



Every single person linked to RG Kar rape-murder conspiracy will be brought to justice, says PM Modi

Kolkata, April 24 : Every individual, regardless of their influence, who is connected to the larger conspiracy surrounding the R.G. Kar rape and murder case will be identified and held accountable after the formation of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in West Bengal next month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated during a campaign rally at the Panitah Assembly constituency in North 24 Parganas district on Friday.

NATION | NEWS

Nato says 'no provision' to expel members after report US could seek to suspend Spain

WORLD | NEWS



MIRAI GIRL BREATHED IN THE DARK

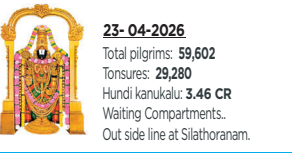
CINEMA | PAGE



SCAN FOR E-PAPER

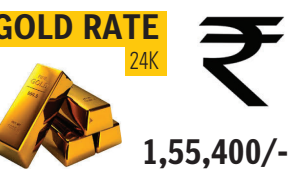
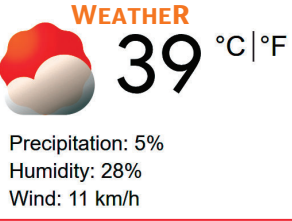


OM NAMO VENKATESAYA



23-04-2026  
Total pilgrims: 59,602  
Tonsures: 29,280  
Hundi Kanakulu: 3.46 CR  
Waiting Compartments:  
Out side line at Silathoranam.

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens) : 24 H



## FRESH MANIPUR CLASHES LEAVE 3 DEAD IN UKHRUL DISTRICT

Imphal (TSIT): At least three people were killed and several others injured in separate firing incidents involving armed groups from the Naga and Kuki tribal communities in Manipur's Ukhrul district on Friday, officials said. According to a police official, in one of the incidents near Mullam village in the violence-hit district, security forces recovered two bodies. Ukhrul district, which shares an inter-state border with Nagaland and an international border with Myanmar, is predominantly inhabited by the Tangkhul Naga community. The two victims, identified as L. Sitlhou and P. Haolai, were found in camouflage attire with bullet injuries. A heavy exchange of fire had taken place between armed militants at Mullam village earlier in the morning. Several houses in the mountainous village were also set ablaze during the violence.

## COCKTAIL WEATHER AHEAD AS TELANGANA FACES HEAT AND STORMS

Hyderabad (TSIT): The India Meteorological Department (IMD), Hyderabad, on Friday issued a complex weather forecast for Telangana, predicting a week of extreme heat interspersed with intense spells of thunderstorms. In a literal 'cocktail' of weather extremes, heatwave conditions are expected to prevail, with temperatures ranging from 41 degrees Celsius to 44 degrees Celsius across the state. At the same time, evenings or late nights may witness intense, brief spells of thunderstorms, lightning and hailstorms at sporadic locations in several districts. Maximum temperatures are expected to hover between 41 degrees Celsius and 44 degrees Celsius in districts including Adilabad, Jagtial and Nizamabad through April 28. Even Hyderabad is expected to see a significant spike, with temperatures reaching the 41 degrees Celsius to 43 degrees Celsius range.

## HILT policy to be implemented democratically: Bhatti

Hyderabad TSIT BUREAU:

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu stated that the HILT (Hyderabad Industrial Lands Transformation) policy will be implemented in a democratic manner, ensuring the interests of both Hyderabad city and the state. Speaking at the Revenue Resource Mobilization Cabinet Sub-Committee meeting held at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Secretariat on Friday, he said the government is committed to inclusive development and is considering inputs from all stakeholders before finalizing the policy guidelines.

The meeting, attended by ministers N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, D. Sridhar Babu, and Juppally Krishna Rao, along with industrial representatives, discussed key aspects of the HILT and UDL (Undeveloped Land) policies.

Amid rising pollution concerns, industrial representatives suggested relocating polluting units beyond the Outer Ring Road (ORR). Responding to this, the Deputy CM said all opinions are being examined carefully and decisions will be taken through a democratic



process.

He emphasized that the government, under Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, has no intention of troubling industries and is focused on balanced growth. He also proposed consultations with industrial associations within the ORR to expedite policy implementation.

