



## Yogi congratulates UP Board exam achievers, lauds students' hard work

Lucknow, Apr 23: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday congratulated students who cleared the High School and Intermediate examinations conducted by the Uttar Pradesh Board of Secondary Education, praising their hard work, discipline and determination. Extending his wishes to successful candidates, their parents and teachers, the Chief Minister said the achievement reflected the dedication and perseverance of students.

NATION | NEWS

## US boards ship carrying Iranian oil, as Trump orders navy to shoot any boat laying mines in strait



WORLD | NEWS

## Sreeleela's Bollywood debut hits roadblocks and faces delays



CINEMA | PAGE

SCAN FOR E-PAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA



22-04-2026  
Total pilgrims: 65,354  
Tonsures: 25,550  
Hundi Kanakalu: 4.43 CR  
Waiting Compartments: 05

Approx. Darshan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens): 8 H

WEATHER  
38 °C | °F  
Precipitation: 50%  
Humidity: 30%  
Wind: 11 km/h

GOLD RATE 24K ₹  
1,55,410/-

## TIRUPATI FAMILY TRAGEDY: FIVE DEAD IN MURDER-SUICIDE INCIDENT

Tirupati, Apr 23: A tragic incident in Andhra Pradesh's Tirupati district has resulted in the deaths of five members of a family within a few hours. Police said the incident occurred on Wednesday in Venkatakrishna Palem panchayat under Narayanavanam mandal. A man identified as Mohan allegedly killed his wife Harita (33) and mother Chandrakala (65) at their home in Chakali Veedhi. After the incident, Mohan reportedly took his two children, Kaushik (14) and Harini (12), from school in Puttur, telling staff that a family member had died. Later in the evening, Mohan and his children were found on railway tracks near Vepagunta railway station in Puttur mandal, where they were struck by an express train. All three died on the spot. Police said Mohan had earlier left home after the alleged killings, prompting his relative to alert authorities when the bodies of the two women were discovered at the residence.

## EC SEIZES OVER RS 1,000 CRORE IN TAMIL NADU, BENGAL AHEAD OF 2026 POLLS

New Delhi, Apr 22: The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Wednesday said it has seized more than Rs 1,000 crore worth of cash, liquor, drugs, precious metals and other items from Tamil Nadu and West Bengal ahead of the 2026 general elections. In a statement, the poll panel said surveillance and enforcement measures have been intensified across key poll-bound states, while strict directions have been issued to state and Union Territory governments to ensure full compliance with the Model Code of Conduct. The Commission said violations of election norms would not be tolerated and regular review meetings are being held with Chief Secretaries, Directors General of Police and other senior officials. As part of the crackdown, 5,011 Flying Squad Teams have been deployed in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal to respond swiftly to complaints, with a target of addressing cases within 100 minutes.

## North Andhra sees investment surge; Anakapalli to be developed like Rangareddy: CM Naidu

Visakhapatnam (TSIT):

N. Chandrababu Naidu said North Andhra is witnessing a rapid influx of investments and announced that Anakapalli district will be developed on par with Rangareddy district, emerging as a major industrial hub.

The Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for two major projects by ReNew Energy Global at Z. Chintuvu village in Rambilli mandal of Anakapalli district. The projects, with a combined investment of Rs.5,400 crore, include a 6.5 GW solar ingot-wafer manufacturing unit and a 125 MW hybrid renewable power project. Both are expected to be completed within two years, generating around 2,100 jobs.

Addressing a public gathering, Naidu said Anakapalli is fast transforming into a key investment destination and has the potential to rank among the top industrial districts in the country. Drawing parallels with Rangareddy's growth, he expressed confidence that similar



progress would be achieved in North Andhra. He invited more national and global companies to invest in the state, assuring a business-friendly ecosystem. Highlighting recent progress, he said the government signed 802 MoUs in the last 22 months and is focusing on faster governance and ease of doing business. He also announced that a major AI data center project by Google, with an investment of \$15 billion, will be launched soon, while the Bhogapuram airport is expected to be operational by July. Emphasizing green energy, the Chief Minister said the state aims to generate 160 GW of renewable

energy, with 90 GW already under progress, attracting investments worth Rs.5.95 lakh crore. He added that 5,000 EV charging stations will be set up and schemes like PM Surya Ghar and PM Kusum are being promoted.

Naidu stated that the government is absorbing Rs.15,795 crore to prevent electricity tariff hikes and assured that power charges will not be increased. He also highlighted key projects like Amaravati capital development and the Polavaram project, stressing balanced regional growth. Several public representatives, officials, and industry leaders were present at the event.

## TGSRTC strike: With no resolution in sight, two drivers set themselves ablaze



Hyderabad (TSIT):

The ongoing Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) strike took a serious turn on Thursday, April 23, when a driver set himself ablaze at the Narsampet depot in Warangal district, after his demands to resolve their grievances fell on deaf ears.

Tensions escalated as the driver, Shankar Goud, attempted suicide by dousing himself in petrol and setting himself on fire. Surrounding RTC workers immediately rushed to his rescue and extinguished the flames engulfing Shankar.

He was shifted to a hospital for emergency treatment. His condition is believed to be critical still as he sustained 85 per cent burn injuries. After the incident, the TGSRTC intensified its protest, and a large number of workers reached the site. Additional police teams have been deployed by the higher-ups to prevent any untoward incident. As this had not settled, another RTC driver named Venkanna, who was participating in the protest at Nalgonda depot on Thursday, attempted to immolate himself too by dousing diesel and setting himself on fire. The police and fellow workers rescued him and immediately shifted him to the hospital. His condition is stable and he has sustained no injuries in the suicide attempt.

## India urges citizens not to travel to Iran, asks those there to leave

New Delhi (TSIT):

Amid continuing tensions in the region, India has issued a fresh advisory urging its citizens not to travel to Iran and asking those already there to leave through designated land border routes amid continuing tensions in the region. The Embassy of India in Tehran released the advisory on Thursday, April 23, following reports that some flight services between India and Iran may resume. "In view of reports of commencement of some flights between India and Iran, and in continuation of earlier advisories, Indian citizens are strongly advised not to travel to Iran, whether by air or land," the embassy said. It added that airspace restrictions and operational uncertainties linked to regional tensions continue to disrupt international flight operations to and from Iran.

## 10 Indian ships exited Strait of Hormuz, 14 still in Persian Gulf: MEA

New Delhi (TSIT):

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Thursday said that 10 Indian ships have exited Strait of Hormuz safely in the past few weeks while 14 still remain in the Persian Gulf. "We have 10 Indian ships which have exited Strait of Hormuz safely in the last few weeks. We have 14 Indian ships which are still in the Persian Gulf," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal while address-



ing a weekly media briefing in New Delhi on Thursday.

Tensions continue in and around Strait of Hormuz, the narrow waterway through which about one-fifth of global oil trade passes, ever since the conflict erupted in

West Asia. On Wednesday, Iran attacked a ship in the Strait of Hormuz that was on its way to Mundra Port in India. The attack came hours after US President Donald Trump had announced an indefinite ceasefire. It was one of the two ships that the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy (IRGC-N) announced it had attacked and taken over, according to the Iranian government-run Press TV. IRGC-N identified the ships it attacked as the MSC-Francesca and the Epaminodas.

## Women and youth of Bengal have opened up front against TMC in 1st phase of polling: PM Modi

Kolkata (TSIT):

The high percentage of polling so far in the first phase of Assembly polls in West Bengal on Thursday for 162 constituencies has proved that it is not the BJP but the women of the state and the youth, who had opened an active front against the ruling Trinamool Congress, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday.

"The high percentage of polling, ignoring the scorching heat, proves that May 4 will not



only be the day of results but also the day of change in West Bengal. The voters' enthusiasm, especially among women and first time voters today, had proved that it is the women and youth of West Bengal who have really opened up the front against the ruling Trinamool

Congress in West Bengal," Prime Minister Modi said while addressing a campaign rally at Mathurapur in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, which will be going for polls in the second phase on April 29. According to him, the women of West Bengal had realised the real character of Trinamool Congress following the role of the party in the Lok Sabha recently to block the Women's Reservation (Amendment Bill).

# Robust voter turnout till 5 PM, 90 pc in Bengal and 82 pc in TN

Kolkata/Chennai (TSIT):

Tamil Nadu and West Bengal are witnessing robust voter turnout on Thursday. The EC polling estimates that till 5 PM, both states are heading towards record voting percentages. Till 5 PM, West Bengal recorded 89.93 per cent polling, while in Tamil Nadu it stood at 82.24 per cent - breaching the previous figures in the 2021 elections, which were 82 and 74 per cent, respectively.

The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) drive, which had stoked intense controversy ahead of elections, seems to have failed to cast a shadow over the electoral exercise; rather, it has pushed voting percentages to unprecedented levels in both states. The voting has been brisk in both states since morning. At 3 PM, West Bengal recorded 78.77 per cent polling, while Tamil Nadu recorded 70 per cent, according to EC data. In West Bengal, polling began for 152 assembly constituencies at 7 AM, spread across 16 districts, with long queues at polling stations since morning. The 16 districts where polling is being held in the first phase on Thursday are Cooch Behar, Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar, North Dinajpur, South Dinajpur, and Malda in North Bengal, and Murshidabad, East Midnapore, West Midnapore, Jhargram, Purulia, Bankura, West Burdwan, and Birbhum in South Bengal.

The second phase of polls in West Bengal for the remaining 142 assembly constituencies will be on April 29. Polling for the high-stakes Tamil Nadu Assembly elections across all 234 constituencies also began at 7 a.m., with over 5.73 crore eligible voters set to decide the fate of 4,023 candidates in a fiercely contested four-cornered battle.

The electoral contest primarily features the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance, the AIADMK-led National Democratic Alliance, Naam Tamilar Katchi (NTK), and



Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), making this one of the most competitive elections in recent years. Voting commenced early in the morning, with voters seen queuing up in large numbers at polling booths, reflecting strong public enthusiasm to exercise their democratic right. The counting of votes is scheduled for May 4, when the electoral verdict will determine the next governments in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

Tamil Nadu witnessed an impressive surge in voter participation during the Assembly elections on Thursday, with turnout reaching 82.24 per cent by 5 p.m., already surpassing the final polling percentage of 73.63 per cent recorded in the 2021 elections.

The steady rise in turnout through the day reflected strong voter enthusiasm across urban and rural constituencies alike, despite hot weather conditions prevailing in several parts of the state. As polling entered its final hour, the Election Commission of India (ECI) made a last-minute appeal to voters, particularly in Chennai, to reach polling stations and cast their votes.

In Chennai, several prominent political



leaders exercised their franchise. AIADMK candidate from Royapuram D. Jayakumar and BJP leader Khushbu Sundar were among those who voted and later displayed their ink-marked fingers, urging citizens to actively participate in the democratic process. Meanwhile, inspiring scenes of electoral participation emerged from remote

regions as well. In Kanniyakumari district, members of the Kani tribal community braved logistical challenges to cast their votes. Residents of isolated hill hamlets crossed the Pechiparai dam by boat to reach polling stations, as there is no road connectivity due to high water levels. To facilitate their participation, the district administration arranged three special boats and ensured the availability of life jackets, enabling safe transportation for voters. The determined turnout from these remote areas underscored the deep-rooted commitment to democracy among marginalised communities. Political reactions also began to surface as polling progressed. MDMK leader Vaiko expressed confidence that the DMK-led

alliance would return to power with a decisive mandate, predicting that the coalition would secure more than 200 seats in the 234-member Assembly. ith polling drawing to a close, authorities are now focused on ensuring the smooth completion of the electoral process, as Tamil Nadu awaits the verdict of the electorate.

## Row over Trump post on citizenship, immigrant remarks



Washington (TSIT):

A social media post by US President Donald Trump criticising birthright citizenship and targeting immigrants and advocacy groups has sparked backlash from Indian-American organisations and political leaders, who warned that the remarks could fuel racism and endanger communities. In the post, Trump shared a lengthy commentary criticising birthright citizenship and targeting legal advocacy groups, immigrants, and sections of the Asian-American community. The text described the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) as "a gangster criminal organization" and alleged that it had "done more damage to this nation than Iran has ever done directly to this nation."

The commentary also questioned the constitutional framework, stating: "Birthright citizenship should be subjected to a national vote, not put in the hands of lawyers. Let the citizens decide." It further included sweeping claims about immigration and demographics, asserting that "a baby here becomes an instant citizen, and then they bring the entire family in from China or India or some other hellhole on the planet."

## TPCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud Meets Rahul Gandhi

New Delhi TSIT:Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Mahesh Kumar Goud met AICC leader and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi at 10 Janpath in New Delhi on Thursday. The meeting lasted for about 15 minutes, during which Mahesh Kumar Goud briefed Rahul Gandhi on the ongoing development initiatives and welfare schemes being implemented in Telangana.

The two leaders also discussed the latest political developments and party organizational activities in the state. The TPCC chief explained in detail the progress of party strengthening measures, including the appointment of DCC presidents, formation of district and mandal committees, appointment of Booth Level Agents (BLAs), and constitution of affiliated bodies.

Mahesh Kumar Goud informed Rahul Gandhi that, in line with his assurance, a comprehensive caste census has been conducted in the state and official data has been released. He also urged Rahul



Gandhi to include provisions for Backward Class (BC) reservations in the proposed Women's Reservation Bill.

