seized the throne. Vijayakanth confronted and then collaborated with the Dravidian parties, Kamal Hasan tried the lateral entry. Vijay is attempting to crash through the barricades. He has played footsie with the Congress during the GST drama, then with the AIADMK folks and again with Congress. In Tamil Nadu, politicians cannot wait for the dialogue to be written when confronted with questions such as Cauvery waters or imposition of Hindi. His positioning, secular social justice, may offend nobody but could end up inspiring none either given the hard binaries holding Tamil Nadu politics.

Pakistan's Ever-Running Saudi 'Lifeline' Has Its Limits

Pakistan's announcement of Saudi Arabia extending a fresh financial aid of an additional USD 3 billion is being framed as a geopolitical achievement, and with good reason. The funds arrived with a decision to extend an existing USD 5 billion deposit for an expanded term, thus replacing the annual rollover arrangement. The breakthrough reportedly followed a series of high-level engagements, including a meeting between Pakistan's Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, the governor of the State Bank, Pakistan's envoy to the US, and Saudi Arabia's foreign minister on the sidelines of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank Spring Meetings in Washington. The loan is expected to help Pakistan achieve its target of taking its reserves to USD 18 billion by the end of the fiscal year.

THE TIMING

The Pakistani minister acknowledged that the financial aid came at a critical juncture for Pakistan's external financial requirements, as it will reinforce foreign exchange reserves and support external accounts. This also comes amid strict obligations under the current International Monetary Fund (IMF)-supported loan programme. The announcement comes at a time when Pakistan was due to repay a total of USD 3.5 billion in debt to the UAE by the end of April, after the Gulf nation ended its rollover support; Pakistan's reserves stood at USD 16.4 billion as of March 27. In January, while addressing exporters and businessmen in Islamabad,



Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had said, "seeking foreign loans had forced Pakistan to 'bow' its head and make compromises at the cost of self-respect". "How should I describe the way we requested loans from friendly countries? The friendly countries didn't disappoint us. But the one who goes to seek a loan has their head bowed. When you go seeking loans, you pay the price at the cost of your self-respect... You have to compromise... Sometimes, an undue demand may come up, and you have to implement it even when there is no reason to fulfil it." The timing of the recent announcement is not incidental, with Pakistan's economic

relieve arriving as the country finds itself playing an unusually key role as a mediator in the West Asian conflict between Iran and the US and Israel.

The combination of its Islamic credentials, ties with stakeholders, and Pakistan army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir's cultivation of a personal rapport with US President Donald Trump has opened a space for Pakistan to function as an interlocutor.

MEDIATION FOR PERSONAL GAINS?

While the durable influence of this mediation and its outcome is yet to play out, the optics signal attempts to convert cur-

rent strategic positioning into domestic gains. That said, to treat this announcement as a consequential movement in the longer arc of the Saudi Arabia-Pakistan relationship would be short-sighted.

Historically, Pakistan has served as a security partner to Saudi Arabia in return for the Kingdom's financial assistance in times of acute balance-of-payments situations. For instance, Pakistan stationed approximately 10,000 Pakistani troops in Saudi Arabia in return for USD 1 billion in economic aid. Saudi Arabia further offered concessional loans to Pakistan to fortify its military in the late 1970s. The immediate gains

for Pakistan are clear. Saudi Arabia's recent support acts as a short-term stabiliser for an economically fragile Pakistan. It further reinforces Pakistan's standing as a state that retains strategic relevance despite internal weaknesses. Internationally, Pakistan is punching above its economic weight by leveraging its strategic assets to compensate for its structural issues.

THE RENTIER MODEL

That said, Pakistan's utility as a security provider to Saudi Arabia as an interlocutor in the West Asian conflict will not translate into long-term resilience. The vicious cycle of external dependence, with

recurring financial inflows rather than facilitating structural reforms, is unlikely to alter Pakistan's deep-rooted reality. However, this will not prevent Pakistan's significance from diminishing for Saudi Arabia, especially amid insecurities among the Gulf countries towards the US's ability to provide security guarantees.

Pakistan's geostrategic location and its rentier state model have worked favourably. Added to this is its status as the Muslim world's only nuclear power and religious linkages. Additionally, its significant labour force also remains crucial to Gulf economies.

While security and economic relationships have historically persisted, tectonic shifts in the geopolitical landscape will sustain a gap between what Pakistan seeks from its Gulf partners and their willingness to offer it in an interest-driven foreign policy environment. In the context of Pakistan's dispute with India, Saudi Arabia is unlikely to take a partisan stand on the Kashmir conflict - this was seen in the Kingdom's mediatory role in the recent Pakistan-Taliban conflict

STUCK IN A LOOP

As such, the latest development is less of a transformative moment and more a continuation of an established system. It highlights Pakistan's sustained relevance in West Asia; it also underscores structural shortcomings of its financial, governance, and bureaucratic infrastructure. Even as the country gains geopolitical momentum, its economic weaknesses will limit its strategic potential.

What Data Can See, And What It Cannot, In Children's Lives



Across education systems today, data plays an increasingly central role in decision-making. It helps governments track progress, identify gaps, allocate resources, and strengthen programmes at scale. Used thoughtfully, data can illuminate patterns that would otherwise remain invisible. It can support accountability and improve outcomes for millions of children. But there is a distinction we must hold carefully. Data can show us trends. It cannot show us a whole child. This matters because children's development does not unfold in neat, linear ways. It moves through bursts, pauses, regressions, leaps, and moments that resist measurement altogether. A child may appear disengaged in one environment and deeply curious in another. A learner marked "behind" in one metric may be thriving in ways that the metric does not capture. When systems rely heavily on measurable indicators, they inevitably privilege what can be counted. Attendance, completion rates, assessment scores, timelines. These are important. But they are not complete descriptions of learning or development. They do

not tell us whether a child feels safe. They do not reveal whether curiosity is growing. They cannot capture the tone of a caregiver's voice or the steadiness of an adult's presence. One example shared in a recent discussion illustrates this clearly. A child was assumed to be struggling with colouring tasks. Only later did a caregiver notice that the child disliked the sensation of paint on their hands. The issue was not ability. It was sensory experience. No dashboard would have detected that without an adult paying close attention and interpreting what they saw. This is where human judgment remains indispensable. Monitoring systems are powerful tools. They can strengthen delivery and reveal where support is needed. But they should not be asked to do what they are not designed to do. When data is treated as a complete picture rather than a partial one, it can lead to premature conclusions, especially when applied early in a child's life. Labels assigned too quickly, "not ready," "delayed," "behind", can follow children in ways that shape expectations long before their capacities have had time to unfold.

4 suicides at National Institute of Technology Kurukshetra

(Why are students breaking up?)



DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

Prestigious Indian technical education institutions, once known as "dream factories," are now becoming factories of mental stress for many young people. The suicides of four students within just two months at the National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra, Haryana, have shocked the entire nation. This is not just the end of four lives, but the failure of a system that is destroying talent instead of nurturing it. These incidents, which occurred between February and April 2026, are not isolated incidents but indicate a dangerous chain—one incident follows another, as despair spreads from one person to the next. Diksha Dubey's suicide note—"I could not achieve anything"—is not just the anguish of one student, but a reflection of a mindset in which achieving something has become the ultimate goal of life. In India, exams like JEE Mains and JEE Advanced have long been considered the key to success. Millions of students work tirelessly for years to crack these exams and gain admission to institutions like the National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra. But ironically, admission to an institution, considered a life's greatest achievement, becomes a battleground for many students. Once there, students must not only excel academically but also face the pressure of proving themselves on every front. The 75% attendance rule, constant assignments and proj-



ects, the stress of semester exams, and the uncertainty of placements—all of these add up to an invisible but heavy burden on students' minds. This pressure isn't just academic, but also psychological and social. When a student who has been at the top of their school or coaching class suddenly finds themselves among hundreds of talented students, their self-image is affected. Where they once considered themselves "the best," they now feel "average" or, at times, "weak." This change is mentally very difficult for many students. They are unable to accept their failures and gradually become victims of self-doubt and inferiority complex. The role of the family is also crucial in this entire crisis. In Indian society, education is linked to social prestige. Parents have high expectations for their children, and this expectation often inadvertently turns into pressure. National Crime Records Bureau data shows that family pressure is a major factor in suicides among youth. This pressure is especially acute

for students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Their parents spend a significant portion of their limited income on their education and expect success in return. Therefore, if a student fails to perform as expected for any reason, they feel they have let down not only themselves but their entire family. Social media has further complicated this situation. Today's youth are constantly surrounded by glimpses of others' "success" and "happy lives." The glitz and glamour displayed on Instagram, YouTube, and other platforms creates a world far removed from reality. However, students begin to compare themselves to others, believing it to be real. When they feel they fall short of this "ideal life," dissatisfaction and frustration grow within them. French sociologist Emile Durkheim viewed suicide not just as an individual problem, but as a social one. His theory of "anomic suicide" suggests that when societal norms and expectations become unclear or unbalanced, individuals begin to feel isolated. This

same situation is evident in many technical institutions today. Students are placed in an environment where high expectations are placed on them, but they lack adequate emotional or social support. As a result, they begin to break down internally. This problem is even more acute for students from rural backgrounds. They are suddenly thrust into an environment where the language, lifestyle, and social behavior are all different. They find it difficult to connect with those around them. This isolation gradually turns into loneliness, and loneliness can become a major threat to mental health. Many students are unable to share their problems with anyone because they feel that doing so is a sign of weakness. For female students, this struggle occurs on many levels. They have to balance academics with safety, social expectations, and self-reliance. Often, they are made to feel like they have to "prove" themselves, not only as students but also as women. This dual pressure further impacts their mental health.

Oil prices rise after Trump says Iranian ship seized

AGENCY
Tehran: Global oil prices have jumped after US President Donald Trump said its navy had intercepted and seized an Iranian-flagged cargo ship. The Brent crude benchmark oil price jumped 5% to around \$95 (£70) a barrel, reversing the slump on Friday when Iran said the Strait of Hormuz would be "completely open" to commercial vessels for the remainder of the ceasefire. On Saturday, Iran said it was closing the strait again and that any ship that approached it would be targeted. The waterway is of key importance as usually about 20% of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas passes through it. Energy markets have seen wild swings since the US and Israel attacked Iran on 28 February and Tehran responded with threats to target shipping in the strait. Trump has said his representatives will be in Pakistan on Monday for negotiations. A White House official said Vice-President JD Vance would lead the US delegation. But Iran's state media said



Tehran had "no plans for now to participate" in the talks, although Iranian officials have not clarified the country's position yet. "Oil markets continue to gyrate in response to oscillating social media posts by the US and Iran, rather than the realities on the ground which remain challenging for oil flows to resume in a rapid fashion", analyst Saul Kavonic from financial services firm MST Marquee told the BBC. "This is all part of negotiations, physically playing out in real time on the Strait of Hormuz." Shanti Kelemen, co-chief investment officer at Investment Management, said there was "a bit of fatigue" in the market given the "chopping and changing" in the situation. "I think the market stopped believing the words, and will look more towards the actions," she told the BBC. The Strait of Hormuz remained closed on Sunday, a day after the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) said it was ending a temporary reopening over the US blockade, which it said violated the terms of their ceasefire agreement. Iran said it would stay closed until the US ended its naval blockade. Trump had said on Friday that the naval blockade would continue until a deal was agreed by the two countries. Stock markets were mixed on Monday. In

Europe, the FTSE 100 index of the biggest firms listed in the London fell 0.7%, while Germany's Dax and France's Cac 40 were both down more than 1%. However, Asian markets had risen earlier, with Japan's Nikkei index closing up 0.6% and South Korea's Kospi climbing 0.4%. Energy prices have seen volatile trading since the start of the Iran war. Brent crude, a benchmark for oil futures prices, was trading at around \$70 per barrel before the conflict. On 9 March it reached almost \$120. Futures contracts are an agreement to buy or sell assets at a set price on a specified date in the future. The Brent futures contract currently being quoted is for crude oil to be delivered in June. The conflict has triggered a global energy crisis with prices rising sharply, while some countries are facing fuel shortages. Asia has been hit particularly hard as the region relies on shipments that usually pass through the Strait of Hormuz for around 90% of its energy needs.

STOCK MARKET HIGHLIGHTS:

Nifty Ends Little Changed Amid Renewed US-Iran Tensions, Sensex Falls 500 Points From Day's High

AGENCY
Mumbai: Indian equity benchmarks ended little changed after a topsy-turvy trade on Monday amid weak global cues over renewed tensions in the middle east. The NSE Nifty 50 and the BSE Sensex ended marginally higher at 24,364 and 78,520.30 respectively. Tensions between the US and Iran increased after attacks on commercial ships near the Strait of Hormuz. The US said its Navy fired on an Iranian container ship in the Gulf of Oman and later took custody of the vessel after it attempted to cross a naval blockade. The action followed an earlier tanker attack in the Strait of Hormuz, where ships were hit during the weekend. Meanwhile, Crude oil prices climbed on Monday. West Texas Intermediate futures rose nearly 7% to \$89.53 a barrel, while Brent crude gained 6.2% to \$96.05 a barrel. Elsewhere, US index futures traded lower, indicating a weak start for Wall Street. Dow Jones futures fell 358 points, or 0.72%. S&P 500 futures declined 0.58%, while Nasdaq-100 futures slipped 0.53%. Indian benchmark indices ended little changed



after a volatile session on Monday as weak global cues and renewed Middle East tensions kept sentiment cautious. The Nifty 50 closed marginally higher at 24,364, while the Sensex ended at 78,520.30. Markets tracked rising tensions between the US and Iran after attacks on commercial ships near the Strait of Hormuz. Crude prices climbed sharply, with WTI up nearly 7% and Brent gaining 6.2%. US futures also traded lower, pointing to a weak Wall Street start. The Nifty 50 ended lower by over 0.1% and closed below the 24,350 mark. Jio Financial and Hindalco were the top losers in the index, both falling more than 2.25%. Broader markets underperformed the benchmark. Nifty MidCap 150 ended down 0.3%, while Nifty SmallCap 250 fell over 0.5%. PI Industries, Godfrey Phillips, IEX and GMDC were among the key losers. Sectoral trends were mixed. Nifty Media and Nifty PSU Bank rose more than 0.5%, led by Zee Entertainment, Bank of Maharashtra and SBI. Nifty IT was the worst performer, down nearly 1%, with Persistent Systems and Coforge among the top drags. US index futures traded lower, indicating a weak start for Wall Street.

Nestle Dividend Announcement: How Much Shareholders May Receive?