Minister D. Sridhar Babu said the state aims to promote industrial growth with minimal pollution and revealed that the new industrial policy includes mandatory dormitory facilities for workers.

Industrial representatives welcomed the HILT policy and

sought infrastructure development beyond the ORR, a transition period for implementation, and relief on conversion and utility shifting charges.

Meanwhile, Minister Juppally Krishna Rao directed officials to compile detailed data on government lands, including vacant and encroached properties across districts. sub-committee also decided to implement revised land market values from the first week of May.

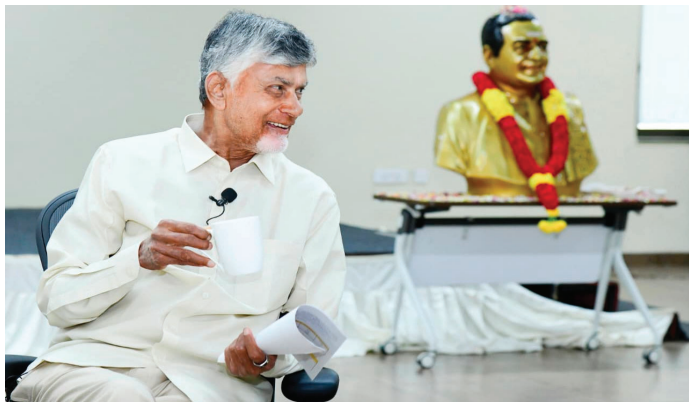
Senior officials, including Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao and Finance Principal Secretary Sandeep Kumar Sultania, were present at the meeting.

## CM Chandrababu Naidu Urges TDP Cadre to Rise as Leaders at Training Session

Amaravati (TSIT) : Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu attended a training program for cluster in-charges at the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) central office and interacted extensively with party cadre. As part of the session, he also conducted an informal "Coffee with Cadre" interaction, discussing key political and organizational issues.

During the session, the Chief Minister focused on party ideology, strengthening organizational structure, and effective implementation of government welfare schemes. He encouraged cluster in-charges to actively engage with grassroots workers and transform every party activist into a capable leader.

Naidu emphasized the importance of staying informed about contemporary political developments and urged cadre to sharpen their understanding of the evol-



ving political landscape. He also highlighted alleged instances of lawlessness and violence by the opposition YSR Congress Party, even after losing power, calling for vigilance and strategic counteraction. Referring to recent incidents, including the Dastagir murder case and controversies involving

MLC Ananthababu, Naidu alleged that political violence and intimidation tactics were being used and stressed the need for party workers to remain cautious. Key Highlights from Chandrababu's Address: Party workers must seize opportunities and grow into leadership roles.

## Telangana Govt Orders Major IPS Reshuffle; SHIKHA GOEL NAMED HOME PRINCIPAL SECRETARY



Hyderabad: The Telangana government has issued orders for a major reshuffle of IPS officers, with transfers and new postings set to take effect from May 1, 2026.

Senior IPS officer Shikha Goel has been appointed as Principal Secretary of the Home Department. She will also continue to hold additional charge of the Cyber Security Bureau and the Forensic Science Laboratory. Devendra Singh Chauhan has been transferred and posted as Director General of Vigilance & Enforcement. Shahnavaz Qasim has been appointed as Inspector General of Police (IGP), Multi Zone-2, with additional charge

as IGP (Personnel). Tarun Joshi has been appointed as Commissioner of Police, Future City, following the retirement of Sudheer Babu. Avinash Mohanty has been transferred as Director General of the Drugs Control Administration and will also hold additional charge as Director of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB). B. Sumathi has been appointed as Commissioner of Police, Malkajgiri, while Karthikeya has been assigned additional charge as IGP, Intelligence. The government stated the reshuffle aims to enhance administrative efficiency and strengthen coordination across police departments.

## AAP MPs have cited several reasons for leaving party: HM Amit Shah

New Delhi, April 24 : Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Friday that the decision taken by AAP MPs from Rajya Sabha, including Raghav Chadha, to part ways with their party is based on several reasons cited by them.

HM Shah's remarks during an election rally in West Bengal coincided with Chadha announcing a divorce with the AAP and leading a three-member party Rajya Sabha MPs' team to meet BJP National President Nitin Nabin at the party headquarters here.