Further, the TPCC President requested that the upcoming AICC National OBC Advisory Council meeting be held in Hyderabad, to which Rahul Gandhi responded positively. Earlier, former Rajya Sabha Member V. Hanumantha Rao and Rajya Sabha MP Anil Yadav also met Rahul Gandhi.

## 3.25 Crore Support to SHG Women at Moosapet Training Programme

Hyderabad TSIT: Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC) Commissioner Srijana attended a Resource Person Training Programme in Moosapet Circle as the Chief Guest under the 99 Days Action Plan - Praja Palana Pragati Pranalika. On the occasion, financial assistance worth Rs.3.25 crore was sanctioned to 17 Self-Help Group (SHG) women groups to promote livelihood activities and economic empowerment. The Commissioner also distributed certificates to women who successfully completed tailoring training, encouraging skill development and self-employment. Addressing the gathering, Commissioner Srijana emphasized the importance of women's self-reliance, entrepreneurship, and access to financial support, highlighting the Corporation's commitment to strengthening women-led community institutions. Senior officials, including the Additional Commissioner (UCD), Project Director, Deputy Commissioner of Moosapet Circle, Programme Officer, bank officials, UCD coordinators, SHG representatives, and resource persons, attended the pro-

## Shikha Goel Calls for Responsible Driving; Cyberabad CP Stresses Awareness to Curb Road Accidents



Hyderabad, TSIT: The 'Arrive Alive' road safety campaign is being intensified across the Cyberabad Police Commissionerate with the objective of reducing road accidents and promoting responsible driving behaviour among citizens. As part of the initiative, Director General (Vigilance & Enforcement, TGCSB & FSL) Shikha Goel attended an awareness seminar held at Satva Knowledge Park as the Chief Guest.

Addressing the gathering, she emphasized that road safety is not merely about adhering to police regulations but a personal responsibility of every individual. She urged motorists to follow traffic rules voluntarily—not to avoid penalties, but to safeguard their own lives.

Expressing concern, she noted that road accidents claim more

lives than many other forms of crime, citing that nearly 8,000 deaths occurred due to road accidents in the state last year. She warned that even minor negligence, such as using mobile phones while driving, can prove fatal. Highlighting positive change, she said awareness about seat belt usage has improved and stressed that two-wheeler riders must mandatorily wear helmets, while pedestrians should remain alert while crossing roads.

Cyberabad Police Commissioner M. Ramesh stated that the 'Arrive Alive' programme is being actively implemented across schools, colleges, and public places to spread awareness. He pointed out that over-speeding, drunk driving, rash driving, signal jumping, and wrong-route driving are the primary causes of accidents. "Speed thrills, but it kills," he remarked, urging citizens to adopt disciplined driving habits to significantly reduce fatalities. Commissioner expressed concern that youth aged between 18 and 35 are the most affected by road accidents. He advised young drivers to adopt defensive driving practices and remain mindful not only of their own safety but also of others on the road.

## Consumers misled by inflated MRP labels on essential goods: Dr. Pallepada Damodar



Hyderabad, April 23: Dr. Pallepada Damodar, President of the Southern States Consumer Coordinating Committee, alleged that traders are misleading consumers by printing inflated MRP prices on essential commodities while concealing actual prices. A petition highlighting these concerns was submitted to the Legal Metrology Department at Gandhinagar, Hyderabad, in the presence of Deputy Controller Vimal Babu on Thursday. Dr. Damodar stated that several cooking oil traders, supermarkets, and malls across Telangana are displaying recommended MRP instead of actual pricing, leading to consumer exploitation. He stressed the need for stricter price control measures on essential goods. Consumer leaders including Sambaraju Chakrapani, Mamidi

## TRP backs RTC strike in Gadwal; demands government resolve workers' issues



Jogulamba Gadwal, April 23: Amid the ongoing strike by Telangana State Road Transport Corporation employees, the Telangana Rajyadhikari Party extended full support to the agitating workers and urged the state government to resolve their demands at the earliest. A protest was held in front of the Gadwal bus depot, where RTC staff boycotted duties and staged a demonstration. TRP District President Morugu Veeresh participated in the protest and expressed solidarity with the employees. Addressing the gathering, Veeresh said the party would continue to stand with RTC workers until their legitimate demands are fulfilled.

## Sage Bhagiratha Jayanti celebrated in Gadwal; leaders highlight legacy of perseverance

Jogulamba Gadwal, April 23: The birth anniversary of Sage Bhagiratha was celebrated with devotion at the district level under the aegis of the Backward Classes Welfare Department at the IDOC premises on Thursday. Officials and members of the Sagara community paid floral tributes and offered special prayers in honor of the revered sage. Addressing the gathering, Additional Collector Lakshminarayana described Bhagiratha as a symbol of determination and perseverance. He said the sage's legendary effort to bring



the river Ganga to earth continues to inspire generations, adding that the phrase "Bhagiratha effort" represents unwavering commitment toward achieving goals. Speaking on the occasion, Morugu Veeresh elaborated on the mythological significance of Bhagiratha's penance.

## BRS backs RTC strike, slams Congress



Khammam (TSIT): Extending full support to the ongoing RTC workers' strike, BRS Khammam district president and MLC Tata Madhusudan on Thursday criticised the Congress government, stating that a recent High Court verdict had once again vindicated former chief minister KCR. Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan in Khammam, he alleged that the Congress, unable to face KCR politically, had attempted to malign him through inquiry commissions. He said the court's observations questioning the functioning of such panels exposed the government's "political motives". Earlier, Madhusudan visited the Khammam RTC depot and joined striking drivers, conductors and other staff in a dharna, expressing solidarity. He termed the workers' demands as "justified", particularly the merger of RTC into the government

and immediate clearance of pending PRC dues, and urged the government to resolve the issue without delay. He also criticised the government's handling of agriculture, stating that paddy was piling up at procurement centres while farmers were facing hardships due to lack of logistics and delayed payments. He dismissed allegations against the Kaeshwaram project and said it remained crucial for the state. Alleging that the Revanth Reddy government was focused on "political vendetta" rather than governance, Madhusudan said the BRS would take these issues to the people and continue to support RTC workers until their demands are met.

## LB Nagar Hayathnagar Double Decker Elevated Corridor to Ease Traffic Woes: Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy

Hyderabad TSIT: State Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy conducted a high-level review meeting on Thursday at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat to assess the progress of the proposed double decker elevated corridor from LB Nagar to Hayathnagar (All India Radio station), spanning 7.1 km. The Minister stated that the ambitious project aims to provide major relief to lakhs of commuters and motorists by decongesting one of the busiest stretches on NH-65. He emphasized that the government is committed to transforming this accident-prone corridor into an accident-free route.

The review meeting, which lasted nearly four hours, was attended by senior officials including Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Srinivasa Raju, R&B Special Chief Secretary Vikas Raj, MoRTH Regional Officer Krishna Prasad, HMRL Chief Project Manager Anand Mohan, and R&B Chief Engineer (NH) Dharma Reddy.

Minister Venkat Reddy informed that the project is estimated to cost around Rs.941 crore, with the state government ready to contribute Rs.200 crore. He noted that after Nagpur, this would be

one of the largest double decker corridor projects in India. Highlighting its impact, the Minister said nearly 20 lakh people residing in 54 colonies across LB Nagar and Hayathnagar would benefit. Travel time for commuters on the Hyderabad-Vijayawada route is expected to reduce significantly, enabling city crossing within 15 minutes.

Expressing concern over frequent accidents and heavy congestion along the stretch, he said the new corridor would ensure safer road crossings through service roads and ease traffic flow. Officials were directed to expedite approvals from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) and initiate the tendering process at the earliest. The MoRTH Regional Officer confirmed that the project has already been included in the ministry's annual plan. The meeting also discussed technical aspects such as pillar foundations, structural strength, and integration with the proposed metro rail on the upper deck. It was suggested that assigning the entire project to a single agency would ensure better coordination, faster execution, and effective monitoring.

## District Collector inspects Huzur Nagar Area Hospital

Suryapet: District Collector Tejas Nand Lal Pawar has warned that doctors in government hospitals should be fully available to patients, otherwise action will be taken. On Thursday, the Collector made a surprise inspection of the Huzur Nagar (Regional Hospital) Area Hospital. During the inspection of the hospital, the Collector expressed his anger over the unavailability of doctors. The Collector inquired about the details of some people leaving their duties before the appointed time. Later, the dialysis center and blood bank centers were inspected. The Collector inquired about the medical services being provided to the patients. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said Doctors should be available to patients on time while performing their duties.



suggested to create awareness so that normal deliveries occur more often. He suggested to keep the hospital surroundings clean and to be vigilant about sanitation. In this context, he said that the hospital sanitation management

He congratulated the sanitation staff and nursing officers. He hoped to receive an award in Kayakalp. He suggested that the officials take steps to ensure that the surrounding areas of the hospital are kept clean by carrying out better sanitation work. The Collector inspected the emergency department, OP department, and blood storage departments of the hospital. He ordered the construction work of the newly constructed OP block to be completed expeditiously. Later, he monitored the functioning of the city scan mission. He instructed the district officials to discuss the shortcomings in the management of the T-Hub with the officials and resolve the problem immediately. Revenue Divisional Officer Srinivasulu, Superintendent Dr. Praveen Kumar, RMO Dr. Ravi Kumar, Gynecologist Dr. Vanaja, doctors, nursing officers, sanitation staff, medical staff and others participated in this program.

## Bhagiratha Jayanti celebrated with fervour in Hyderabad; Leaders call for inclusive welfare

Hyderabad, Apr 23 (TSIT) Grand celebrations marking the birth anniversary of Sri Sri Sri Sagara Bhagiratha Maharshi were held at Ravindra Bharathi on Thursday, with participation from ministers, public representatives, and community leaders. Transport Ministers Ponnamp Prabhakar and Vakati Srihari, along with MP Eatala Rajender, BC Welfare Association president Jajula Srinivas Goud, and Sagara community leaders Uppari Shekhar and Askani Maruthi Sagar, attended the event.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Vakati Srihari said the government is committed to the

welfare of SCs, STs, BCs, and minority communities, and assured that issues faced by the Sagara community would be addressed with priority. He highlighted Bhagiratha as a symbol of perseverance and visionary leadership, noting that even in the present era, society continues to draw inspiration from his relentless efforts.

Recalling the legend of Bhagiratha bringing the Ganga to earth, the minister said such determination remains a guiding force for progress. He urged the youth to adopt Bhagiratha as a role model and strive to achieve the impossible through sustained effort and dedication.

**ICICI Home Finance** Corporate Office: ICICI Home Finance Company Limited (ICICI HFC) Tower, Andheri - Kurla Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400059, India  
Branch Office : Supriya Towers, 1st floor, D. No. 5-37-155, 4/15 Brodipet, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh- 522002

Notice for sale of immovable assets through Private Treaty

Sole Notice for Sale of Immoveable Assets through Private Treaty under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 8(B) r/w Rule 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

ICICI Home Finance Company Limited (ICICI HFC) conducted several e-Auctions for the sale of the mortgaged property mentioned below, however, all such e-Auctions failed. Now, an interested buyer has approached ICICI HFC with an offer to purchase the said property for an amount of Rs. 9,00,000/- (Rupees Nine Lacs Only) and hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below-described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd., will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", by way of Private Treaty as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Legal Heirs. Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price / Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction	One Day Before Auction Date	Surfessi Stage
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)
1.	Srinivasa Rao Kavuru (Borrower) Kavuru Jyothi (Co-Borrowers) Loan No. LHGTR00001423394	Door No 1-50 Asst. No. 289, D No 31/1 Electricity Sc.No 81 Near Laliths Tripura Sundari Devi Temple, Karlapalem Gramam, Nellamuruvaripati Gram Panchayat, Bapatla SRO Guntur District AP	Rs. 22,90,468/- April 21, 2026	Rs. 9,00,000/- April 21, 2026	May 04, 2026 11:00 AM To 03:00 PM	May 11, 2026 02:00 PM To 04:00 PM	May 08, 2026 04:00 PM	Physical Possession

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link- <https://BidDeal.in>) of our auction agency ValueTrust Services Private Limited. The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) /RTGS/ Demand Draft (DD) (Please Refer Column E) on the limited liability company ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, Branch Office address mentioned in top of the article on or before May 08, 2026 before 04:00 PM. The Prospective Bidder(s) must also submit a signed copy of the Registration Form & Bid Terms and Conditions form at ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article on or before May 08, 2026 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit Demand Draft (DD) should be from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in favor of ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd. - Auction" payable at the branch office address mentioned on top of the article.

The general public is requested to submit their bids higher than the amount being offered by the interested buyer mentioned above. It is hereby informed that in case no bids higher than the amount being offered by the aforementioned interested buyer is received by ICICI HFC, the mortgaged property shall be sold to the said interested buyer as per Rule 8(B) r/w Rule 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the sale or submission of bids, kindly contact ICICI Home Finance Company Limited on 9920807300.

The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit <https://www.icicifhc.com>.