AGENCY
Mumbai: Nestle India's FY26 dividend is estimated at Rs 14.56 per share, according to Bloomberg data. The forecast puts the company's payout in focus after recent years delivered mixed outcomes against Street expectations. The analyst range is wide. Among analysts tracked by Bloomberg, the lowest estimate stands at Rs seven per share, while the highest estimate is Rs 32 per share. During the ongoing financial year, Nestle had already announced an interim dividend of Rs 7 per share. The estimates matter because dividend trends often shape investor expectations on shareholder returns. A payout near the consensus forecast would mark a rise from the Rs 13.5 per share dividend announced for FY25. Dividend Announcements To Watch This Week: Infosys, HCLTech, Oracle Financial Services, IEX Among 57 Stocks — Check Estimates, Potential Yield Mixed Trend Nestle India's



actual dividend announced for FY25 stood at Rs 13.5 per share, marginally above the Bloomberg estimate of Rs 13.26 per share. The company spent Rs 2,458.6 crore on dividends in that year. In FY24, the company announced Rs 7.75 per share against an estimate of Rs 21.28 per share. Dividend spending for the year stood at Rs 1,494.4 crore. Between FY21 and FY24, the dividend announced had marginally missed Bloomberg estimates, based on the data provided. Past Payouts For FY22, Nestle India announced a dividend of Rs 11 per share versus an estimate of Rs 11.1 per share. The amount spent on dividend was Rs 2,024.73 crore. For FY21, the company announced Rs 10 per share against an estimate of Rs 10.18 per share, while divi-

dend outgo stood at Rs 1,928.3 crore. For FY20, Nestle India declared Rs 10 per share compared with an estimate of Rs 9.63 per share. In FY19, it announced Rs 17 per share against an estimate of Rs 10.16 per share, with Rs 5,032.9 crore spent on dividends. Bloomberg estimates data were not available for FY23. The company announced a dividend of Rs 14 per share in that year. Key Watch Investors will track whether Nestle India delivers a payout above consensus, as past years show estimates have not always matched the final dividend. With forecasts ranging from Rs seven to Rs 32 per share, the final announcement could become a key trigger for income-focused shareholders. A dividend near the upper end of estimates would signal a stronger cash return than expected. A payout closer to the lower end could revive questions over how accurately the Street is reading Nestle India's distribution trend.

BANK OF MAHARASHTRA Q4 RESULTS:

Shares Hit Two-Month High As Profit Zooms 35%, Asset Quality Improves

AGENCY
Mumbai: The shares of Bank of Maharashtra rose over 5% on Monday to hit nearly two-month high after it announced its fourth quarter results. However, it pared the gains to trade over 3% higher. The state-owned bank posted 34.9% rise in net profit to Rs 2,014 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2026 with rising interest income. The Pune-based lender had posted a net profit of Rs 1,493 crore in the January-March period a year ago, Bank of Maharashtra said in a regulatory filing. The net interest income—the difference of interest earned and interest paid—for the quarter grew 18.9% to Rs 3,702 crore in the fourth quarter of as against Rs 3,116 crore in the same period of the last fiscal. Bank of Maharashtra's asset quality also improved during the quarter under review, with the gross non-per-



forming assets ratio at 1.45% of gross loans by the end of March 2026 from 1.6% in the previous quarter. In absolute terms, the gross NPA was at Rs 4,245.97 crore from Rs 4,387.79 crore in the previous quarter. The net NPA ratio fell 10 basis points to 0.1% from 0.2% in the preceding quarter. In absolute terms, the net NPA fell to Rs 383.74 crore from Rs 412.29 crore. As a result, the bank's provision and contingencies

declined to Rs 617 crore as against Rs 983 crore in the same period a year ago. At the same time, Net Interest Margin (NIM) of the bank advanced to 3.91% from 3.86%. The bank in addition said that it will raise capital up to Rs 7,500 crore through equity and debt. It will also raise Rs 10,000 crore through long-term Infra Bonds in fiscal 2027.

The bank also plans to raise \$500 million through Foreign Currency bonds in this financial year. Bank of Maharashtra Share Price Today The Bank of Maharashtra shares rose as much as 5.8% to Rs 76.95 apiece, this is the highest level since Feb. 27. However it ended 2.87% higher at Rs 74.82 per share. The shares rose 20.58% year-to-date and 54.59% in the last 12 months. All five analysts tracking the company maintain a 'buy' rating according to Bloomberg data. The average 12-month consensus price target stands at Rs 83.33 indicating an upside of 11.4%.



Fresh Flour at Home, Every Day: SOFTEL Brings Back Traditional Grinding to Modern Kitchens

The aroma of freshly ground atta or spices is more than just food. It is a memory of a time when ingredients were pure, processes were slower, and taste was never compromised. As kitchens evolved for speed and convenience, that experience quietly faded from everyday life. SOFTEL, with over 35 years of manufacturing expertise, is bringing that experience back, redesigned for modern homes. Its compact ghar ghanti makes fresh grinding simple again. Small enough to fit on a kitchen platform yet powerful enough to grind grains, millets, and spices with ease, it brings traditional methods back into daily use without adding complexity. At its core is a stone grinding process that helps retain natural taste, texture, and nutrition. With a grinding capacity of 7.5 to 10 kg per hour and



energy consumption of just one unit per hour, it is built for consistent, everyday performance. To match different household needs, SOFTEL offers three models: Fully Automatic, Semi Automatic, and Manual, giving users the flexibility to choose their level of control and convenience. Managing Director Mr. Anil Kumar Jain shares, "Fresh food is not a luxury, it is the foundation of good health. Grinding fresh is the simplest way to bring purity, nutrition, and trust back to what we eat every day." With this launch, SOFTEL is not just introducing a product. It is making fresh, honest food a daily habit again.

Meesho allots over 94.79 lakh equity shares to employees under ESOP



AGENCY
New Delhi: E-commerce firm Meesho has allotted nearly 94.8 lakh equity shares to its eligible employees under the company's employee stock ownership plan. "We wish to inform you that the Nomination and Remuneration Committee of the Board of Directors of Meesho Ltd, by way of a circular resolution passed on April 20, 2026, has approved the allotment of 94,79,380 equity shares of face value of Re 1 each to the eligible

employees, upon exercise of vested options under the company's Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) 2024 Plan. The said equity shares shall rank paripassu with existing equity shares of the company in all respects," Meesho said in a regulatory filing. Following this allotment, the issued, subscribed, and paid-up equity share capital of the Bengaluru-headquartered company has increased from Rs 456,40,55,196 to Rs 4,57,35,34,576.

NISSAN MOTOR INDIA EXPANDS NETWORK IN ECIL, HYDERABAD

Hyderabad, 20 April 2026: Nissan Motor India Pvt. Ltd. (NMIPL) has further strengthened its footprint in Hyderabad with the inauguration of a new, state-of-the-art Lakshmi Nissan showroom in ECIL, Hyderabad. This expansion aligns with Nissan's ongoing commitment to enhancing its reach and delivering seamless sales and service experiences in key markets across India. The newly inaugurated facility features a modern 4,000 sq. ft. showroom with a display capacity of four vehicles. Designed in line with Nissan's global retail standards, the outlet is equipped with premium amenities and supported by a team of well-trained and passionate professionals dedicated to delivering an exceptional ownership experience. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Saurabh Vatsa, Managing Director, Nissan Motor India, said: "We are pleased to strengthen our presence in emerging growth corridors like ECIL, Hyderabad. This region continues to show



strong customer demand and promising growth potential for the Nissan brand. This expansion is part of our broader nationwide network strategy, reinforcing our commitment to being closer to our customers and delivering seamless ownership experience. As we accelerate our product-led resurgence with the recently launched Nissan GRAVITE and an exciting pipeline ahead, network expansion remains a key pillar of our strategy." Mr. K Jai Ram, Dealer Principal at Lakshmi Nissan, said:

"We are proud to partner with Nissan Motor India to expanding the brand's presence in the developing areas such as ECIL, Hyderabad. This new facility reflects our commitment to delivering world class retail experience, backed by Nissan's strong product portfolio and customer-first approach. We look forward to serving customers in ECIL and surrounding areas with high standards of retail experience." The expansion comes at a pivotal time as Nissan builds strong momentum in the Indian market.