Chadha had cited the AAP "stepping away from honest politics" as a key reason behind the decision by him and six other AAP MPs from Rajya Sabha to merge their parliamentary faction with the BJP. The AAP has 10 MPs in the Upper House.

In a message on X, Chadha said, "Today, exercising the provisions of the Constitution of India, more than two-thirds of the AAP MPs in the Rajya Sabha have merged with



the BJP. Seven MPs have signed the document, which was submitted to the Hon'ble Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, I, along with two other MPs, personally handed over the signed documents." Chadha was accompanied by Sandeep Pathak and Ashok Mittal during the meeting with BJP president Nitin Nabin, who offered sweets to the AAP MPs after they went public with their switchover plan. Earlier, addressing a press conference along with AAP MPs Mittal and Pathak, Chadha said, "We have decided that we, the 2/3rd

members belonging to the AAP in Rajya Sabha, exercise the provisions of the Constitution of India and merge ourselves with the BJP." "The AAP that I gave 15 years of my life. Now the party has stepped away from honest politics. I am the right man in the wrong party. I am moving away from the party and going close to people," he said, adding that Rajya Sabha party colleagues like Harbhajan Singh and Swati Maliwal are among those parting ways with the AAP.

Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha on Friday announced the merger of two-thirds of the party's House members - 7 out of 10 - with the BJP, citing "suffocation" and lack of opportunity to serve people in the outfit that he founded with Arvind Kejriwal a decade ago.

Addressing a press conference along with AAP MPs Ashok Mittal and Sandeep Pathak, Chadha said, "We have decided that we, the 2/3rd members belonging to the AAP in Rajya Sabha, exercise the provisions of the Constitution of India and merge ourselves with the BJP."

"The AAP that I gave 15 years of my life. Now the party has stepped away from honest politics. I am the right man in the wrong party. I am moving away from the party and going close to people," he said, adding that Rajya Sabha party colleagues like Harbhajan Singh and Swati Maliwal are among those parting ways with the AAP. The seven AAP Rajya Sabha MPs are joining the BJP within days of Chadha's demotion in the House from the post



of Deputy Leader of the party for allegedly not raising key issues against the government.

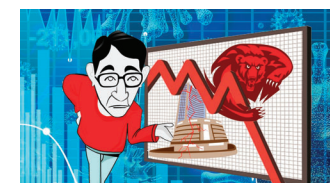
Interestingly, Ashok Mittal, who replaced Chadha as the new party Deputy Leader in the Rajya Sabha, has also joined him in the merger with the BJP. Amit, the rift with the party, Chandha posted a video and wrote, "With respect, to those questioning my parliamentary performance, I'll let my work do the talking."

The video featured a compilation of his interventions and

questions raised in the Rajya Sabha, highlighting a wide range of public policy issues he has addressed.

In the video, Chadha is seen raising concerns on several matters, including the problem of data expiry, the need to make paternity leave a legal right, and the demand to end minimum balance penalties in banks. He also spoke about issues such as food adulteration, incoming call charges, 28-day recharge scam, taxation concerns, and excess baggage charges in airlines.

## Sensex falls 983 points, Nifty slips below 24,000 as oil spike hits sentiment



Mumbai, April 24 : Indian equity benchmarks ended sharply lower on Friday as a surge in crude oil prices rattled investor sentiment amid rising geopolitical tensions linked to stalled US-Iran talks and disruption at the Strait of Hormuz. The Sensex dropped 982.71 points, or 1.27 per cent, to close at 76,681.29, while the Nifty declined 275.10 points, or 1.14 per cent, to settle at 23,897.95.

Commenting on technical outlook, experts said that on the upside, 24,000 has now emerged as a strong resistance band, as the previous support has transitioned into a supply zone, capping recovery attempts. "A decisive move above 24,000 is required to ease

selling pressure and trigger a recovery towards 24,200, while a break below 23,800 could extend weakness towards the 23,600 level," an analyst stated. The sell-off was largely driven by weakness in information technology stocks, which bore the brunt of the decline.