Date : April 24, 2026  
Place : Guntur  
Authorized Officer, "ICICI Home Finance Company Limited"  
CIN Number: U65922MH1999PLC120106

**ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY (INDIA) LTD. (ARCIL)**  
Acting in its capacity as Trustee of various Arcil Trusts  
Arcil office: The Ruby, 10<sup>th</sup> floor, 29, Senapati Bapat Marg, Dadar (West), Mumbai - 400 028  
Website: <https://auction.arcil.co.in>; CIN-U65999MH2002PLC134884

**POSSESSION NOTICE**

Whereas, **M/s Poonawalla Fincorp Limited** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) ("said Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ("said Rules") issued a demand notice dated 17.09.2025, calling upon the borrower viz. **Shri. Ajahar** along-with the co-borrowers **Shri. Nasarullah & Trust** Iron and the mortgagor(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice being a sum of **Rs. 14,46,708/- (Rupees Fourteen Lacs Forty Six Thousand Seven Hundred Eight only) & Rs. 10,92,604/- (Rupees Ten Lacs Ninety Two Thousand Six Hundred Four only) Total of Rs. 25,39,312/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lacs Thirty Nine Thousand Three Hundred Twelve only)** as on 23.09.2025 in respect of the loan facility **HL/0219/H/13/000081 & HL/0219/H/14/000072** with further interest on facilities at the rate of 18.05% p.a. at monthly rests plus penal interest at the rate of 2.50% per month from 24.09.2025 till payment/realisation, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

And whereas subsequently, **M/s Poonawalla Fincorp Limited** has vide Assignment Agreement dated 29.09.2025 assigned all its rights, title, interest and benefits in respect of the debts due and payable by the borrower/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) arising out of the facilities advanced by **M/s Poonawalla Fincorp Limited** to borrower/ guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) alongwith the underlying securities to Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Limited acting in its capacity as Trustee of Arcil - Trust -2026 -016 ("Arcil") for the benefit of the holders of Security Receipts. Therefore, in view of the said assignment, Arcil now stands substituted in the place of **M/s Poonawalla Fincorp Limited** and Arcil shall be entitled to institute/continue all and any proceedings against the borrower/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) and to enforce the rights and benefits under the financial documents including the enforcement of guarantee and security interest executed and created by the borrower/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) for the financial facilities availed by them.

The borrower/Co-borrowers/mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the said amounts to Arcil, notice is hereby given to the borrower/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Arcil has taken possession of the secured assets described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this the 22nd day of April 2026.

The borrower/Co-borrowers(mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the below mentioned secured assets and any dealings with the secured assets will be subject to the charge of Arcil for a sum of **Rs. 14,46,708/- (Rupees Fourteen Lacs Forty Six Thousand Seven Hundred Eight only) & Rs. 10,92,604 (Rupees Ten Lacs Ninety Two Thousand Six Hundred Four only) Total of Rs. 25,39,312/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lacs Thirty Nine Thousand Three Hundred Twelve only)** as on 23.09.2025 in respect of the loan facility **HL/0219/H/13/000081 & HL/0219/H/14/000072** with further interest on facilities at the rate of 18.05% p.a. at monthly rests plus penal interest at the rate of 2.50% per month from 24.09.2025 till payment/realisation, together with all incidental costs, charges and expenses incurred.

The borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors' attention is invited to the provisions of the Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the said Act, in respect of time available to redeem the below mentioned secured assets.

**DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSETS**

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY GUNTUR DISTRICT, NALLAPADU SUB-DISTRICT, GUNTUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION AREA, GUNTUR CITY, RAJENDRA NAGAR, LOCALITY, NALLAPADU VILLAGE, D.No. 14/B, COVERING AN EXTENT OF AC.0.67 CENTS, WORD NO. 18, BLOCK NO. 21, T.S.NO. 1721/2, AS PER MUNICIPAL CORPORATION SURVEY FILE NO. 510/2013/T.S., DT. 31.12.2013 AS PER ENDORSEMENT MUNICIPAL WORD NO. 18, BLOCK NO. 21, T.S.NO. 1721/2 COVERING AN EXTENT OF 156 SQ.YDS AND OUT OF IT AN EXTENT OF 67.2 SQ.YDS WAS SOLD BY VENDOR TO MANDALANENI VENKATESWARA RAO AND THE REMAINING EXTENT OF 88 SQ.YDS IN IT DOOR NO. 3-1-106, ASST. NO. 126131 OF R.C.C. ROOF DABA HOUSE IS BEING BOUND BY: EAST: PROPERTY OF MADALANENI VENKATESWARA RAO, 12.5 FT, SOUTH: JOINT PATH WAY LEFT BY THE VENDOR AND KOTAPATI LAKSHMI KUMARI SOME EXTENT, AND OTHERS, 63.5 FT, WEST: PROPERTY OF KOTAPATI RAMANUJAMMA, 12.5 FT, NORTH: SITE SOLD BY VISWANADHAM TO OTHERS, 63.5 FT, WITHIN THESE BOUNDARIES COVERING AN EXTENT OF 88 SQ.YDS, OR 73.57 SQ.MTS, OF R.C.C. DABA HOUSE WITH ALL EXISTING CONSTRUCTIONS THERE UPON.

Authorized Officer  
**For Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Limited**  
(Trustee of Arcil - Trust -2026 -016)  
(Signature)

Place: Guntur  
Date: 24.04.2026

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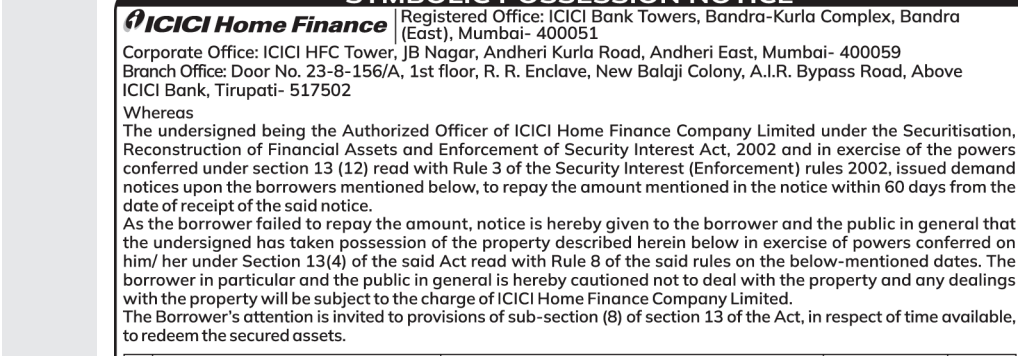
info.southindiatimes@gmail.com

AP Ministers Study Singapore's JTC Model for Industrial Growth



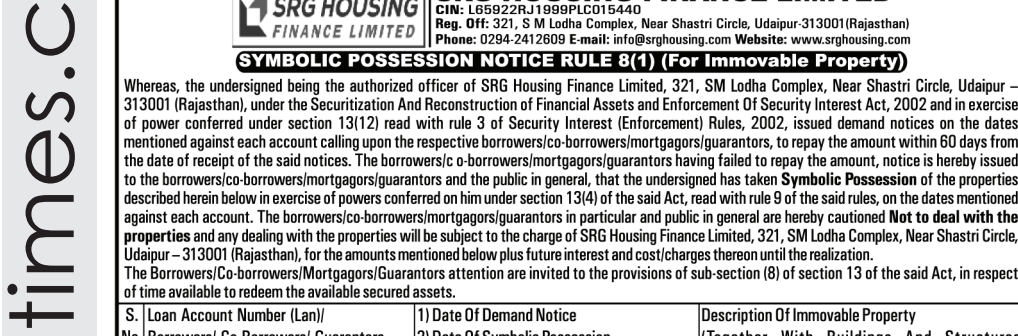
Singapore/Amaravati: On the third day of their training program in Singapore, a delegation of Andhra Pradesh ministers undertook an in-depth study of the JTC Corporation, a premier government agency responsible for developing industrial infrastructure under Singapore's Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Bhagiratha's Inspiration Drives Water Conservation Movement in Andhra Pradesh



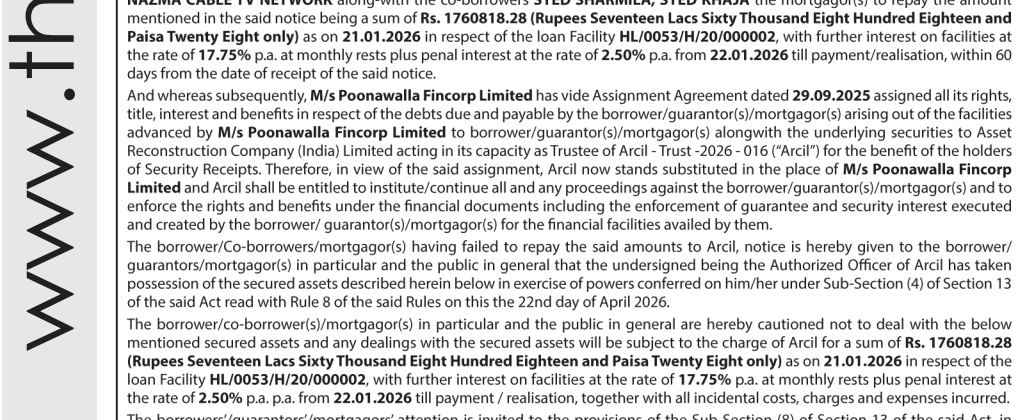
Tadepalli/Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh BC, EWS Welfare, Handlooms and Textiles Minister S. Savita stated that the state has launched a large-scale water conservation movement inspired by the legendary sage Bhagiratha.

Values and culture are foundation of life, says Venkaiah Naidu at AU centenary event



Visakhapatnam, April 23: Former Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu stressed that values and culture are as important as education in shaping life, while addressing a programme at Andhra University as part of its centenary celebrations.

Pfizer Delegation Visits GITAM to Review Educational Partnership



The South India Times, Visakhapatnam: A high-level expert delegation from Pfizer Healthcare India Limited visited GITAM Deemed University on Thursday to review ongoing academic programs and explore avenues to strengthen their educational partnership.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

Notice: This is in continuation of our earlier communication dated February 17, 2026 wherein we informed about the relocation of our office situated at Second Floor, Jagannath Complex, Laxminagar, 4th Lane, Door No. 5-91-1, Behind Hanraha Mahal, Guntur - 522 007, Andhra Pradesh.

NOTICE: Under the instructions of my client, Tadikonda Kishore Kumar, S/o. Kasi Viswanadhram of Morrispet, Tenali, Guntur District, I hereby issue this publication as follows.

SCHEDULE: An extent of 161.90 sq. yds. or 135.36 sq. mts. of house site with ACC sheet shed therein in T.S. No. 587, Block No. 10, Door No. 6-4-113 (new) situated at 4th Line, Arundelpet, Guntur, Guntur District and is within the jurisdiction of Sub Registrar, Guntur, being bought by the property of Shaik Hussain, S/o. Shaik Hussain, residing at the South by the Arundelpet 4th Line Main Road, on the West by the compound wall of the subject property, and on the North by the property of Tripuramallu Guravahai.

ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY (INDIA) LTD. (ARCIL)

POSSSION NOTICE: Whereas, M/s Poonawalla Fincorp Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFESI Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (SIRE Rules) issued a demand notice dated 21.01.2026, calling upon the borrower viz. NAZMA CABLE TV NETWORK along with the co-borrowers SYED SHARMILA, SYED KHAIJA (the mortgagors) to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice being a sum of Rs. 1760818.28 (Rupees Seventeen Lacs Sixty Thousand Eight Hundred Eighteen and Paise Twenty Eight only) as on 21.01.2026 in respect of the loan Facility HL/0053/H/20/000002, with further interest on facilities at the rate of 17.75% p.a. at monthly rests plus penal interest at the rate of 2.50% p.a. from 22.01.2026 till payment/realisation, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

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

SHIRAM Asset Reconstruction Private Limited (SARPL) (Acting in its capacity as Trustee of various SARC Trusts)

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/IES) Under Rule 8(1) Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002: Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of Shiram Asset Reconstruction Private Limited, acting in its capacity as Trustee various SARC Trusts (hereinafter referred to as 'SARPL') under Section 5) of the SARFESI Act having acquired the financial assets pertaining to various borrowers including the borrowers mentioned herein below together with the underlying security interest created thereon along with all the rights, title and interest thereon from secured creditor/Original Lender/Assignor Manappuram Home Finance Ltd. Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as 'SARFESI Act') & in compliance of Rule 8(1) of Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice under Section 13(2) of the SARFESI Act calling upon the following borrowers to repay the amounts mentioned against their respective name together with the interest thereon at the applicable/contractual rates as mentioned in the said notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice along with further interest as applicable, incidental cost, charges etc. incurred till the date of payment and/or realization as mentioned in the below Schedule.

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EDITORIAL

Spotlight On \$17-Billion Trump-Class Warship After Pentagon Axes Navy Chief

Pete Hegseth swung his axe Wednesday and another head rolled. This time, US Navy Secretary John Phelan. Removed from office 'effective immediately', Pentagon spokesperson Sean Parnell said on X. No further details were provided. Sources would only tell Politico it was in part over a new and "hugely expensive" class of warships the Defence Secretary and his deputy, Stephen Feinberg, just didn't want, preferring instead to pivot to mass-produced sea attack drones. But Phelan, a civilian appointment endorsed by Donald Trump, kept pushing the 'Golden Fleet' vision that would have the lead warship in this proposed new class as its command hub, and would have cost billions to even start development. And the class name? That's potentially the best part of this story - Trump. Two people familiar with developments told Politico the name was conceived "to curry favour with the president". But Hegseth, was not impressed. The plans are "not at all aligned with where Hegseth and Feinberg want to go", one source told Politico. This was despite Hegseth and Secretary of State Marco Rubio flanking the president when he announced plans for the 'Golden Fleet' and his Trump-class vessels; "They'll be the fastest, the biggest and by far, 100 times more powerful than any battleship ever built..." the president had said at his Mar-a-Lago residence in Florida in December 2025. And so the axe has swung and Phelan - a billionaire who helped finance Trump's presidential campaign - was in the White House when told the news. No formal statement has come from the US government, so far.