Tehran says 'no plans' for new talks after US seizes Iranian cargo ship

AGENCY
Tehran: Pakistan's federal interior minister Mohsin Naqvi has met Iran's ambassador Reza Amiri Moghadam to review preparations for the second phase of the Islamabad talks, the Ministry of Interior says. While Iran has not yet confirmed its participation in new talks, Naqvi says arrangements have been finalised, with "foolproof security" in place for visiting delegations. He also briefed the ambassador on his recent visit to Iran. The minister says a negotiated settlement between the US and Iran is essential for lasting regional stability. According to the ministry, Moghadam has welcomed Pakistan's "positive and constructive role" in efforts to ease tensions. Senior Islamabad officials, including the chief commissioner, inspector general of police, and deputy commissioner, attended the meeting. Iran is "certainly not optimistic" over its dealings with the United



States, but it is "realistic", the spokesman for the Iranian foreign ministry says. "To the extent that one could say there is a certain degree of pessimism... and this is entirely reasonable," Esmail Baghaei tells a press conference in Iran. "Being pessimistic about the enemy is the same as being wise." His remarks come as the US sends a delegation to Pakistan for fresh talks, but Iran is yet to con-

firm it is participating. Following the declaration of Lebanon's ten-day ceasefire with Israel, "huge numbers of people" returned to their homes in southern Lebanon over the weekend, UN Humanitarian Chief Tom Fletcher told the Today programme earlier. The latest pictures show people navigating the destruction caused by Israeli strikes. There are currently two ceasefires in place

in the Middle East - one agreed between the leaders of Lebanon and Israel, and another between the US and Iran. Iran and US This two-week ceasefire between Iran and the US is due to end on Wednesday. Iran's military headquarters accused the US of a "violation of the ceasefire" after the US Navy fired at and took control of an Iranian-flagged cargo ship in the Gulf of Oman. It is unclear whether

a second round of negotiations slated to take place in Pakistan today will go ahead. The US delegation is led by Vice President JD Vance, and an Iranian spokesperson says they have "no plans" to attend the negotiations. Lebanon and Israel This ceasefire, which came into effect on Friday, 16 April and will last ten days, was agreed by Lebanese President Joseph Aoun and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The two countries requested that the US continues to facilitate further direct talks. According to details from the US State Department, Lebanon must take "meaningful steps" to prevent Hezbollah and all other "rogue non-state armed groups" from carrying out attacks against Israeli targets. Hezbollah has also signalled a willingness to participate but said it must include "no freedom of movement for Israeli forces". Lebanese President Joseph Aoun says upcoming negotiations with

Israel are "separate" from US-Iran peace talks, or "any other negotiations". In a statement on X, Aoun says Lebanon will be represented in upcoming talks by a delegation led by Simon Karam, the former Lebanese ambassador to the US, and that "no one from Lebanon will participate in this mission or replace him". He says the objectives of the talks are to "halt hostile actions", end Israel's "occupation of the southern areas" of Lebanon and to deploy Lebanon's army up to the "internationally recognized southern borders". US President Donald Trump has "expressed full understanding" of Lebanon's demands, says Aoun, and has assisted in setting up the upcoming negotiations. "I am full of hope that we will be able to save Lebanon," he adds. Despite the announcement of a ceasefire between the two countries, Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu has said Israeli troops would remain stationed 10km-deep (6.2 miles) into southern Lebanon.

Iranian woman arrested in US for allegedly trafficking arms to Sudan



AGENCY
Tehran: US authorities have arrested an Iranian woman for trafficking arms to Sudan on behalf of her country, federal prosecutors have said. Shamin Mafi, 44, was arrested at Los Angeles airport on Saturday and is accused of "brokering the sale of drones, bombs, bomb fuses, and millions of rounds of ammunition manufactured by Iran and sold to Sudan", First Assistant US Attorney Bill Essayli said on X. The alleged sales were to Sudan's defence ministry, including a 60m (\$70m; £52m) drone contract, court documents show. Mafi, who has not yet commented on the allegations, is expected

to appear in court later on Monday. If convicted, she could face a jail sentence of up to 20 years. An FBI criminal complaint filed in court, a copy of which was obtained by the BBC, says Mafi coordinated a "Sudanese delegation's travel to Iran, received over 6m in payments, and issued payment receipts" for the drone deal. She submitted "a letter of intent" to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) to broker the sale of 55,000 bomb fuses to Sudan's defence ministry, it adds. According to Essayli, Mafi is "an Iranian national who became a lawful permanent resident of the United States in 2016".

Rebel Wilson's claims against actress are 'malicious concoctions', Australian court hears



AGENCY
Cranberra: Claims by Rebel Wilson that a young Australian actress was sexually harassed by a producer but then hid it to better her career are "malicious concoctions", a Sydney court has heard on the first day of a defamation case against the Hollywood star. In 2024 and 2025, Wilson posted on Instagram that Charlotte MacInnes - who stars in Wilson's film The Deb - had felt "uncomfortable" after sharing a bath with one of its female producers. The Pitch Perfect star claimed MacInnes had retracted a complaint - which MacInnes denies making - in exchange for a major theatre role and a record deal. MacInnes says the allegations have tarnished her reputation for integrity and honesty, and is seeking damages. Lawyers for MacInnes have said she made no complaint to Wilson about the bath incident but that Wilson later used it as "leverage" in a dispute with producers about the film's budget and contracts. On the first day of the case, the court saw a series of

private texts between Wilson, the producer Amanda Ghost and MacInnes as well as detailed emails about the bath and alleged sexual harassment. The incident happened on 5 September 2023 when MacInnes and Ghost went for a late afternoon swim at Bondi Beach. Ghost had an allergic reaction to the water, known as cold urticaria, breaking out in red welts and shaking uncontrollably, the court heard. The pair went back to Ghost's beachside apartment with MacInnes running a hot bath for Ghost, who had got into a shower to warm up. Both later got into the bath - described by MacInnes' legal team as "oversized" - with both wearing their swimsuits. They "were not even touching at all", Sue Chrysanthou SC told the court. Ghost's assistant made hot drinks for the pair and sat with them in the bathroom for a short while. The next day, Wilson spoke to MacInnes who told her she felt uncomfortable about the bath incident, according to Wilson, who then raised it with Ghost.

Rumen Radev's party wins Bulgarian election

AGENCY
Bulgaria: Rumen Radev's Progressive Bulgaria (PB) party has won a landslide victory in Sunday's Bulgarian election - the eighth general election in five years. With almost 100% of the vote counted, his PB movement, only set up 4 months ago, won 44.7% and has secured a majority of 135 seats in the 240-seat parliament. It is the first time since 1997 that a single Bulgarian party has sufficient seats to govern alone. Ex-prime minister Boiko Borisov's GERB party came second with 13.4%, with the liberal PP-DB coalition third with 12.8%. The election was called after the previous government tried to push through a controversial budget in December, prompting mass protests which Radev, as president, support-



ed. "People rejected the self-satisfaction and arrogance of old parties and did not fall prey to lies and manipulation. I thank them for their trust," Radev said, in his victory speech. He promised to build "a strong Bulgaria in a strong Europe". "What Europe needs right now is critical thinking, pragmatic actions and good results, especially to build a new security architecture and ... recover its industrial power and competitiveness."

Tehran will never cede control of Strait of Hormuz: Senior Iranian politician

AGENCY
Tehran: "Never." That's when a senior Iranian lawmaker says they'll be ready to give up their control of the Strait of Hormuz. "It's our inalienable right," Ebrahim Azizi, a former commander in Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), tells the BBC in Tehran. "Iran will decide the right of passage, including permissions for vessels to pass through the Strait." And he says that's about to become enshrined in law. "We are introducing a bill in parliament, based on article 110 of the constitution, which includes the environment, maritime safety and national security - and the armed forces will implement the law," says this member of



parliament who heads the Committee for National Security and Foreign Policy. As worry mounts about the closure of this strategic waterway causing growing economic shocks worldwide, it's becoming clear this is not a short-term crisis to be resolved in a day. War has handed Tehran what it sees as a new weapon - Azizi described

this highly strategic strait Iran has managed to weaponise during this conflict as "one of our assets to face the enemy". He's a key player in a parliament dominated by hardliners. Azizi also reflects the thinking among some of the senior decision-makers emerging in the new order born of this war, which has become increasingly militarised and

also dominated by hardliners, most of all the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), after a series of high-level assassinations in Israeli strikes. Tehran now sees its ability to control the passage of vital maritime traffic, including critical oil and gas tankers, not just as a bargaining chip in current negotiations, but as long-term leverage. "The first priority for Iran after the war is to restore deterrence and the Strait of Hormuz is among Iran's principal strategic leverages," explains Mohammad Eslemi, a research fellow at the University of Tehran. "Tehran is open to discussing how other nations can benefit from Iran's new framework for the strait, but control is the bottom line."