Shares of Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, and Tech Mahindra emerged as the top losers on the Nifty IT index, dragging the sector down by around 5 per cent. Broader markets also mirrored the weak trend, with the Nifty MidCap and Nifty SmallCap indices falling 0.96 per cent and 0.87 per cent, respectively. Among sectors, apart from IT, the Nifty Pharma and Nifty Media indices also ended in the red, adding to the overall market weakness. However, the Nifty Metal index showed relative resilience, posting the smallest decline among sectoral indices.

## INDIA SHARED ITS VISION TO HOST 2038 ASIAD AT OCA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: IOA

New Delhi, April 24 : India is looking to bring the Asian Games back to home soil for the first time since 1982 as the country expressed interest in hosting the Asian Games 2038, and the proposal for the same has been discussed at the Olympic Council of Asia's (OCA) executive board meeting in Sanya, China. While New Delhi hosted the inaugural edition in 1951 and the event's last Indian appearance in 1982. The 2038 bid will mark a potential return of the prestigious continental competition for the third time. As the 2026 edition will take place in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, Doha will host the 2030 and 2034 editions to be held in Riyadh, India is targeting the next available slot in 2038 along with the aggressive pitch for the 2036 Olympics. President of the Indian Olympic Association PT Usha has met with OCA chief H.E. Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani on Thursday to further strengthen the Olympic Movement across Asia.

## Strengthening Healthcare Services in Waltair Division



The South India Times, Visakhapatnam, Waltair Division of East Coast Railway has taken another significant step towards the welfare of its employees. By launching ambulance services at the Diesel Colony Health Unit, measures have been taken to ensure immediate medical assistance to employees and their families. The services were inaugurated by Divisional Railway Manager Lalit Bohra. It was stated that this facility would be highly beneficial for staff working in the Diesel Loco Shed (DLS) and Marripalem areas. Chief Medical Superintendent Dr. D. Sharath Babu, other senior officials, representatives of labor unions, and

staff participated in the program. Subsequently, a cancer screening camp was organized for women employees of the Diesel Loco Shed in collaboration with Medicover Cancer Hospital. This camp was also inaugurated by DRM Lalit Bohra. The program aimed at increasing health awareness among women and early detection of diseases. More than 80 women availed these services, with pap samples collected from 23 women. Additionally, ECG tests were conducted for 41 women.

To promote community health awareness, a special health seminar was conducted at the Montessori school run by the

East Coast Railway Women's Welfare Organization. In this program, medical experts explained topics such as maternal health, child nutrition, and the importance of breastfeeding to parents and children. They also advised reducing ready-made foods, encouraging home-cooked meals, consuming fruits, and avoiding sugar for children below one year of age. Awareness was also created on the importance of vaccinations and responsible parenting. Officials stated that through these initiatives, Waltair Division has taken a step forward in providing better healthcare services to employees and their families.

## Review of Road Works Leading to Bhogapuram Airport – Officials Directed to Expedite Progress



The South India Times, Visakhapatnam, VMRDA Metropolitan Commissioner Shri N. Tej Bharat, reviewed the progress of major master plan road works connecting to the Bhogapuram International Airport. The review meeting was held at the VMRDA conference hall, where the status of the project was assessed point by point. Despite the current shortage of bitumen (BT), the Commissioner directed officials to explore alternative solutions and ensure completion of the works within the stipulated timeline. He instructed that TDR distribution to all eligible remaining landowners along the Advavaram-Shonthyam and Nerellavalasa-Kothavalasa roads be completed by May 1 in coordination with GVMC. He also directed that the pending culvert works on the Advavaram-Shonthyam road be completed by May 15. The final bituminous concrete layer works on the Boyapalem-Kapuluppada road are to begin in the first week of May, while those on the Advavaram-Shonthyam road should commence in the second week of May. Further, APTRANSCO officials were instructed to expedite the shifting of remaining electric poles across all roads. Compensation for pending structures along the Vegagunta-Pinagadi road should be completed, and issues related to temples should be resolved with the assistance of the Revenue Department. The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer Vinay Kumar, Chief Planning Officer Shilpa, Superintending Engineer Madhusudhana Rao, Executive Engineers Durga Prasad and Sudhir, Planning Officers Kishore and Mounika, along with staff from APEPDC, representatives of APUIAML, and contractors.