**Plot twist: Budget sails on**  
The ships aren't gone, though. Not yet, anyway. The Navy presented a \$377.5 billion budget for FY27, part of a staggering \$1.5 trillion ask from the Pentagon. At the centre of it are plans for a 'next-generation battleship' - the Trump-class - to restore American dominance of the high seas. This was pitched as a critical given China's increased naval focus. Not much, perhaps, should be read into the Navy presenting the Trump-class project in its budget; these plans were already part of documents prepared for the April 21 submission.

**Phelan was sacked April 22.**  
But why push something the Pentagon's boss suddenly did not want? Were the Trump-class warship plans simply a muscle flex for the world - a sign the US is pushing the boundaries of naval warfare, even as they are challenged by the Chinese and, now, Iran? Or was retaining them in the budget a strategic move - Hegseth hedging his bets in anticipation of an irate Trump when he finds plans for futuristic warships in his name have been junked? Or is there to the Phelan sacking than is evident at this time?

**Advantage, China?**  
Either way, the US has a problem. Beijing has already transitioned from a largely coastal defence-only force to a deep-water fleet that is, by hull count alone, believed to be the largest in the world. In simple terms, the Chinese have warships, lots of them. They also have three aircraft carriers and plans to build a fourth. The war in Iran - specifically Tehran's squeezing of the Strait of Hormuz - has underscored the world's dependence on seaborne energy supply lines and maritime chokepoints, and how these likely become future targets. Washington's move to guarantee itself surveillance rights over the Malacca and Caribbean shipping passages, as well as pushing to have its authority over Hormuz recognised, suggests Trump knows this too. Malacca Gambit: How China Oil-Choke Strategy Could Backfire On Trump  
To establish and maintain naval superiority at these chokepoints, and have assets in reserve, the US needs boats on the water. And it doesn't have them, at least not as many as China. Multiple reports indicate Beijing has between 350 and 840 ships of varying sizes and battle purposes. The US has only 290 to 465, though these are significantly more advanced. The US also has an advantage in firepower and fleet capabilities.

**The \$17B, 35,000+ ton gamble**  
Phelan's proposed ships are 880 feet-long 35,000+ ton guided missile battleships armed with Tomahawks, a full electronic warfare suite, and a flight deck with an enclosed hangar. The size puts them on par with the Navy's amphibious assault ships - the USS Boxer and USS Tripoli, for example - deployed in the Iran war, and which can double as aircraft carriers. They would also have futuristic hypersonic, nuclear, and directed-energy weapons; think railguns, electricity-powered weapons that fire metal slugs at hypersonic speeds. Unconfirmed reports indicate the lead ship in the class - USS Defiant - could cost as much as \$17 billion, with others priced at US\$15 billion each. The overall cost - \$43.5 billion for the first three, with total hull count expected to settle at 10.

**Pentagon purge**  
Phelan was No 4, the fourth senior Pentagon leader sacked in April. Not great advertisement, Trump's critics argue, for a government and military claiming to have 'crushed' the Iranians and won a great victory over the Strait of Hormuz, which remains shut. The sacking follows a hat-trick of firings on April 1-2 - three senior generals, including Army Chief of Staff General Randy George; General David Hodne, Commander, Army Training and Doctrine Command/Transformation; and Major General William Green Jr, the Army Chief of Chaplains. The firings (and forced resignations) haven't had an impact on the war in Iran, at least not publicly, but they have hit troop morale, multiple US media reports have said, and raised broader questions about need for military leadership re-alignment in war time.

# India Is Losing A Multibillion-Dollar 'Asset', Thanks To Trump

Recently, Turkey's transportation minister, Abdulkadir Uraloglu, announced that his country, and Syria and Jordan, have together agreed to modernise their railway systems in order to eventually create a contiguous corridor between southern Europe and the Persian Gulf. The network would take approximately four to five years to build, and billions of dollars in investment, primarily because of the devastated Syrian infrastructure. The railway network reconstruction in Syria alone needs at least \$5.5 billion. Thereafter, it would be extended to connect with the rail system in Saudi Arabia. This would eventually create a North-South Gulf-Europe trade corridor between Europe, the Levant and the Gulf. Such a corridor would revive the old Ottoman-era route connecting Damascus in Syria to Medina in present-day Saudi Arabia, through Jordan. It would also reopen more modern routes that Turkey had used through Syria to connect to Jordan, Lebanon and the Gulf before the Syrian civil war began in 2011. Such a corridor makes sound sense as it would be the shortest and most cost-effective route for transportation of goods and services between the countries involved. But, at the same time, it would signal a setback to India's connectivity ambitions in the Middle East and Europe in an era of disruption of traditional trade routes. The Vision Behind IMEC In September 2023, the ambitious India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, known



variously as IMEC or IMEEC, was unveiled during the Delhi G20 meet by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and the then US President, Joe Biden. The multimodal route (see map below) was to start from Mumbai in India and would connect by sea to the UAE. From there, it would continue through a network of railways to Saudi Arabia, then to Jordan and further on to Israel. From Israel, through the Haifa Port, the corridor would continue to Europe. It was, in great part, envisioned as an alternative to the Suez route, where a ship had just a few days earlier got stuck, causing great disruption to global trade for more than two weeks. Europe had also been seeking such a

network to find alternatives to routes running through the vast Russian landmass, since the Ukraine crisis had broken out. Given that the economies of India, the Gulf, and Europe were aligning, the IMEC was not only expected to cut down on freight and transportation costs but also to boost the economies of the participating states, as well as counter China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Even Greece had evinced an interest in joining it. In all, the IMEC would have two routes, with each costing roughly US 3-8 billion. However, the IMEC received its first setback soon after all this, when a war broke out in the same year between Israel and Hamas following the latter's attack on October 7. The Yemen-based Houthis soon joined the con-

flict and targeted commercial shipping. This, in fact, added to the urgency of searching for alternative routes. However, the entire region stretching from Jordan to the Israeli ports became embroiled in violence and unrest and put paid to the IMEC's progress. Israel, after all, was meant to be a crucial node in the network. The IMEC's success was also contingent upon the normalisation of relations between Saudi Arabia and Israel. That was a process still underway then. The UAE, another important node in the route, had already normalised ties with Tel Aviv in the previous years, as had Jordan. However, the continuation of the war complicated this process when it came to the Saudis, who publicly accused

Israel of committing a genocide of Palestinians in Gaza, and making normalisation of ties conditional upon the creation of a Palestinian state. Adding grist to the mill, reports have now started appearing that Saudi Arabia wants to replace Israel with Syria as the transit country for a fibre-optic cable designed to connect the Kingdom to Greece via the Mediterranean Sea (Greece and Saudi Arabia had announced the East to Med Data Corridor (EMC) project in 2022). More recently, in February this year, Saudi telecom firm stc Group announced that it will invest about USD 800 million in Syria's telecommunication infrastructure. Shifting Equations This move by the Saudis points to shifting

regional alignments. For almost a decade, relations between Saudi Arabia and Turkey had been marked by suspicion and tensions, escalating particularly after the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Istanbul. However, regional tensions, in particular the Israel-Hamas war, and now the Iran war, have led to realignments as Saudi and Turkish concerns converge. Over the past month, the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia and Turkey have met three times, together with their counterparts from Egypt and Pakistan, attempting to form a regional security alliance. Similarly, the Gulf-to-Europe transport corridor (see map below) mentioned at the beginning of this essay can just as easily be rerouted through Jordan, Syria, and Turkey, bypassing Israel. Given this, the normalisation between the Saudis and Israelis seems even more elusive - almost as wishful an idea as the creation of a Palestinian state. Moreover, this also fits in with the broader Saudi objective of reintegrating Syria into the region and turning it into a telecommunications and transport hub. Major financing would give the Saudis tremendous leverage over post-war Syria. Adding to these complexities is the emerging rift between Saudi Arabia and the UAE, which are fighting proxy wars from Yemen to Sudan to Somalia. The recent move by Israel to station an ambassador in the breakaway region of Somaliland was strongly condemned by Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia.

## Rivers Flow, Memories Remain: On Calls Upon India To Revive Indus Treaty With Pakistan

April 23 marks a year since India placed the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance after the Pahalgam attack. In that time, a familiar argument has resurfaced in international discussion. A recent Chatham House article is the most polished expression of a restorationist approach that seeks to restore water cooperation first and let politics catch up later. Its appeal lies in the language of prudence. Even hostile states, the argument runs, need narrow channels of cooperation to prevent wider instability. That sounds sensible. But prudence cannot mean insulating cooperation from the conduct that made it untenable. This is not really about management. It is about memory. A Reminder On What The Treaty Really Was The real problem is that the treaty is being treated as something it never was. The Indus arrangement is often treated as though it were a technical system that should keep running, whatever happens around it. It was never that. It was a political bargain between adversaries who agreed to preserve a protected space. The treaty itself was framed in the language of goodwill, friendship and cooperation. A treaty designed to preserve order between rivals cannot remain insulated indefinitely from conduct that systematically attacks the very possibility of order. For years, many outside observers mistook India's endurance for insulation. The treaty survived not because politics had been transcended, but because India kept choosing to preserve it despite wars, crises and prolonged hostility.

The Chatham House piece notes that the treaty endured through three wars and long diplomatic freezes. But that same history points to a less flattering truth. What is often cited as proof of the treaty's success also reflects how much Indian restraint had gone into keeping it alive. Pahalgam changed the balance between restraint and memory. Those urging revival want India to remember the treaty's durability. India is entitled to remember what it had to absorb to keep the treaty alive. That is why the Chatham House prescription, and others like it, land flat in India. Reaffirm data sharing, reactivate dispute settlement, expand joint research, restore predictability, and recover confidence. It is a neat sequence. It is also the wrong sequence. Predictability and transparency are not neutral administrative virtues. They are signs of a functioning political relationship. Asking India to restore them first is asking it to simulate normalcy before the cause of rupture has been addressed. Legal Process Cannot Continue Without Trust The ongoing legal proceedings only sharpen the point. The Hague arbitration has continued without India. Reports point to a possible end-May ruling on interim measures and the treaty's status. It would not settle the case. It would only show that the procedure can continue after political consent has drained away. The Neutral Expert track tells a similar story. India once defended it as the proper forum. After abeyance, it stayed away even as the proceedings continued. "

## LOSING IDENTITY BEHIND FILTERS

# SOCIAL MEDIA AND THE SELF-IMAGE CRISIS OF GIRLS

How simplicity, self-respect and real life are being lost in the race for likes and validation



PRIYANKA SAURABH

Listen, girls—this isn't a sentimental appeal, but an essential truth. The worry that you might lose yourself in this race to look beautiful is no longer personal; it's becoming a social crisis. Today, the mirror resides not on the wall of our room, but on our mobile screens. And this mirror doesn't reflect reality, but rather what it wants to show. In this virtual world, beauty is no longer natural, but a project—edited, filtered, and measured by likes and views. It would be wrong to assume that social media is merely a medium of entertainment. It has now become a psychological construct, gradually shaping our thoughts, our preferences, our self-confidence, and our identity. For young women in particular, it creates such pressure that they unconsciously begin to mold themselves into someone else's mold. Looking at someone else's "perfect" photo every day and finding flaws in their own face, wondering after each story how many people saw it, how many praised it—all this is turning into a dangerous habit. This hunger for validation is subtle. At first, it seems normal—a little compliment, a few nice comments, a few likes. But gradually, it becomes a need. When compliments aren't received, it leads to anxiety, self-doubt, and a faltering self-esteem. This is the moment when a girl, who could have been strong and self-reliant from within, becomes dependent on external reactions. This dependence leads to mental exhaustion and depression, but ironically, it's all hidden behind a smiling face.