Man kills seven of his children, and an eighth child, in Louisiana mass shooting

AGENCY
Texas: A father has killed seven of his children and another child in Shreveport, Louisiana, in a mass shooting that police called a "domestic disturbance". Officers said the shooting began about 05:00 (10:00 GMT) on Sunday. After attacking the children at a property, the suspect drove away in a stolen car, police said. Officers then chased and killed him. Two adult women, including the children's mother, are in critical condition after they, too, were hurt by gunfire. And a ninth child was taken to hospital after jumping from the roof of the home while escaping. The suspect was identified as Shamar Elkins, Shreveport

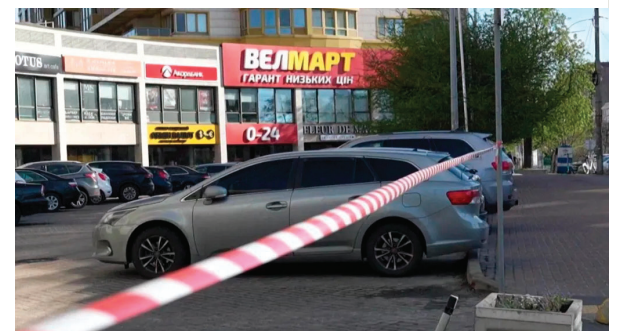


mayor's communications director told the BBC. "We do believe him to be the only individual that fired gunshots at these locations," said Shreveport Police Department spokesperson Chris Bordelon in a news conference earlier on Sunday. Officials have not yet suggest-

ed a motive on the gunman's part. The children, siblings and one cousin, were three boys and five girls. They were aged between three to 11, the Caddo Parish coroner's office said. Local police had earlier said on Sunday the children ranged in age from one to 14. The coroner's office said the

children were identified by their mothers as Jayla Elkins, 3, Shayla Elkins, 5, Kayla Pugh, 6, Layla Pugh, 7, Markaydon Pugh, 10, Sariah Snow, 11, Khedarrion Snow, 6, and Braylon Snow, 5. Neighbours described their shock to US media. Mack London, 71, told NBC News he had lived in the area for decades and that "nothing like this has ever happened on this street". The attack occurred across multiple locations. The father is alleged to have first shot a woman, before moving to a second location where he fired further shots at the children. One of the victims was able to run away to a nearby home and called the authorities, police said.

UKRAINE POLICE CHIEF RESIGNS AFTER OFFICERS ALLEGEDLY FLED DEADLY SHOOTING



AGENCY
Kyiv: The head of Ukraine's patrol police, Yevhen Zhukov, has resigned after two of his officers faced criticism for allegedly fleeing a deadly mass shooting in the capital, Kyiv. Six people died and 14 others were injured on Saturday after a man opened fire on people in the street in Kyiv's southern Hosiivskiy district before taking others hostage in a nearby supermarket. He was later killed in a shootout with police. Footage has since been shared online appearing to show officers leaving civilians and running away from the scene. Ukraine's Interior Minister Igor Klymenko said the officers in question had been suspended and that an investigation into their actions was under way. "Serve and protect" is not just a slogan. It must be supported by appropriate professional actions. Especially at critical moments, when people's lives depend on it," he wrote on Telegram. However, Klymenko cautioned: "It is not entirely correct to make generalisations about the entire police only by the actions of two employees." Zhukov told a news conference on Sunday that

the officers had "failed to assess the situation properly and left civilians in danger". He also said they acted "unprofessionally and unworthily". "As a combat officer, I have decided to submit my resignation from the position I currently hold," Zhukov said. The Ukrainian authorities say they are treating Saturday's shooting as a terrorist act but have not yet spoken about a motive. Klymenko described the man's mental state as "clearly unstable". Eight people remain in hospital, of whom one adult was in an "extremely serious condition" and three were in a serious condition, officials said. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky said in an update on Sunday that the two officers had been "at the scene of the crime, but did not stop the murderer, and fled on their own". He accused them of "inaction" and said a criminal case into the matter - which will also check their previous work - was being handled by Ukraine's national investigations bureau. "We are going through a war and every day, unfortunately, there are human losses from Russian strikes," Zelensky said.

JAPAN TSUNAMI WARNINGS DOWNGRADED AS PEOPLE DESCRIBE 'LOW RUMBLING' AS EARTHQUAKE HIT

AGENCY
Tokyo: A 7.7 magnitude earthquake occurred off Sanriku, off Japan's northeast coast, at 16:52 (08:52 BST) local time and had a depth of 19km (11.8 miles). Its strength was revised up, after previously being recorded at 7.5 and 7.4. The Japanese Meteorological Agency warns of aftershocks that could continue throughout the week. A tourist in Japan told the BBC he experienced the building "swaying and everyone's phone sounded the emergency alarm". Following the quake, tsunami warnings were triggered, covering much of the northeast. All the warnings have been downgraded to advisories, but people are still advised to remain away from the coast



and large bodies of water. The first tsunami waves reached the Iwate prefecture, with one as high as 40cm recorded in Miyako port. The Japan Meteorological Agency initially forecast tsunami waves

of up to 3m (10ft) reaching the Pacific coast of Hokkaido and Iwate prefectures - footage shows waves swelling in Hokkaido. As for public services, around 100 households are without power, according

to the cabinet secretary, and some bullet train services have resumed after earlier cancellations, the operator announced. The East Japan Railway Company says its bullet train operations

between Tokyo and Hachinohe have resumed. The services between the capital and Morioka Station and Fukushima have also started back up again. Operations remain suspended between Morioka and Akita. There is currently no time scheduled for these services to resume. There are delays remaining between Fukushima and Shinjo. The operator said it had to suspend services due to the earthquake. The Japanese Meteorological Agency (JMA) says that the possibility of a large earthquake following today's 7.7 one is "relatively high". It has issued a subsequent earthquake advisory off the coasts of Hokkaido and Sanriku, but says that in such

cases, the probability of the larger earthquake is only about one in 100. This represents a roughly tenfold increase in risk compared to normal conditions when it's usually 0.1% or less. Japanese authorities say it is essential that people remain vigilant for about a week, and are advised to make preparations to evacuate and confirm what routes they would take to do so should the need arise. The JMA says that it's not guaranteed a large quake will happen again, adding that there is no need for advance evacuation. Sophia Kapsalis and her partner Daniel Wilkinson have been travelling for six months and are currently at the end of a road trip around Hokkaido.



FAREWELL BROCK LESNAR

Brock Lesnar's battle with Obi Femi on the second night of WWE WrestleMania 42 turned out to be an emotional affair, a classic passing of the torch moment from the 'Beast Incarnate'. After what can only be described as an 'electric battle' between Lesnar and Obi Femi, the former removed his gloves and boots, signalling that his time in the ring had come to an end. The conclusion of the match transformed a high-octane encounter into a heavy, historic moment that marked the end for one of the company's biggest performers. Lesnar soaked in the applause as the crowd burst into deafening 'Thank you, Brock' and 'Thank you, Lesnar' chants. The entire chain of events fuelled immediate speculation about the wrestler's future, and the legendary Kurt Angle has confirmed what fans feared

was true. "Love you, my brother. There will only be one like you. Enjoy retirement, Brock," Kurt Angle wrote on X (formerly Twitter). In a sport where gestures often speak louder than words, Lesnar provided the ultimate signal of an end. The loss to the rising powerhouse, Obi Femi, saw Lesnar leaving his gear in the centre of the squared circle—a universal sign of retirement.