## AP Pollution Control Board Sets Up Help Desks to Speed Up Industrial Permits



Vijayawada (TSIT) The Andhra Pradesh government is actively implementing the 'Ease of Doing Business' initiative to expedite scrutiny of applications and issuance of permits to industrial units. Under the 'Speed of Doing Business' framework, time limits for reviewing applications across Red, Orange, and Green category industries have been further reduced. However, many industries relying on external consultants face delays due to incomplete applications and missing supporting documents submitted through the APOCMMS online portal.

Taking cognizance, the Chairman and Member Secretary of the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) have ordered dedicated Help Desks at each regional office to assist industrialists in filling out applications. Existing and new entrepreneurs in Krishna and NTR Districts are requested to utilize the services of the APPCB Regional Office in Vijayawada for smooth operations and expedited approvals for 'Consent for Establishment' and 'Consent for Operation'. The Environmental Engineer (Regional Office, Vijayawada) urged all project proponents to avail this opportunity for faster processing.

**BAJAJ FINANCE LIMITED**  
Registered Office: Bajaj Finance Limited, C/o Bajaj Auto Limited Complex, Mumbai Pune Road, Kurla East, 411035 Corporate Office: Bajaj Finance Limited, Off. Pune-Ahmednagar Road, Viman Nagar, Pune - 411014 Branch Office: Bajaj Finance Limited 2nd Floor 40 29 1 C Sp Square Park Road Malabar Gold Shop Kurnool 518001 Authorized Officer's Details: Name: Yenduri Kumar Email ID: yenduri.kumar@bajajfinserv.in Mob No: +91 7799468198/8074464573

**APPENDIX- IV A**  
**[See proviso to rule 8 (6)]**  
**e-Auction Sale Notice Under SARFAESI Act 2002**  
Sale of Immovable Assets Under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("ACT")  
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the Borrowers/Co-borrowers/Mortgagor(s) in respect of below mentioned secured asset which is mortgaged with Bajaj Finance Limited ("BFL"), and possession of which had been taken by undersigned Authorised Officer of BFL under the provisions of the ACT will be sold by Auction for recovery of the amount mentioned hereunder and further applicable interest, charges and costs etc.  
The secured asset described below is being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS, AS IS WHAT IS AND WHATEVER THERE IS" under Rule No. 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules ("the Rules") for recovery of the dues detailed as under:

**Particulars of E-Auction**

Name & Address of Borrower	1.Sri Manjunatha Ayurvedic Nilayam thr its Prop. K Shivakrishna R/o. Door No Plot No 37 And 38 Ramana Residency Pandipadu Village Kallur Mandal Kurnool District Andhra Pradesh 518003 Also at R/o. Sy.No. 32/9, 32/10 Plot No. 37 and 38 H.No. 4/18/A, 4/18/B, 4/18/C, 4/18/D, 4/18/E Pandipadu Gram Panchayat Kallur M Kurnool Municipal Corporation and Dist. A.P. 518003 2. K. Shivakrishna S/o. Kammar Srinivasachari R/o. Plot No 39 Ramana Residency Pandipadu Kallur Kurnool Andhra Pradesh 518003 3.K Sneha W/o K Shiva Krishna Achari R/o. Plot No 39 Ramana Residency Pandipadu Kallur Mandal Pandipadu Kurnool Andhra Pradesh 518003 Contact- 9 9 6 3 9 3 9 9 6 6 E mail id - kanakavallikrishna@gmail.com
Loan Account Number	P482PMB9849015
Statutory Demand Notice u/s 13(2) Date & Amount	Notice dated 12.05.2025 Demand amount Rs.5769602/-
Outstanding Amount as on 05-11-2025	Rs.6279903/- (Rupees Sixty Two Lakhs Seventy Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Three Only)
Description of Immovable Property	All the piece and parcel of Sy.No. 32/9, 32/10 Plot No. 37 and 38 H.No. 4/18/A, 4/18/B, 4/18/C, 4/18/D, 4/18/E Pandipadu Gram Panchayat Kallur M Kurnool Municipal Corporation and Dist. A.P. 518003 along with proportionate share in common areas (Area adm. 3146 Sq.Ft.) Bounded as East: Others Plots; West: 33 Ft. wide Road; North: House constructed in Plot No. 36; South: House constructed in Plot No. 39
Reserve Price in INR	Rs.5244192/- (Rupees Fifty Two Lakhs Forty Four Thousand One Hundred Ninety Two Only)
EMD	Rs.524419.2/-
E-auction date and time	25/05/26 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
E-auction Portal	https://bankauctions.in
Last date of submission of EMD	23/05/26
Bid Increment Amount in Rs.	Rs.25000/-
Encumbrance Known to Secured Creditor	Not Known
Date of Inspection of Property	From 26/04/26 to 23/05/26 on working day between 9.30 AM to 5 PM with Prior appointment