What you see on social media isn't the whole truth. Everyone here only shows the best parts of their lives. No one posts pictures of their loneliness, no one shares their fears or failures. So when you see someone always happy, in love, or successful, it's important to understand that that's not the whole story. It's just a chosen frame, with the rest of the truth deliberately cut out. The biggest danger is that this virtual comparison makes you underestimate yourself. You think you're not as beautiful, not as happy, not as successful. The truth is, you're complete in your own right. Your simplicity, your thinking, your nature—all of these make you unique. But when you try to be like someone else, you weaken your own identity. In today's world, "trend" has become the new religion. Whatever's trending is considered right. But not every trend is meant for you. Sometimes, these trends take a toll on your health, your self-esteem, and your peace of mind. Strange beauty standards, unnatural lifestyles, and a habit of showing off—all of these slowly lead you in a direction where you drift away from your true self. It's also true that social media has opened up new avenues for expression. But when this expression turns into comparison and competition, it loses its positivity. When every post becomes a performance, every photo a message saying "I'm happy," it's no longer natural life, but an act. And constantly acting is exhausting. The most important thing in this entire scenario is to connect with yourself. Understanding that your true worth isn't determined by likes and comments. Your identity is bigger than any trend or filter. Your simplicity, your honesty, and your self-respect—that's your true strength. You don't have to prove yourself every day. It's also not necessary to flaunt every joy and hide every sorrow. Real life is much bigger than that six-inch screen. There are relationships that flow without filters. There are emotions that come out without edit-

ing. There is struggle that teaches, and there is solace that brings satisfaction even without any likes. But when we start spending more time in that virtual world than in the real one, our balance gradually begins to deteriorate. It's time to pause and reflect. To ask whether we're truly living, or just pretending we're living. Is our happiness genuine, or just manufactured for a post? These aren't easy questions, but they're essential to face. You have to decide what kind of life you want—one that appears perfect to others, or one that brings you peace from within. Because in the end, what matters is how you feel about yourself, not how the world sees you. Simplicity isn't a weakness, it's a strength. In today's age of pretentiousness, staying simple, being yourself, is the ultimate courage. A simple kurti, a tiny bindi, and a genuine smile—these can be more beautiful than any expensive makeup or trend, if combined with confidence and self-acceptance. Learn to love yourself. This isn't a cliché, but a psychological necessity. When you psych yourself, you no longer need anyone else's approval. You can be happy to see others' happiness without thinking less of yourself. You can also accept your failures with ease, knowing that your worth isn't determined solely by your successes. And sometimes, it's important to step away from the noise. Sitting alone for a night, spending time with your thoughts, listening to a good song—all of this connects you with yourself. It reminds you that you're not just a profile, but a sensitive, deep-rooted human being. So, the next time you open social media, remember that it's just a part of your life, not your whole life. It's a platform, but your real story is written outside of it. There, where you can be yourself, without fear, without comparison. Being authentic is more important than looking beautiful. And authenticity is what is true, what is real. So, don't stray from yourself. Because the greatest beauty in the world is staying true to yourself.

# "India Great Country With Very Good Friend At Top": Trump After 'Hell-Hole' Row

**AGENCY**  
**Washington:** US President Donald Trump on Thursday praised India and said that he has a "very good friend" leading the country. Earlier in the day, Trump reposted a racist remark by American political commentator and radio host Michael Savage's podcast, where he referred to India, China and other nations as "hell holes". Christopher Elms, spokesperson for the US Embassy in New Delhi, relayed that the Republican leader spoke warmly of India, calling it a great nation and noting that he shares a personal friendship with its leader. "India is a great country with a very good friend of mine at the top," Trump said. In his racist rant calling for changes in the United States' birthright citizenship law, Savage alleged that people from the two Asian nations come to the US to "drop a baby in the ninth month", and the law turns them into "instant" US citizens. Trump shared the transcript and video of Savage's podcast 'Savage Nation', where he slammed the US Supreme Court's arguments on birthright citizenship. The transcript describes Indian and Chinese immigrants as "gangsters with laptops"



who have "stepped on our flag". "They've done more damage to this nation than all the mafia families put together. In my unimpeachable opinion, Gangsters with laptops. They've robbed us blind, treated us like second-class citizens, let the world triumph, stepped on our flag, et cetera," he wrote. Savage said that he used to be a "great supporter of Indians in India" but only until he realised that the prospect of "white men" getting jobs at a high-tech company in California is 'nil'. In an interview with CNBC, on Tuesday, Trump falsely claimed that the US is the only country offering birthright citizenship.

Several nations, including Canada and Mexico, and other countries in South America grant citizenship based on place of birth. "In reality, about three dozen countries provide automatic citizenship to people born on their soil, including US neighbours Canada and Mexico and the majority of South American countries," CNN stated in a fact-check on Trump's claim. India's Reaction On Trump's derogatory post comparing India and China as "hell holes", the Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal, acknowledged, "We have seen some reports. That is where I leave it." US

President Donald Trump on Thursday ordered the United States Navy to open fire on any boat placing mines in the Strait of Hormuz, dramatically escalating Washington's posture in the waterway that carries roughly one-fifth of the world's traded oil. "I have ordered the United States Navy to shoot and kill any boat, small boats though they may be — Their naval ships are ALL, 159 of them, at the bottom of the sea! — that is putting mines in the waters of the Strait of Hormuz," Trump wrote on Truth Social. "There is to be no hesitation. Additionally, our mine 'sweepers' are clearing the Strait right

now. I am hereby ordering that activity to continue, but at a tripled up level! (sic)," he added. The order came a day after Iran seized two cargo ships in the strait. Iranian state media posted dramatic video of masked IRGC commandos boarding the container ship MSC-Francesca from a gunboat, climbing its hull with rifles slung over their backs. Another vessel, the Epaminodes, was also seized. The Philippine government confirmed 15 of its seafarers were aboard the seized vessels, saying they were "safe and unharmed." US officials said a month ago that Iran had likely placed at least a dozen sea mines in the strait, using small boats that can carry two to three devices each. The Strait has been at the heart of the broader US-Iran confrontation. After 21 hours of US-Iran peace negotiations in Islamabad collapsed earlier this month, Trump announced a full naval blockade of the Strait, declaring Iran's toll system on passing ships "world extortion." Iran has since collected its first toll revenues from ships passing through the waterway, with the country's deputy parliament speaker confirming the money had been deposited into the Central Bank.

# Infosys ADR Falls Nearly 6% As IT Major's Weak FY27 Guidance Spooks Traders

**AGENCY**  
**Mumbai:** The American Depository Receipts of Infosys Ltd. were trading lower on Thursday after it posted its fourth quarter earnings. The decline comes as the IT giant has forecasted a revenue growth of 1.5%-3.5% for the fiscal 2027, missing brokerage estimate of 2%-4% for the year. The ADR of Infosys in pre-market fell 5.71% at \$12.70, however it saw some recovery at 9:39 a.m. as the markets opened Infosys ADR fell 5.19% to \$12.78. In addition to missing forecast estimates, Infosys' CC growth declined by 1.3% to 3.1% in quarter ended March, clocking the sharpest decline in four quarters. The ADR is a tool for multinational/foreign companies (primarily based outside the US) or organisations to trade on US stock markets, just like regular shares of US companies. In theory, an ADR is similar to a special certificate issued by a US bank. It is a negotiable certificate representing shares in a foreign company traded on US stock exchanges. India's second largest IT services firm posted a 28% surge



in profit at Rs 8,501 crore in the fourth quarter of the previous fiscal. This is in comparison to profit of Rs 6,654 crore in the same quarter of the previous fiscal, according to its stock exchange notification on Thursday. This beats analyst estimates of Rs 7,496 crore. Revenue advanced by 2% year-on-year for the three months ended March, reaching Rs 46,402 crore in comparison to Rs 45,479 crore. Operating income, or earnings before interest and taxes rose 3% year-on-year to Rs 9,743 crore. The EBIT margin expanded to 21% from the earlier 20.8% in the previous quarter. The revenue growth was aided by a pickup in demand from its banking, energy and communication segments. Revenue from communications and manufacturing rose over 12.6% and 15.9% respectively on a year-on-year basis. Financial services jumped nearly 5% and energy, utilities, resources and services by 8.3%. On the other hand, income from Hi-Tech fell nearly 1.5%.

# FM Sitharaman Chairs Meeting On Mythos Impact On Indian Fintech Ecosystem: Sources

**AGENCY**  
**Mumbai:** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has chaired a high-level meeting with banks and key stakeholders to assess the potential impact of emerging issues linked to "Mythos" on India's fast-growing fintech ecosystem, according to sources familiar with the matter. The meeting comes amid rising concerns within the financial sector over disruptions and risks associated with Mythos, prompting the government and regulators to step in for a closer evaluation. Officials indicated that the discussion focused on understanding the nature of the issue, its transmission channels within the banking and fintech landscape, and any possible systemic implications. Meeting chaired by Finance Minister with PSBs on cybersecurity and AI. According to sources the meeting was also attended by Ministry of Electronics and IT officials, DFS Secy and CERT-In officials. Sources added that the finance minister empha-



sised the need for coordinated action between banks, fintech firms and regulatory bodies to maintain trust in the system. Ensuring consumer protection and safeguarding transaction integrity were key themes during the discussions. An official statement from the finance ministry is expected later in the day, which could provide more clarity on the government's assessment and the next steps. Even before, Mythos has been viewed as a topic of intrigue and concern by many officials all over the world. RBI officials have,

over the past two weeks, held consultations with counterparts at the US Federal Reserve and the Bank of England to better understand the evolving risks. Among the regulators, the RBI may also seek direct engagement with Anthropic as per sources. Similarly, India's payments body, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), is also attempting to secure early access to Mythos along with a small group of banks to identify vulnerabilities and day-zero cyber risks before any wider deployment,

according to one source. However, such access may not be easy to obtain. A fourth source aware of the matter said Anthropic hosts Mythos on tightly controlled servers in the United States, making it difficult to test the model on local data in overseas markets. At present, Mythos access has been restricted to a limited number of organisations responsible for maintaining critical digital infrastructure in the United States. Reuters had earlier reported that Anthropic plans to extend access to European banks in the near future.

# First Look: H&M unveils the full Stella McCartney H&M Collection

**India, April 2026:** H&M is proud to reveal all the looks in the upcoming Stella McCartney H&M collection. The collection will be available online at www.hm.com and select stores starting 10 AM on 7 May. The collection launches some twenty years after H&M's first partnership with the acclaimed designer and campaigner. The first Stella McCartney H&M partnership – H&M's second ever design collaboration – launched in November 2005. This new Stella McCartney H&M collection builds on that legacy. It reflects on the highlights of the house's 25-year history, bottling McCartney's pioneering and rule-breaking vision into a range of apparel and accessories. The collection unites past and present, combining beloved current signatures, such as oversized shirting, sweeping trenches and sharp tailoring, with playful iconic hits from McCartney's early archive, including bejewelled prints and slogan tops. "I see this collection as a journey through my fashion history. It is a true mix of current classics and some of my old favourites that showcase my first forays into fashion and the development of my signatures. It's playful, strong, sparkling, joyful, refined." – Stella McCartney. Other key items in the collection include rib knitted dresses and tops



with McCartney's signature Falabella chain at the neck, and a long white gown with a cape-like sleeve that loops into the hem, giving the look of a sweeping circle of fabric. Also available are sparkling party-wear, separates and denims, as well as mesh dresses and tops in a bold archival cherry-print. Offering an extra dose of nostalgia is a white mini tte embellished with studs reading 'Rock Royalty'.

The accessories range is strong, and rich in bags. There will be six styles to choose from, including small, branded shoulder bags, giant totes and a timeless chocolate-toned bag with a chain-detail strap. This is one of several pieces in the collection that incorporate the Falabella chain, including necklaces and earrings, crafted in recycled metal in mixed tones, and loafers with chain detailing on the front. The collection is defined by an approach to materials that prioritises recycled content, organic cottons, wool certified to the RWS Standard and innovative usage of feedstock for coated materials, such as industrial corn and recycled vegetable oil. "Stella has always had a bold vision for fashion, and this collection tracks her journey from a young, rule-breaking voice to a master of timeless design. Every single piece in the collection is desirable and tells a unique and bold story." - Ann-Sofie Johansson  
**Price range: Apparel and accessories start at INR 2,229.**  
TE-00047206  
Products certified to the Responsible Wool Standard (RWS) contain wool fibre from farms certified to animal welfare and land management requirements.

# MrBeast's company sued by ex-employee over sexual harassment claim

**AGENCY**  
**Washington:** MrBeast's media company has been sued by a former employee over claims of sexual harassment and workplace gender bias. The 27-year-old, real name Jimmy Donaldson, is the world's most-followed YouTuber and employs more than 500 people. Lorraine Mavromatis, a former executive who worked for his company Beast Industries between 2022 and 2025, alleged harassment of women employees was "condoned" and complaints were not taken seriously at the business. A representative for Beast Industries described the allegations as "categorically false" in a response to BBC Newsbeat. Mavromatis first joined the company as its head of Instagram before being promoted. In court documents she claims she was sacked from her role after "complaining about a workplace that suffered from a lack of basic employment protections". In the lawsuit she



alleges sexual harassment of other female employees was "both condoned and/or perpetuated by their supervisors", adding she was also "treated differently than her male counterpart". Mavromatis says she was told her claims were "unsubstantiated" when she complained about the "hostile environment she and other women were experiencing". In one example listed in court papers, Mavromatis says she asked former Beast Industries CEO James Warren why Donaldson

would not work with her on certain projects. The lawsuit claims Warren told her she was "a beautiful woman and her appearance had a certain sexual effect on Jimmy". She further alleges being "promptly demoted and transferred to an obscure role known by [company] employees as the division where 'careers go to die'". According to the complaint, Mavromatis was fired less than three weeks after she returned from pregnancy-related leave and told she was "too high-calibre" for the role.