He signalled that the most dominant era in modern wrestling history has reached the end of the road. The moment became clearer when Brock's long-time associate and 'Wiseman', Paul Heyman, entered the ring. In a rare display of vulnerability for both men, they shared a heart-warming hug before making their way out of the ring together for what may be the final time. The wrestling world

was quick to react to the departure of the former world champion, with farewell messages flooding social media. A post on X read: "An emotional Brock Lesnar has removed his gloves and shoes after losing to Obi Femi at Mania. He put them in the middle of the ring and waved to the crowd. And then a big hug with his long-time friend, Paul Heyman. Is this really it? Sure seemed that way." As the curtain falls on one of the most decorated careers in sports entertainment and MMA history, the sentiment across the industry is clear: there will never be another athlete quite like Brock Lesnar.



IPL 2026: JASPRIT BUMRAH'S 1ST BALL MAGIC AFTER TILAK VARMA SLAMS RECORD-BREAKING 100



Tilak Varma smashed an incredible century off just 45 balls to power Mumbai Indians (MI) to a total of 199/5 in 20 overs against Gujarat Titans (GT) in their crucial IPL 2026 clash in Ahmedabad on Monday. Tilak struggled at the start but went berserk in the final few overs, slamming eight sixes en route to his century. Kagiso Rabada's three wickets rattled MI in the powerplay but Naman Dhir (45) and Tilak rescued the ship. GT captain Shubman Gill won the toss and opted to bowl. MI are looking to end their four-game losing streak, while GT are eyeing their third win in a row.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Inconsolable As KKR Beat RR In Last-Over Thriller, Video Breaks Fans' Hearts

AGENCY
Mumbai: The youngest Indian Premier League (IPL) sensation, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, had his heart broken after his team, the Rajasthan Royals were beaten by the Kolkata Knight Riders on Sunday. Sooryavanshi, who gave the team another blazing start at the top, scoring 46 runs off 28 balls, wasn't happy to see his side suffering a defeat despite being well ahead at one point in the game. Seeing Rinku Singh inspire KKR to their first win of the season, Sooryavanshi was absolutely distraught on the sidelines. In a video that has surfaced on social media, the teenage opener could be seen hiding his face with his cap, wiping tears as he saw



his team lose out on two points from a winning position. The 15-year-old had to be consoled at that point. Yesterday Vaibhav Sooryavanshi was spotted crying after the game... This guy is unbelievable! Whether he gets out early or the team loses, he wears his

heart on his sleeve. Honestly, that's that 15-year-old mindset I know I would've been doing the exact same thing at that age! Former India all-rounder Irfan Pathan praised young Sooryavanshi after another impressive outing against the Kolkata franchise, say-

ing the emerging batter continues to prove a growing theory that he tends to rise especially when facing big-name bowlers. Pathan noted that Sooryavanshi once again showed his talent against quality opposition, reinforcing the belief that he is a "special player" with a bright future ahead. He added that the youngster has the potential to stay at the top level for many years if he continues developing at this pace and temperament. "The theory of Vaibhav Sooryavanshi needing big-name bowlers in the opposition is proving true again :) This kid is a special player with many years at the top level ahead of him," Pathan wrote in an X post.

MCA Inaugurates Champions Trophy 2026 As Key Build-Up To T20 Mumbai League

AGENCY
Mumbai: The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) today inaugurated the MCA Champions Trophy 2026 at the MCA BKC Ground, marking the start of a key preparatory tournament ahead of the highly anticipated T20 Mumbai League 2026. The inauguration ceremony was attended by MCA President Ajinkya Naik, Chief Guest Rajeev Kulkarni, former India captain Diana Edulji, MCA Secretary Prof. Dr. Umesh Khanvilkar, Joint Secretary Nilesh Bhosle, Treasurer Arman Mallick along with Apex Council members, and players. The tournament, scheduled from April 20 to April 30, will feature eight teams



selected by MCA selectors from a pool of registered players for the T20 Mumbai League. Matches will be played across four venues: MCA BKC, MCA Sachin Tendulkar Gymkhana in Kandivali, Dadoji Konddev Stadium in Thane, and

Western Railway in Mahalaxmi. Designed as a high-performance platform, the MCA Champions Trophy 2026 will provide valuable match exposure to emerging players, while helping franchises assess player form, fitness, and

PHILIPP LAHM ON WHAT MAKES 'GRIZZLY BEAR' MANUEL NEUER SPECIAL AT 40 AND TONI KROOS' CRITICISM

AGENCY
Mumbai: As Bayern Munich arrived at the Allianz Arena to face VfB Stuttgart, they stood just one point away from securing a historic 35th Bundesliga title. True to form, the Bavarians dismantled Stuttgart 4-2, despite resting key players such as Harry Kane, Dayot Upamecano, and Michael Olise. With Bayern on the cusp of another league triumph, few figures are better placed to comment on the 'record champions' than Philipp Lahm - the man who captained the club to their famous 2013 treble and led Germany to FIFA World Cup glory in 2014. Speaking with NDTV in a media roundtable setup by



Bundesliga just hours before kick-off, Lahm shared his thoughts on Manuel Neuer, whom he recently dubbed a 'Grizzly Bear' following the goalkeeper's heroics in the first leg of the UEFA Champions League quarter-final against Real Madrid. Lahm

also addressed Toni Kroos' recent criticism regarding Bayern's struggle to close out high-stakes matches - a vulnerability that was evident during both legs of their European clash with Madrid. Furthermore, Lahm expanded on his own critiques of the German youth system. He argued that the current coaching philosophy focuses too heavily on developing 'all-round' players who can perform various roles, rather than producing the distinct 'specialists' that defined previous generations. Question 1: You've previously noted that while there are minor signs of age in the Bundesliga, his composure, presence, and focus remain vital for winning titles.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Wins Over Shreyas Iyer, PBKS Skipper Makes Bold "Future" Remark



AGENCY
Mumbai: There's not a single soul in the Indian Premier League (IPL) that has been left untouched by the impact of Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. The Rajasthan Royals (RR) opening batter hasn't just made a mark on his teammates but also the opponents. Even Punjab Kings captain Shreyas Iyer could-

n't stop himself from lauding the 15-year-old Sooryavanshi, admitting that he is a rare talent who's 'one for the future'. Iyer, who himself is vying for a spot in India's T20I team, added that all adjectives will be very inadequate to describe his explosive batting skills. So far, Sooryavanshi has amassed 246 runs in six innings, averaging 41 at a strike rate of 236.53. "He is a spectacular talent, and all the adjectives would be pretty less for him. The way he has that bat flow, the rhythm and momentum he creates before the

delivery, I think he is one for the future," said Iyer on JioStar's 'Believe'. Iyer himself has been in good nick, amassing 208 runs in six innings at an average of 52 and a strike-rate of 182.45. He also reflected on his instinctive stroke off Jasprit Bumrah in the second qualifier of IPL 2025, a moment that stood out in PBKS becoming runners-up in the competition. "It was completely instinctive. I was trying to hit him straight down the ground.

Hardik Pandya Grilled By Ex KKR Star: "When Was Your Last Match-Winning Knock?"