# Cygnnet.One Introduces STRATA to Redefine Managed IT Services for Always-On Enterprises

**India, April 23, 2026:** Cygnnet.One today announced an expanded direction for its Managed IT Services portfolio with the introduction of Cygnnet STRATA, a layered infrastructure framework built to support modern businesses that depend on stable, secure, and high-performing IT environments. As IT systems take on greater operational responsibility, the cost of outages, security gaps, and performance slowdowns continue to rise. Many organizations still rely on reactive support models that respond after issues occur. Cygnnet.One is positioning its managed services approach to move beyond that model, focusing on predictability, visibility, and continuous improvement across the infrastructure lifecycle. At the center of this shift is STRATA, a six-layer infrastructure stack designed to connect physical systems with cloud ecosystems while

enabling real-time monitoring, analysis, and response. Built on AIOps principles, STRATA integrates telemetry ingestion, event correlation, anomaly detection, and automated remediation into a unified operating model. This allows infrastructure to shift from fragmented monitoring to coordinated, intelligence-driven operations. **STRATA operates across six core layers.** The SENSE layer focuses on physical infrastructure. It uses telemetry pipelines, sensor-based monitoring, and AI-driven diagnostics to continuously track servers, storage systems, and environmental conditions such as temperature, power, and network health. This layer builds a live operational baseline and detects early signs of hardware degradation or capacity stress. The TRANSMIT layer manages signal flow across the infrastructure. It aggregates

and normalizes data streams from multiple sources, filters noise, and prioritizes actionable alerts. This ensures that only relevant signals are passed to operations teams and centralized NOC environments, reducing alert fatigue and improving response accuracy. The REASON layer applies AIOps intelligence. It uses pattern recognition, event correlation, and predictive modeling to identify anomalies across systems. By linking events across compute, storage, network, and application layers, REASON supports automated root cause identification and triggers corrective workflows before incidents escalate. The ASSURE layer manages performance and service levels. It continuously tracks SLA parameters against defined thresholds and uses predictive analytics to anticipate potential breaches. Automated remediation actions are triggered when risk conditions are

detected, helping maintain uptime and performance consistency across environments. The THREAT-SHIELD layer provides continuous security monitoring. It combines behavioral analysis, threat intelligence feeds, and anomaly detection to identify suspicious activity across endpoints, networks, and workloads. This layer supports real-time threat detection, incident response, and protection against evolving attack patterns, including zero-day vulnerabilities. The ADAPT layer focuses on long-term efficiency and optimization. It analyzes system behavior, workload patterns, and resource utilization trends to recommend and implement improvements in capacity planning, cost control, and performance tuning. This ensures that infrastructure evolves in line with business demand and usage patterns. Cygnnet.One's Managed IT Services span the full lifecycle of IT operations. This includes IT strategy and consulting, availability services, infrastructure managed services, application managed services, and multi-cloud operations across AWS, Azure, and GCP. The portfolio also covers cybersecurity services, governance, risk and compliance frameworks, disaster recovery, and strategic IT outsourcing. Infrastructure managed services are supported by AIOps-driven monitoring, unified NOC and SOC operations, and automated incident response workflows. The delivery model is designed to maintain high availability, with continuous monitoring, structured escalation protocols, and integrated reporting for operational visibility. Application managed services include performance monitoring, release governance, and 24/7 support to ensure business-critical applications remain stable and aligned with changing requirements.

# US boards ship carrying Iranian oil, as Trump orders navy to shoot any boat laying mines in strait

**AGENCY**  
**Tehran:** The Lebanese prime minister has told the Washington Post that his government wants the US to use "leverage over Israel" ahead of talks in Washington DC later. "We are entering these negotiations convened by the US convinced that the US is the party that can have leverage over Israel," Nawaf Salam tells the outlet. "Their role was critical in reaching the ceasefire, and we hope they will continue exercising their leverage over Israel." As Israeli forces continue to operate in southern Lebanon, Salam says his country "cannot live with a so-called buffer zone" and wants to see a full Israeli withdrawal. In terms of meeting Israel's demand of disarming Hezbollah, he says "it's not something that's going to happen overnight. But what's more important is that we have shown seriousness". Lebanon's president has accused Israel of deliberately and consistently target-



ing journalists in the country, urging the international community to act to stop the killings. This comes after journalist Amal Khalil was killed in an Israeli attack yesterday. Journalists gathered in Martyrs' Square in Beirut in silence this morning to remember her. The front page of the newspaper where she worked, Al Akhbar, featured a picture of her, microphone in hand, smiling. Lebanese officials say she

was deliberately targeted by Israel in southern Lebanon while seeking shelter after an earlier air strike, and that the Israeli military then prevented rescuers from reaching her. Israel denies this but says it's reviewing the case. The Committee to Protect Journalists says Israel has killed at least seven other reporters in Lebanon during this war, and dozens more before both here and in Gaza. The idea of Iran - or any

nation - demanding a compulsory toll from vessels transiting the vital Strait of Hormuz waterway is anathema to both the neighbouring Gulf Arab states and to the global shipping industry. Ever since 1968, when it was ratified by the International Maritime Organisation, a carefully worked-out system has been in place by which vessels pass through the strait to pick up their cargoes from Gulf ports and termi-

nals. That system is known as the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS). In the narrow, normally congested channel between the coastlines of Iran to the north and Oman to the south, inbound ships pass one way and outbound ships pass in the opposite direction, separated by a buffer zone of two miles to avoid collisions. It works. But the Islamic Republic, which has managed to survive more than 20,000 combined US and Israeli airstrikes over a period of 39 days, is now pushing to change the whole paradigm of global trade in the Gulf. Instead of the pre-existing TSS, it is demanding that - when the strait is open - all shipping follows a different route, designated by the IRGC Navy, forcing it to pass close to its islands of Larak and Qeshm. There, says Iran, they will be checked over by naval officers and pay a fee according to the size and value of their cargo. The US President claims Iran is "hav-

ing a very hard time figuring out who their leader is" in a new post on Truth Social. "They just don't know!" writes TRUMP, claiming there is "CRAZY!" infighting in the country between "hardliners" and "moderates". He adds that the US has "total control" over the Strait of Hormuz and that no ship can enter or leave without US approval, minutes after posting that he has ordered the navy to fire on any Iranian vessels laying mines. Trump's latest directive comes after US forces announced earlier this month they would intercept vessels travelling to or from Iran's ports. US President Donald Trump hopes to put pressure on Iran by targeting two economic drivers - the huge tolls it demands ships pay to pass through the Strait of Hormuz, and its oil revenue. Trump previously told Fox News that "we're not going to let Iran make money on selling oil to people that they like and not people that they don't like".

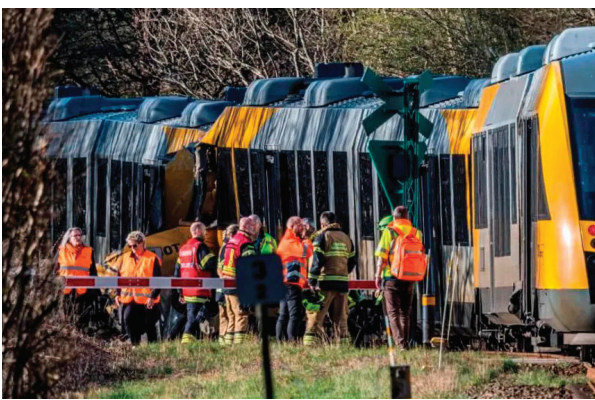
## GIRL, 14, FOUND IN SINGER D4VD'S CAR DIED OF 'MULTIPLE INJURIES'



**AGENCY**  
**Washington:** After months of speculation and delays, officials have announced that the teen girl found in singer D4vd's car died from "multiple penetrating injuries". The Los Angeles County medical examiner's office on Wednesday announced that they'd ruled Celeste Rivas Hernandez's death a homicide, noting that the 14-year-old died of injuries caused by an undisclosed object or objects. She was found dead in the front boot of a Tesla registered to TikTok star D4vd, 21, in September. The singer is facing several charges in

her death, including murder. D4vd, whose real name is David Anthony Burke, has pleaded not guilty. His attorneys say they will "vigorously defend his innocence". The musician's defence team has said it believed the "actual evidence will show that David did not kill Celeste" and he was not the cause of her death. "We will vigorously defend David's innocence," his attorneys Blair Berk, Marilyn Bednarski and Regina Peter said in a statement to the BBC. Burke is due back in Los Angeles court on Thursday at 0830 local time (1630 BST).

## Two trains collide head-on in Denmark, leaving five critically hurt



**AGENCY**  
**Denmark:** Two trains have collided head-on on a level crossing north west of Copenhagen, leaving five people critically hurt and 13 others with less serious injuries, medical officials say. The trains were travelling early on Thursday on a line linking the towns of Hillerød and Kagerup in the North Zealand area of north-east Denmark, with a total of 37 people on board, according to police. Tim Ole Simonsen of the Greater Copenhagen fire department was unable to say what led to the crash but told Danish TV that all the injured had been taken to hospital by air or by ambulance. Local mayor Trine Egetved said she was deeply shaken by the accident. Public broadcaster DR showed images of two yellow and grey trains, both with visible damage to the front, facing each other in a wooded area. Officials said the trains collided at 06:29 local time (05:29 BST) on Thursday and fire and rescue teams were alerted immediately. Egetved, who is mayor of the Gribskov municipality, said those

with critical injuries had been flown to the National Hospital in Copenhagen. "The local track is used by many Gribskov residents, workers and students," she wrote on Facebook. She told public broadcaster DR that it was shocking that two trains could collide head-on "and we must ensure it never happens again". In a statement to government-owned station TV2, Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said she was "very concerned by the terrible train accident". Denmark's Accident Investigation Board arrived at the scene during the morning and Inspector Morten Pedersen of North Zealand police said they would be working together to find out what had happened. Pedersen told reporters it was far too early to know the cause of the crash. The board's railway unit manager, Klaus Jensen, told broadcaster TV2 investigators are looking at "all hypotheses", including "a failure in the signalling system, or whether there may have been a failure due to human factors".

## SOUTH AFRICAN COURT ORDERS ZAMBIA TO RETURN FORMER PRESIDENT'S BODY

**AGENCY**  
**Zambia:** Just hours after the Zambian government said it had taken possession of ex-President Edgar Lungu's body, a court in South Africa - where Lungu died - has ordered the body to be returned. It is the latest twist in a 10-month saga over what should happen to his remains following a long-standing feud between Lungu and his successor, President Hakainde Hichilema. The government has long maintained that, as a former head of state, Lungu should be honoured in the country and buried alongside his predecessors in the special presidential burial ground in the capital, Lusaka. But Lungu's family wanted a private burial



after negotiations with the government over the funeral arrangements broke down. Last August, the South African high court in Pretoria ruled that Zambia's government could repatriate the body and give him a state funeral - an outcome that left Lungu's relatives visibly distraught in the courtroom.

## Trump administration reclassifies cannabis as less dangerous

**AGENCY**  
**Washington:** The US Department of Justice has officially reclassified cannabis as less dangerous, marking a major shift in the country's drug policy. Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche on Thursday changed the classifications of products containing marijuana that are covered by the Food and Drug Administration or that have received a state medical-marijuana licence. They will move from a Schedule I narcotic like heroin to a Schedule III drug - on par with Tylenol with codeine. He also called a hearing to consider reclassifying all marijuana. President Donald Trump directed his administration last year to begin the reclassification process, in



order to increase access and research of the drug. Marijuana remains illegal at the federal level. Despite the federal ban, most US states have legalised the medical or recreational use of marijuana, and many have shops where it can be purchased legally. "The Department of Justice is delivering on President Trump's promise to expand Americans' access

to medical treatment options," Blanche said in a statement announcing the change. "This rescheduling action allows for research on the safety and efficacy of this substance, ultimately providing patients with better care and doctors with more reliable information." According to the announcement, Blanche also ordered that a hearing be held in June as

part of a rule-making process to reclassify all marijuana more broadly. Once the rule change is published in the Federal Register, it has 30 days until it takes effect. During that time, it can be legally challenged - which is expected - and be blocked from being implemented for months or even years. Blanche's order comes five days after Trump signed an executive order intended to boost access to psychedelic drugs for medical treatment. Since 1970, the US has classified marijuana as a Schedule I controlled substance, meaning it possesses a "high potential for abuse" and there was "no currently accepted medical use". Since then, many states have enacted their own laws to loosen restrictions on marijuana.

## In Tehran, money is short and a return to war looms over daily life

**AGENCY**  
**Tehran:** On a bright Tehran spring day, Sanaei Ghaznavi street, with its mix of shops selling groceries and household goods alongside fast food and flowers, seems like an everyday place. In a country where lives have long been buffeted by crises, it is a snapshot of a people just trying to get through the day while their future hangs on forces beyond their control. For Mohammad, in t-shirt and jeans, even cranking open the striped awning of his family's shoe shop is an act of hope. "It makes me happy to be in here," he tells us when we wander into his pocket of a store with its



floor-to-ceiling shelves of trainers, big and small. "So many people have lost their jobs and aren't working." And there are few customers. "We had so many before," his father Mustafa laments glumly as he proudly explains this business has been in their family for

40 years. One Iranian website, Asr-e Iran, recently cited an unofficial estimate that up to four million jobs may have been lost or impacted by the combined effect of the war and the government's near-total internet shutdown. Boxes labelled with western logos

like New Balance and Clarks protrude from this shop's packed shelves. "Made in China," both father and son note matter-of-factly. "Even fakes are expensive in Iran," Mohammad adds. I expect them to express hope that the shaky ceasefire will hold, and that negotiations with America will succeed, in order to allow them to import the real deal when it comes to the latest fashions in footwear. "We hope the war starts again," Mohammad declares, breaking into a wry smile. His father eyes knowingly his 27-year-old son. "Look at my grey hair, I understand more than him."