AGENCY
Mumbai: Mumbai Indians skipper Hardik Pandya hasn't had much going his way in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 season. While MI are languishing at the bottom of the 10-team points table, Hardik hasn't been able to create much impact on the field, be it with the bat or with the ball. The all-rounder has even had his captaincy skills questioned, including his inability to get the best out of Jasprit Bumrah, the finest fast bowler in the world. Ahead of MI's clash against GT, former Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) star Aakash Chopra has asked Hardik when his last match-winning knock was for MI. Hardik, widely con-

sidered as India's most prominent pace-bowling all-rounder, has struggled this season. He has only scored 81 runs in 4 matches this campaign for Mumbai. Chopra, in a video on his YouTube channel, has asked some tough questions to the MI skipper. "You have corrected the batting order now.

I won't talk about Surya because he played many match-winning knocks last time, but Hardik, I don't remember when the last match-winning knock you played was. We have seen many good cameos, but that match-winning 70 or 80 runs where you win the match alone, Hardik is capable of that," Chopra said.

AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 2:

Cristiano Ronaldo Scores 969th Career Goal As Al-Nassr Thrash Al-Wasl 4-0

Cristiano Ronaldo moved one step closer to the historic 1000-goal milestone by netting his 969th career goal, leading Al-Nassr to a commanding 4-0 victory over Al-Wasl in the quarter-finals and sealing their place in the AFC Champions League Two semi-finals. Al-Nassr delivered a dominant performance from start to finish, combining attacking sharpness with midfield control to overwhelm their opponents. The breakthrough arrived early, with Ronaldo striking in the 11th minute. Positioned well inside the box, he calmly converted from close range to give the visitors an immediate advantage and set the

tone for the evening. With momentum firmly on their side, Al-Nassr tightened their grip midway through the first half with two quick goals that effectively put the contest beyond reach. João Félix played a key role, delivering a pinpoint corner that was headed in by Inigo Martinez to double the lead. Moments later, another dangerous delivery caused confusion in the Al-Wasl defence, allowing Abdullah Al-Amri to rise highest and make it 3-0. Al-Wasl struggled to respond, finding it difficult to break through a well-organised Al-Nassr backline. Their attacking efforts were limited, with only a handful of attempts failing to

seriously trouble goalkeeper Bento. In contrast, Al-Nassr continued to create chances, with Ronaldo going close to adding another before being substituted shortly after the hour mark. The visitors maintained their dominance after the break, controlling possession and dictating the tempo through Marcelo Brozovic in midfield. Their superiority was evident in both territory and chance creation, as Al-Wasl remained pinned back for long periods. The rout was completed in the 80th minute when Sadio Mane latched onto a through ball and finished from a tight angle to add a fourth goal. The emphatic victory not only underlined Al-Nassr's

credentials as strong contenders in the competition but also highlighted Ronaldo's enduring influence. With his 969th career goal, the Portuguese forward continues his remarkable pursuit of the 1000-goal landmark while guiding his team confidently into the semi-finals.



Natural Star Nani gave the ceremonial clap to officially launch the prestigious film starring Vijay Deverakonda, directed by Shouryuv, under the Vyra banner



Actor Vijay Deverakonda is taking a bold step toward elevating Indian cinema to a global level. He is teaming up with "Hi Nanna" fame director Shouryuv for a massive global project. Notably, several top international technicians are working on this film. The prestigious project is being produced under the

Actor Vijay Deverakonda is taking a bold step toward elevating Indian cinema to a global level. He is teaming up with "Hi Nanna" fame director Shouryuv for a massive global project. Notably, several top international technicians are working on this film. The prestigious project is being produced under the

Vyra banner. The film was formally launched today in Hyderabad with a traditional pooja ceremony, where Natural Star Nani sounded the clap for the muhurat shot. The recently released announcement poster has already created high expectations. The film brings together an impressive technical crew: Alejandro Martinez, who has worked on Hollywood projects like "House of the Dragon" and "Fallout," serves as the Director of Photography. Eric Durst, known for his work on "Gods of Egypt," "Batman Forever," and "Snowpiercer," is the VFX Supervisor. Suresh Selvarajan, who worked on films like "Animal" and "Om Shanti Om," is the Production Designer.

KAMAKSHI BHASKARLA AS MAHADEVI IN MS RAJU'S AGADHA!

Legendary filmmaker M. S. Raju, the man behind cult films like *Devi*, *Satruvu*, *Okkadu*, *Varsham*, *Manasantha Nuvve*, *Nuvvosthanante Nenoddantana* and others is coming up with another super interesting film. Raju is known for presenting his characters with depth and purpose, and the introduction of Mahadevi from his next film *Agadha* adds a new layer of intrigue to this mystical, divine thriller. The makers are carefully unveiling the world of *Agadha* piece by piece, building anticipation with every reveal. The curiosity sparked by the first look of *Agadha* has now moved to its next reveal. The makers have officially

announced that the mysterious girl seen standing before the divine idol in the earlier poster is none other than Kamakshi Bhaskarla. She plays the pivotal female lead Mahadevi in the film.

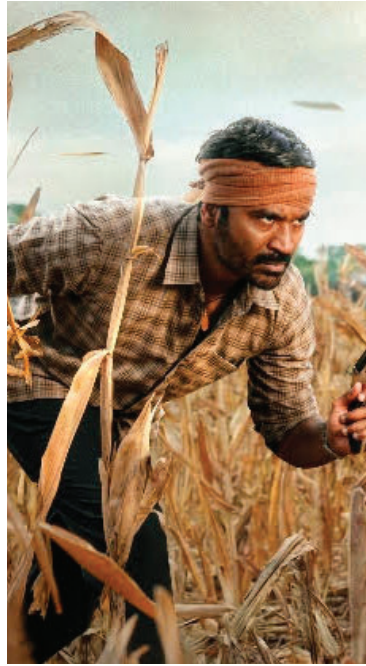
With this announcement, the visual imagination that MS Raju created through the first poster now finds a face and a powerful screen presence. Draped in a traditional black saree, seated intensely before the mystic backdrop of tridents, lamps, and the towering idol, Kamakshi Bhaskarla's look itself suggests that her character carries significant weight in the narrative. Her fierce expression, traditional appearance, and the spiritual aura around the setting hint that Mahadevi is not just a regular character but someone deeply

connected to the mystical core of the story. Meanwhile, overwhelmed by the response to the first look, MS Raju released a heartfelt note expressing his gratitude to the audience, well wishers, directors, and actors for their encouraging words and appreciation. He shared that the love pouring in through calls, messages, and social media has strengthened his belief in the story he is telling. As a writer and director, he said this encouragement motivates him to give his absolute best and ensure that every aspect of *Agadha* lives up to expectations. He concluded by thanking everyone for their constant support and belief, saying it truly means everything to him. Being made on a grand scale under Sri Adi Varaha Productions by producer Kasi Visalakshi Balusu, *Agadha* is currently in post production. With 45 minutes of VFX, extensive set work, and 85 days of shoot, the film promises a unique cinematic experience across Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, and Hindi.