## Lebanon accuses Israel of targeting journalist killed in air strike



**AGENCY**  
**Lebanon:** Lebanon's prime minister has accused Israel of war crimes after Israeli air strikes killed one journalist and wounded another in southern Lebanon on Wednesday. The strike killed Amal Khalil, who worked for a Lebanese newspaper, and injured freelance photographer Zeinab Faraj. Officials in Lebanon say they were deliberately targeted as they sought shelter in a home after an initial air strike hit the vehicle in front of them, killing two men. The officials also accused the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) of intentionally targeting a marked ambulance as it tried to reach the journalists in the village of Tayri. The IDF denied that it was preventing rescue teams from reaching the area and said it did not target journalists. Journalists Khalil, 43, who worked for Lebanese newspaper Al-Akhar, and Faraj, a freelance photographer, were travelling together. The two men who died have not been named by officials. Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam said: "Targeting journalists, obstructing access to them by relief teams, and even tar-

getting their locations again after these teams arrive constitutes described war crimes." He accused Israel of repeatedly targeting media workers in southern Lebanon in what he described as "an established approach". Salam offered condolences to Khalil's family and said that Lebanon would "pursue the crimes before the competent international forums". In a statement, the IDF said it "does not target journalists and acts to mitigate harm to them while maintaining the safety and security of its troops". The IDF said it identified two vehicles that had "departed from a military structure used by Hezbollah". One of the vehicles had approached Israeli troops in a manner that was an "immediate threat" after crossing a "forward defence line", violating a ceasefire, the statement said. The IDF said the Israeli Air Force then struck one of the vehicles, and that the "structure from which the individuals had fled was also struck". The Lebanese health ministry said the IDF "pursued" Khalil and Faraj, "who had taken refuge from the first raid in a nearby house.

## US Navy chief leaving post 'effective immediately', Pentagon says

**AGENCY**  
**White House:** US Navy Secretary John Phelan is leaving the Trump administration, the Pentagon announced on Wednesday. His departure will be "effective immediately", Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said in a social media post. Navy Undersecretary Hung Cao will serve on an acting basis in the role, which is largely administrative. Phelan is the latest high-ranking military leader to leave the administration in recent months. His departure comes amid the US-Israel war with Iran and the continued US blockade of the Strait of Hormuz. The Navy has not provided a reason. His exit came after tension within the American leadership over issues



around shipbuilding, according to unconfirmed reports in US media. "On behalf of the Secretary of War and Deputy Secretary of War, we are grateful to Secretary Phelan for his service to the Department and the United States Navy," Parnell wrote. "We wish him well in his future endeavors." It comes just weeks after US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth

asked Army Chief of Staff Randy George to step down from his post. Two other Army officials, Gen David Hodne and Maj Gen William Green, have also been removed from their roles recently. Since entering the Pentagon, Hegseth has fired more than a dozen senior military officers, including the chief of naval operations and the Air Force's vice chief

of staff. Phelan was ousted from his job after he, too, ended up clashing with Hegseth over the implementation of Trump's shipbuilding initiative, according to sources who spoke to multiple news outlets. The secretary's role is largely administrative and includes formulating policies, recruiting, training and equipping the Navy, as well as overseeing budgeting and logistics like construction, and repair of naval ships and facilities. Phelan, a civilian who had not previously served in the military, was sworn in as Secretary of the Navy in March 2025 after being nominated by President Donald Trump in 2024. The businessman was a major donor to Trump's campaign.

## POPE LEO CRITICISES EQUATORIAL GUINEA PRISONS AS HE WINDS UP AFRICA TOUR

**AGENCY**  
**France:** Pope Leo has urged authorities in Equatorial Guinea not to use the justice system just to punish, but also to protect society, after criticising how prisoners are treated. At a visit to a jail known for its dire conditions, he said true justice "seeks not so much to punish as to help rebuild the lives of victims, offenders and communities". "To be effective, however, it must always promote the dignity of every person," the pontiff told hundreds of inmates gathered in the prison courtyard, encouraging them not to despair. Rights groups say the prison in Bata is used to deny opponents their freedom, with Amnesty International saying inmates are "reportedly rou-

tinely beaten as punishment". Numerous prisoners "have neither been seen nor heard from, and their relatives do not know whether they are alive or dead," the human rights organisation added. Equatorial Guinea's Justice Minister Reginaldo Biyogo Ndong said detainees were treated fairly, and that the government was committed to protecting human rights. The oil-rich country, often criticised for its human rights record and wealth inequality, is the Pope's final stop on a four-nation tour of Africa. "You are not alone," the pontiff told the prisoners on Wednesday. "Your families love you and are waiting for you. Many people outside these walls are praying for you," he added.



# IPL 2026: Chennai Super Kings Set 207/6-Run Target for Mumbai Indians

AGENCY

**Mumbai:** The wait to see MS Dhoni in IPL 2026 continues, as does the wait for Rohit Sharma's return from a hamstring injury. The star duo missed the Mumbai Indians vs Chennai Super Kings match. It was the first time that both players were absent from the 'El Clasico' since they became part of their respective teams. Earlier, decked out in their teams' training kits, Rohit Sharma and MS Dhoni batted in tandem during a nets session on Wednesday. The first leg of this year's IPL 'El Clasico' is being played at the Wankhede Stadium, but it remains to be seen whether the two main protagonists of the famed MI-CSK rivalry will be available for another bout. Rohit, who featured in the first four matches for MI, had walked off the field during the contest against Royal Challengers Bengaluru here 10 days ago with a hamstring injury and has since been on



1st TIME IN IPL, NO MS DHONI AND ROHIT SHARMA IN MI VS CSK EL CLASICO

a comeback trail. On the other hand, Dhoni is yet to take the field in this IPL as he has been nursing a calf strain that he picked up just before the tournament got underway late last month. The legendary CSK skipper

went full tilt in the training session here on Tuesday, during which he kept wickets before undergoing a batting session in the nets. On Wednesday, he had a very short stint before taking a break and later returned for

nearly an hour to face throw-down specialists and fast bowlers. While he connected with a few shots that went sailing, Dhoni had a mixed outing in which he also failed to connect with several deliveries. His availability,

according to CSK bowling coach Eric Simons, will entirely depend on how "happy" the former skipper and the team's medical staff are. There were some light moments on the field as well when Dhoni, a perennial dog lover, spotted the AI-powered IPL robotic dog and spent a few moments playing with it. He tried to make the robot mimic his gestures, though there were also times when it failed to respond. Earlier in the day, Rohit arrived at the Wankhede Stadium with his family in tow ahead of his batting stint under lights. As per the team, the former Mumbai Indians skipper has been batting, but a final call on his selection will be taken around toss time on Thursday. By the look of it, Rohit did not appear to be in any specific discomfort, as he focused more on timing and placement rather than power-hitting.

"Trying To Be The Same Person As Before": Praful Hinge On IPL Stardom



Praful Hinge is not moved by his instant stardom after an explosive IPL debut, as the Sunrisers Hyderabad pacer believes that he has taken just a baby step in his career. Hinge had a stellar IPL debut against Rajasthan Royals recently, dismissing Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Luan-dre Pretorius, Riyan Parag and Dhruv Jurel across his first two overs. His four-wicket burst helped SRH defeat RR by 57 runs, and Hinge said he was not overawed by the occasion. "I had thought about getting the crowd out of my head first. I wanted to be as calm as possible. I bowled a lot in nets too."

## Serie A Footballers Named In Italy's Prostitution Ring Scandal. Rs 13.2 Crore Seized, Stunning Wiretaps Leaked

AGENCY

**Mumbai:** Reports of an investigation of a prostitution ring in Milan has rocked Italian football in recent days, with several Serie A players implicated. According to Italy-based media outlet La Gazzetta dello Sport, an illegal event-promotion company organized luxurious evenings with high-end escorts, providing access to women available for paid sex in exchange for thousands of euros. Several celebrities, businessmen, footballers and even a Formula 1 driver have reportedly been involved in the scandal. According to further reports, close to 1.2 million euros (approx. Rs 13.2 crore) has been seized from the organisation, with four arrested. What has made the



case even more interesting is the emergence of a number of stunning wiretaps that has led to the Italian law enforcement agency Guardia di Finanza arresting four ring leaders after months of surveillance. "There's a friend of mine, a Formula 1 driver... who's coming to Milan tonight, he wants a girl," is

one such wiretapped conversation that has been obtained, as per the reports. In another exchange, a woman can be heard telling an associate that she may be pregnant after one such evening, and asks him to retrieve their chat records to confirm the exact date of the incident. Other wiretaps also revealed

the use of nitrous oxide (laughing gas) by the footballers. While the F1 driver involved remains unnamed, a number of past and present Serie A footballers have been mentioned in the clients list, which was published by Italy-based news outlet Il Giornale. According to reports in Italian media, the Milan prosecutor's office included the players' surnames as search keywords in its seizure order. This clients list includes names like star Inter Milan footballers like Alessandro Bastoni and Achraf Hakimi, AC Milan and Portugal star Rafael Leao, former Liverpool players Philippe Coutinho and Arthur, French striker Olivier Giroud and Serbian striker Dusan Vlahovic.

## CSK Star's Mother Dies Amid IPL 2026. Here's How MS Dhoni Supported Him

AGENCY

**Mumbai:** Chennai Super Kings fast bowler Mukesh Choudhary's mother, Prem Devi, died on Tuesday after her year-long battle with illness. She was being treated in Mumbai's Tata Hospital, and that is where she died. According to Dainik Bhaskar, the fast bowler rushed to his hometown in Bhilwara, Rajasthan, right after CSK's match against Sunrisers Hyderabad on Saturday. He performed his mother's last rites alongside his elder brother, Dr. Rajesh Choudhary. Choudhary, who has played just one game for CSK this season so far, reportedly rejoined the squad ahead of their match against Mumbai Indians. However,



other reports said that he will take a short break and will be available for the next match against Punjab Kings. According to a report by OneIndia, MS Dhoni remained in constant contact with the fast bowler and gave him support during the tough times. He also took time out

to visit Choudhary's mother in the hospital. Dhoni is yet to take the field in this IPL as he has been nursing a calf strain which he picked up right before the tournament got underway late last month. The legendary CSK skipper had a full tilt in the training session here on Tuesday when he kept the

wickets followed by a batting session in the nets. On Wednesday, he had a very short stint before taking a break and returned later on for nearly an hour to face throw-down specialists and fast bowlers. While he did connect with a few that went sailing, Dhoni had a mixed outing in which he also missed connecting with a few. Dhoni's availability, as per CSK bowling coach Eric Simons, will entirely depend on how "happy" the former skipper and the team's medical staff are. But there were some light moments too on the field when Dhoni, a perennial dog lover, spotted the AI-powered IPL robotic dog and spent a few moments playing with it.

## 'You Don't Need Money': BCCI Faces Major Accusation Over Hectic Scheduling

AGENCY

**New Delhi:** Former Indian Premier League (IPL) chairman Lalit Modi strongly criticised the BCCI for overworking players and allegedly prioritising money over their well-being. Modi's comments came in response to a report claiming that India head coach Gautam Gambhir was unhappy with the team's heavy schedule ahead of the upcoming one-off Test match against Afghanistan. According to the report, Gambhir expressed concern over the fact that several Indian players will be involved in the IPL 2026 final on May 31 and may have to join the national squad immediately before the Test match on June 6. This could potentially force selectors to look at reserve players who have impressed in domestic



cricket. Lalit Modi stated that the BCCI is "killing" the players with hectic scheduling and urged the governing body to stop the "outrageous" scheduling to concentrate on player welfare. "The BCCI is killing their players with the hectic scheduling. Guys stop this outrageous scheduling you are putting the boys thru. They need time with their families and JUST OFF TIME

- You don't need the money. I CREATED ANNUITY Revenue which the world envy's. You will never have to worry about that sitting on those chairs. Do something good with your decisions for heavens sake. Welfare of the players is paramount. Don't over work them - that's why I have said the Board should have majority players on it.

## Lamine Yamal To Miss Remainder Of La Liga. Club Says This On Star's World Cup Participation

AGENCY

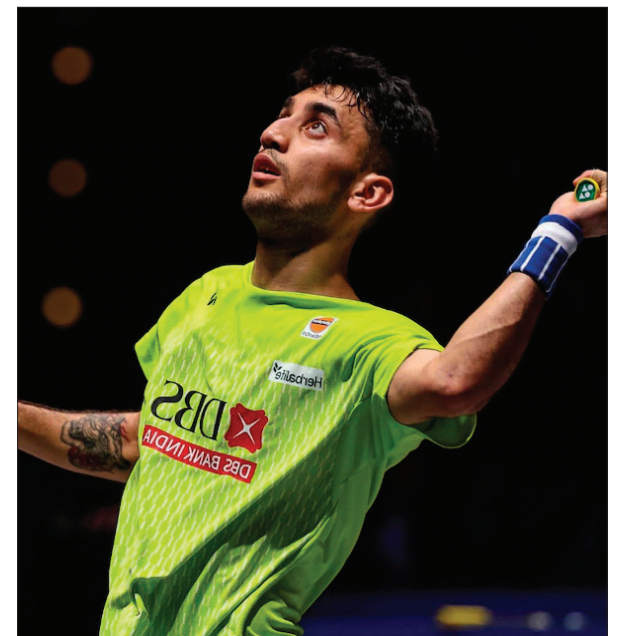
**Spain:** Lamine Yamal will miss the rest of Barcelona's season but should be healed from a leg injury in time to play for Spain at the World Cup, the club said on Thursday. Barcelona said 18-year-old Yamal will miss the remaining six La Liga games for the leaders as he follows a "conservative treatment" process to heal a muscle injury in his left leg that he picked up on Wednesday while converting a penalty in a 1-0 win over Celta Vigo. The club added in a statement that its doctors "foresee that (Yamal) will be available for the World Cup."