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Marking His Return to Telugu Screens, Dhanush Starrer 'Kara' Officially Fixes April 30, 2026 as Its Telugu Release Date



The much-awaited film *Kara*, starring Dhanush and directed by Vignesh Raja, is all set for a theatrical release in Telugu on April 30, 2026. The Telugu version will be released by CH Sathish Kumar & Rajesh Kumar Bobbara under Vigneshwara Entertainments - R Star Logistics, ensuring the widest reach across the Telugu States. Produced by Dr. Ishari K. Ganesh under Vels Film International Ltd, in association with Think Studios and Vigneshwara Entertainments, *Kara* has been steadily building strong momentum across Tamil, Telugu, and overseas markets. Dhanush, who enjoys a strong and consistent fan base in Telugu, has delivered successful films like *Raghuvaram*, *B.Tech (VIP)*, *Asuran*, and *Saar*

(*Vaathi*), all of which Telugu audiences received well. With *Kara*, he returns with a film already carrying strong expectations and growing curiosity. The film's buzz has been built across multiple fronts. The Telugu version of the song *Kannamma Naa Kannamma* has clocked over 4.1 million views on YouTube, creating a strong emotional connection with Telugu audiences. While this is the only song released in Telugu so far, it has played a key role in introducing the film's tone and world. At the same time, Telugu audiences have widely followed the Tamil songs, promotional glimpses, and interviews, with viewers actively engaging with the content beyond language barriers. This cross-language traction highlights how *Kara*

is not just gaining attention in Tamil, but is equally building its presence in the Telugu market, alongside growing interest in international territories. Directed by Vignesh Raja, who earned acclaim for *Por Thozhil*, the film is expected to offer a compelling narrative driven by strong performances and rooted storytelling. The film stars Mamitha Baiju as the female lead, along with a notable supporting cast including Jayaram, K. S. Ravikumar, Karunas, and M. S. Bhaskar. On the technical front, *Kara* brings together a highly accomplished team. Cinematographer Theni Eswar, known for *Peranbu*, lends a naturalistic visual tone, while editor Sreejith Sarang of *Vikram Vedha* fame ensures a sharp narrative flow.

"Gedela Raju" is something special to me. I believe all movie lovers will like "Gedela Raju" – actor and music director Raghu Kunche



The film "Gedela Raju," in which Raghu Kunche plays the title role, comes with the tagline "Kakinada Taluka Cinema." Along with Raghu Kunche, the film stars Ramachandram Punyamurtula, Vikas, Tina Shwavy, Mounika, Ravi Chinnibilli, and others. The teaser, trailer, and songs of the film have already been released and received a good response. Presented by Raghu Kunche under the banner of Moturi Talkies, the film is directed by Chaitanya Moturi and produced by Vani Ravikumar Moturi. The movie is set for a grand theatrical release on the 24th of this month. In a recent interview, actor and music director Raghu Kunche shared the highlights of the film. I have previously worked as both an actor and music director for several films. But "Gedela Raju" feels something special to me. Since I played a character that runs throughout the film, I developed a strong

command over it, which helped a lot while composing the music. The background score (BGM) in our movie is very natural. These days, in many films, background music tends to dominate the characters. But if you observe older films like "Shiva" and "Geethanjali," the BGM used to enhance the character subtly, like cream over milk. Now BGM often feels like just noise. I was careful about this in our film—I made sure the BGM never dominates the character and remains settled. The songs are situational and help move the story forward. Out of the three songs, I sang one, Babekka sang another, and Mangadevi sang the third. I was given 45 days for the BGM. Harish handled the sound design for our movie. He is the assistant to Rajarathnam, who worked on sound design for films like "KGF" and "Kalki." Watching it in Dolby will give a great audio experience. My character in the film needed to look intimidating, so I gained 12 kg for it. Mythri Sasi said after watching the film that he thought I would be soft based on my earlier television appearances, but I was quite frightening in this role. Everyone who watched the film said my character has strong mass appeal. Initially, we planned to release the movie on the 17th, but theaters weren't confirmed. At that time, Madhura Sridhar Reddy suggested postponing to the next week. We reconsidered, and eventually everything fell into place. In the Nizam region, Mythri group is releasing the film in over 100 theaters.

"Chiranjeevi" Will Be Supported by Audiences for Its Strong Content – Hero Kiku Yanamala at Glimpse Launch Event

"Chiranjeevi" stars Kiku Yanamala and Kashish Khan in the lead roles. The film also features Tanikella Bharani, Eeshwari Rao, Goparaju Ramana, Srikanth Bharat, Viva Raghava, and others in key roles. The movie is being produced by Deepti Nadiminti under the banner of Kiku Entertainments, with Shubha Sai Venkat as the director. "Chiranjeevi" is gearing up for a summer release. Today, the film's glimpse launch event was held grandly in Hyderabad. Art Director Murthy said that director Venkat took care of every aspect of the film. The team shot in locations like Araku and Rampachodavaram, creating sets in certain areas. He added that the film has



turned out very well. Editor Chota K. Prasad shared that director Venkat approached him with the story, and even after hearing just half of it, he understood how promising the film would be. He assured his full support to the project. He mentioned that "Chiranjeevi" will be gripping throughout and highly engaging. He also noted that the glimpse itself gives a hint of the core conflict, and appreciated the director's dedication in extracting the best output from the team.

Music director Sekhar Chandra said that although he usually works on love stories and horror films, this is the first time he has composed for a film that blends action and romance like "Chiranjeevi." He found the concept interest-

ing, and while working on the background score, he was surprised by the intensity of each scene. He especially mentioned that the climax was completely unexpected and that the film contains a clever narrative element. He enjoyed working on the project. Actor Rajeev said that "Chiranjeevi" is also the name of Megastar Chiranjeevi, and just like the name, their film will also be impressive. He expressed confidence that if Megastar Chiranjeevi watches the film, he would appreciate the team. He added that every scene is gripping, and from the second half to the climax, audiences will be fully engaged without distractions. He requested everyone to support their hard work. Actor Ram Jagan said that direc-

tor Venkat has executed the film even better than how he initially narrated the story. He mentioned that the twists in the film are truly unpredictable. He praised producer Deepti for making the film on a grand scale without compromising on production quality. He also highlighted the strong performances by the cast and requested the media to help take the film to audiences. Producer Deepti Nadiminti said she comes from a traditional family. She recalled how her father once took her to a movie but made her leave before the interval, as he felt she shouldn't watch it. Despite that background, she always had a strong attraction toward cinema. Her passion led her to become a producer.

OM SHANTHI DISCO SHANTHI

Already caution kiya. Already! Title, Motion Poster Released

From the creator of 'Anando Brahma' and 'Save The Tigers,' Mahi V Raghav comes up with a new comedy horror, titled 'Om Shanthi Disco Shanthi.' But with a twist never seen before. Get ready for another laugh riot! While ghosts are known to scare humans what happens when they meet their worst nightmare? What if they encounter people who don't even know what fear is? Welcome to a world where 'madness meets the supernatural.' Om Shanthi Disco Shanthi is an outrageous confusion comic adventure of Ghosts vs. the Mad. Will the ghosts succeed in haunting them? Or will the mad turn the



tables and scare the ghosts? Experience the spooky, yet fun ride with jump scares, witty conversations, and unexpected twists. This September... in theatres.

Pithapuramlo... Ala Modalaindi' — A Family Drama. In this film, we have beautifully portrayed the bond between a father and a daughter



Under the banner of Mahesh Chandra Cinema Team, Dundigalla Balakrishna, Akula Suresh Patel, and F.M. Murali (Godavari Kittayya) have produced the film *Pithapuramlo... Ala Modalaindi'*. This movie took shape under the direction of veteran filmmaker Mahesh Chandra. Dr.

Rajendra Prasad, Prudhviraj, Kedar Shankar, Manichandana, Annappurnaamma, Sunny Akhil, Virat, Sai Praneeeth, Srilu, Prathyusha, and Rehana played the lead roles in the film. The movie is scheduled for a grand release on May 1st. In this context, producers Dundigalla Balakrishna, Akula Suresh Patel, and F.M. Murali

(Godavari Kittayya) interacted with the media and shared details about the film. Speaking on the occasion... Producer Dundigalla Balakrishna stated: "Our director is a staunch supporter of the Jana Sena Party; he actively campaigned for the party in Pithapuram. He hails from Chebrolu. He made a promise that if Mr. Pawan Kalyan were to win the election, he would shoot his next film in that very region. That is precisely why we filmed there. We completed nearly 75 percent of the shooting in that location. We also filmed certain portions in Hyderabad and Goa. We have shared a long-standing relationship with Mr. Mahesh Chandra spanning many years. Initially, Mr. Mahesh Chandra intended to make a film with Mr. Akula Suresh; subsequently, we joined the project."