Yamal is supposed to make his World Cup debut this summer. Spain's campaign starts against Cape Verde on June 15 in Atlanta. Yamal has emerged as one of the world's top players since making his Barcelona debut at a record-breaking 15 years old. He helped to lead Spain to the 2024 European Championship and is a major reason why Luis de la Fuente's team is among the favorites this summer thanks to his dribbling, creativity and ability to both score and set up teammates. Yamal went down after he



scored the winner against Celta in the 40th minute and immediately looked to the bench to signal he was hurt. He dropped to the ground as his teammates arrived to celebrate, then appeared to grab the back of his left leg. Yamal left the field on his own after being attended by doctors. He talked briefly with coach Hansi Flick on the sidelines before walking into the locker room tunnel by himself.

## India Men Take On Canada, Women Face Denmark In Thomas And Uber Cup Finals 2026



AGENCY

**Mumbai:** India's men's and women's teams are set to begin their campaigns at the Thomas Cup and Uber Cup Finals 2026, with the spotlight firmly on the opening day in Horsens, Denmark. The men's team, historic champions in 2022, will kick off their campaign against Canada on April 24 at 12 PM IST, before the women's team takes on hosts Denmark later in the day, with all the ties played at the Forum Horsens, according to a press release. With the group stage offering little room for error, India face a demanding schedule early on. The men's team will next meet Australia on April 27 (12 PM IST), followed by a high-stakes clash against China on April 29 (1:30 PM IST). The women's side, meanwhile,

continues its campaign against Ukraine on April 25 and China on April 27, both ties slated for 10 PM IST. Only the top two teams from each group progress to the knockouts, placing immediate emphasis on strong starts. "We've been putting in the work as a group over the last few weeks, focusing on getting our combinations right and building rhythm across departments. The Thomas Cup is always demanding, and with three tough group ties ahead, the focus is on staying sharp and taking it one match at a time," said men's team stalwart H. S. Prannoy. The women's team arrives with a refreshed mix, blending emerging talent with established names as they look to build on their semi-final finishes in 2014 and 2016.

## 'WOULD BE A BIG LOSS': ON MAX VERSTAPPEN POTENTIALLY QUITTING F1, MCLAREN RIVALS' BIG STATEMENT

If four-time world champion Max Verstappen were to quit Formula 1, as he has hinted on numerous occasions, it would be a "big loss" for the sport, his McLaren rivals Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri said on Wednesday. The 28-year-old Dutchman, who won four consecutive titles from 2021 to 2024 and narrowly missed a fifth last season, has struggled at the start of this campaign with Red Bull against Mercedes, Ferrari and McLaren. Verstappen has repeatedly voiced his frustration at the sport's sweeping 2026 rules over-

haul, which places greater emphasis on electric energy management in qualifying and races, as well as limiting car speeds. "I think it would be a big loss for the sport as a whole. I think for us as drivers we want to race against the best and try and prove ourselves against the best," said Piastri. The 25-year-old Australian said Verstappen had "shown his calibre in the last 10 years" and added that the Dutchman had been the benchmark "for the last five or six". Norris, the 2025 world champion, believes Verstappen's exit would leave F1 a poorer

place. "It would be a shame for the sport, it would be a miss for the sport if that does happen, because he probably is one of the best drivers you'll see in Formula 1 ever," said Norris. "He's always been very open to say what he thinks, whether you agree or not." Verstappen has openly criticised his Red Bull car and likened the direction of F1 to "Formula E on steroids" or the video game "Mario Kart". At last month's Japanese Grand Prix, he spoke of wanting to spend more time with his family and has increasingly turned his attention to endurance racing.



## Meet Ferocious Simha From Agadha

The intrigue around Agadha continues to deepen as the makers unveil another key character from this mystical world. After revealing Mahadevi, the team has now introduced the male lead of the film. The latest poster presents Shравan Reddy as Simha. This is an interesting coincidence as Shравan was earlier introduced to Telugu cinema by Raju with Dirty Hari film. Set against a dark and smoky backdrop, the poster captures Shравan Reddy holding a blazing torch in his hand, its fire being the only source of light piercing through the darkness. His intense gaze, alert posture, and the dramatic lighting suggest that Simha is a man navigating through fear, mystery, and



The film is being made simultaneously in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, and Hindi and is currently in post production.

unknown forces. The shadows around him and the raw flame he carries hint that his character is on a dangerous path, possibly searching for truth or confronting something beyond human understanding. The design of the poster maintains the mystical tone established earlier, with the fiery Agadha title looming above

and an atmosphere filled with suspense and spiritual tension. Simha's rugged appearance and determined expression indicate that he plays a crucial role in unfolding the mystery that surrounds the divine and mystical elements of the story. Being made on a grand scale under the banner of Sri Adi Varaha Productions, the film is produced by Kasi Visalakshi Balusu and written and directed by M. S. Raju. With 85 days of shoot, extensive set work, and nearly 45 minutes of VFX, Agadha promises a unique cinematic experience.

## I want the song 'Evere' to be a good hit.. Hero Ambati Arjun at the song launch event

Anand directed the private album 'Evare' produced by Shirisha Mandavilli under the banner of Anishree Entertainments and presented by Venkata Kalyan Mandavilli. Anand handled the story, screenplay and direction of this album. Music provided by SS Vardhan, the album stars Vechalapu Krishna and Riddi Anamika Charan. This song is going to be released on 1st of May on Crazy N Catchy YouTube channel. In this order, the release event of this song was held on Wednesday. Arjun Ambati said.. All the best to the team of 'Evere'. If the producer is good then they will make another song or film again. If Pawan Kalyan was singing a song, I would have done Parpam. I want Pawan Kalyan to go on a better stage as a singer. Vardan music is good. Krishna and Riddhi couple is good. Krishna looks like the boy next door. I want the song 'Evere' to become a good hit', he said. Singer Saket said.. All the best to the team of 'Evere'. SS Vardan is a good name. Taman wants to grow in range. Pawan Kalyan and



Anand directed the private album 'Evare' produced by Shirisha Mandavilli under the banner of Anishree Entertainments and presented by Venkata Kalyan Mandavilli.

Ananya sang well. The energy and melody of the song are well balanced. Krishna and Riddhi are an anonymous couple. I want this song to be a good success. Rambabu Gosala speaking.. I saw the promo of 'Evere'. I like it very much. The lyrics are also good. Hero Krishna and Riddhi acted well. I want SS Vardan to go to our SS Taman range. I hope that the song 'Evere' will become a big hit', he said. Music director SS Vardhan said.. We have been working for

the song 'Evere' since a year. Thanks to Anand and Krishna who supported my vision. We worked hard for a year and made this song. Pawan Kalyan and Ananya took our song to the next level. I have been working with Vallabha for four years. He supported me. Thanks to my team, my family and my friend Tarang who supported me in this journey. Krishna and Riddhi acted well. I am confident that this song will be a great success. Our song is coming on May 1. Everyone should watch and support', he said. Director Anand said.. 'A year ago we thought of the concept of 'Evere'. Since then Krishna, Vardan and I have been working on this song. Anamika supported us a lot. I will never for-

get the support given by producer Kalyan and Shirisha. I also invited my teacher Lakshmi Devi to this event. I will always remember her contribution in my

journey. Our song is going to be released on May 1st on Crazy N Catchy YouTube channel. He said that everyone should see and support. Hero Vechalapu Krishna speaking.. 'Whoever' is very special to me. Today my mother came for me from Vizag. It is because of Anand and Vardan that I have come this far. I will never forget Shirisha Mandavilli's support. This song is going to be released on May 1st on Crazy N Catchy YouTube. I want everyone to see our song and support it.



## Sreeleela's Bollywood debut hits roadblocks and faces delays



Sreeleela, who made her mark in South cinema, is all set to make her Bollywood debut. She is starring opposite Kartik Aaryan in a romantic musical directed by Anurag Basu. The film is produced by T-Series, with music composed by Pritam.

### SHOOT STILL IN EARLY STAGES

Contrary to rumours, the shooting of the film is far from complete. Anurag Basu recently clarified that only about 45 days of filming have been done. He said, "The majority of the shooting is done is a myth. The shooting has just started." Earlier reports claiming the project was almost finished were false.

### RELEASE TIMELINE

### UNCERTAIN

The film was initially scheduled for a December 2025 release. However, due to multiple reasons, the timeline has been delayed. With most of the work still pending, the film is unlikely to release before 2027. The official title of the movie remains undecided, with speculations suggesting names like "Tu Meri Zindagi Hai." Basu also confirmed that the film is not connected to the Aashiqui franchise, despite rumours.

### LOCATIONS AND SHOOTING UPDATES

The first schedule of 45 days was completed in Chalsa, West Bengal. Recently, Kartik and Sreeleela resumed filming in Srinagar and Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir.

## Dhurandhar Star Owns Every Inch Of Femina

Sara Arjun has officially arrived, and her Femina April-May 2026 cover says it all. Styled with the tagline "Main Character Energy," the 20-year-old looks every bit the star she has become. The cover shot has her in a bold colour-block knit cardigan with red, orange, yellow and green panels, paired with a printed denim mini skirt and gold button details. Her tousled hair flying loose and hands on her hips, Sara owns the frame completely. After two back-to-back hits with Dhurandhar and its sequel, this cover feels like the perfect crowning moment. Inside the shoot, Sara switches effortlessly between looks. In one striking shot, she stuns in a rich red satin shirt dress, hair

pinned up with loose curls falling free, gold rings and earrings adding just the right touch of glamour, she looks intense and quietly powerful. Another frame shows a completely different, breezy side, a pink crochet crop top with colourful stone detailing, cream wide-leg trousers with rainbow rope accents, and soft curls, lounging casually in an artistic sculptural chair. Fun, fresh and

totally carefree."The third look brings structure back, a blue and white striped co-ord set of a crop top and wide-leg trousers, with a matching oversized jacket thrown over one shoulder and jewelled heels finishing the outfit. It is cool, considered and confident. What these four pictures together show is a young actress who is not trying too hard, she is simply comfortable in her own skin.

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## The character of Dharma in 'Gayapadda Simham' gave me a lot of joy as an actor. The film will be very entertaining with realistic and hilarious humor: Actor JD Chakravarthy

Parun Bhaskar, who is doing different entertainers, is going to entertain with 'Gayapadda Simham' along with writer-director Kashyap Srinivas. The film is presented by Pawan Sadineni and produced by Kalyana Chakravarthy Manthina, Bhanu Kiran Pratapa, Vijay Krishna Lingamaneni, Umesh Bansal under the banners of Saptaswa Media Works, POV Stories, and Zee Studios. Faria Abdullah and Manasa Chowdhury are playing the female leads. JD Chakravarthy plays a key role. The promotional content has already created a good buzz. Gaayapadda Simham will be released in theaters worldwide on May 1st. On this occasion, actor JD Chakravarthy shared the features of the film at a press conference.

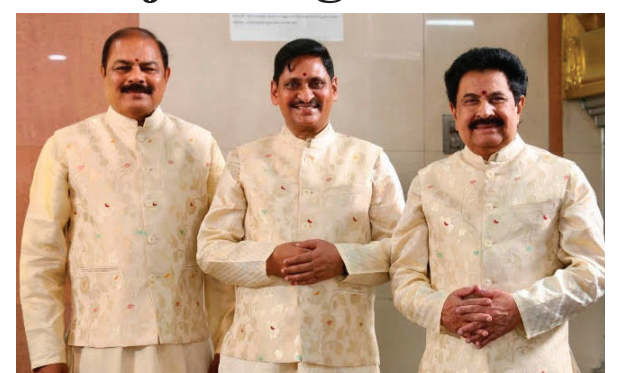
### What attracted you to play the role of Dharma in 'Wounded Lion'?

-Any challenge in a character arc is very exciting for any actor. I said something when the Dharma character glimpses were released, and I'll say it again. No one in the world has done the characters that Kamal Haasan has done. But in 'Gayapadda Simham', I feel that I got the luck that he didn't get, not as an actor, but in terms of character. I did such a different character in it.



## SV Krishna Reddy "Vedavyas" Banner Pooja Programs

Every new company entering the field of film production takes special care in designing their banner. The heads of the production company try to make the logo and title of their banner very artistic. Also, before the announcement of the banner, they take a sentimental darshan of God and keep copies of the logo in front of God and perform puja programs with devotion. In the present case, famous directors SV Krishna Reddy directed K. The banner unveiling of the film "Vedavyas" which is being produced by new producer Kommuri Prathapareddy under Acchi Reddy was held at the Sai Baba Temple in Film Nagar. Former legislators, K. P. R. Kommuri Prathapareddy, the head of IT educational institutions



and a businessman, named his banner as "Sai Pragathi Films" and unveiled the banner along with film directors SV Krishna Reddy and presenters Achireddy, who traditionally visited the temple in Panch Kattu and held pooja programs. The photos of these three celebrities in Panchakattu in the presence of their beloved Sai Baba are going viral on their Facebook and

WhatsApp groups. Meanwhile, the Vedavyas movie under the direction of SV Krishna Reddy, with a scientific approach and a Sakutumba Sametha plot, has reached its final stage. With this film "Veda Vyas" in which Pidugu Vishwanath is introduced as the hero, Korean actress Joon Hyunji and Mongolian actor Sharan bold segment are introduced to the Telugu screen.