Public in General and Borrowers in particular please take notice that if in case auction on date scheduled herein fails for any reason whatsoever then secured creditor may enforce security interest by way of sale through private treaty, at the discretion of the secured creditor. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link https://bankauctions.in and https://www.bajajfinserv.in/auktion-notice

Date: 23-04-2026, Place: Pune Sd/- Authorised Officer, Bajaj Finance Limited.

## Grand Conclusion of 44th All India Major Ports Bodybuilding & Weightlifting Championships 2025-26 in Visakhapatnam



The South India Times, Visakhapatnam, The 44th All India Major Ports Bodybuilding and Weightlifting Championships 2025-26, organized by the Visakhapatnam Port Authority, concluded successfully on Friday. The closing ceremony was held in a grand manner at the Sagaramala Convention Centre, Saligrampuram. Chief Vigilance Officer Shri Arun Prasad, IES, along with department heads, attended the event and presented medals to the

winners, congratulating them for their achievements. Teams from six major port authorities across the country participated, showcasing strength, discipline, and true sportsmanship. Weightlifting Results: 100 kg Category: Gold: Chennai Port Authority Silver: Visakhapatnam Port Authority Bronze: Visakhapatnam Port Authority Above 100 kg Category: Gold: Chennai Port Authority

Silver: Mumbai Port Authority Bronze: Visakhapatnam Port Authority 56 kg Category: Gold: Chennai Port Authority Silver: Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority Bronze: Deendayal Port Authority 67.5 kg Category: Gold: Mumbai Port Authority Silver: Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority Bronze: Chennai Port Authority 82.5 kg Category: Gold: Chennai Port Authority Silver: Visakhapatnam Port Authority Bronze: Mumbai Port Authority Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Vigilance Officer appreciated the performance of all participants and praised their sporting spirit. He congratulated the winners and wished them greater success in the future.

## 44th All India Major Ports Sports Competitions Grandly Inaugurated in Visakhapatnam



The South India Times, Visakhapatnam : The 44th All India Major Ports Bodybuilding and Weightlifting Championships 2025-26, organized under the auspices of the Visakhapatnam Port Authority, were grandly inaugurated at the Sagaramala Convention Centre in Saligrampuram. Port Deputy Chairperson Roshni Aparanji Korati officially inaugurated the competitions. At the

beginning of the programme, the march past by participating teams impressed the audience. This was followed by the hoisting of the MPSCB flag and the oath-taking ceremony by the team captains. Teams from Chennai Port Authority, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority, Mumbai Port Authority, Deendayal Port Authority, Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Authority, along with the host Visakhapatnam

Port Authority, are participating in these championships. Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Chairperson advised the players to compete with true sportsmanship. She expressed hope that they would deliver their best performances while enjoying the favourable atmosphere of Visakhapatnam. She also instructed the organizing committee to ensure comprehensive arrangements, including food and accommodation, for all participating teams. Heads of departments and members of the port sports division enthusiastically participated in the inaugural programme. Port Secretary Shankar Babu informed the media about the event.

## AP: FARMERS INCURRING LOSSES DUE TO LACK OF REMUNERATIVE PRICES: YSRCP

Vijayawada (TSIT) YSRCP State Co-ordinator Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy on Friday called upon party workers to focus on relieving the distress of farmers in Andhra Pradesh facing a severe crisis due to lack of remunerative prices and inadequate support from the government. He announced that the YSRCP farmers' wing would be strengthened and made more active to address their issues. A meeting of the farmers' wing working presidents, state vice presidents, general secretaries, and district presidents was held at the party central office in Tadepalli under the chairmanship of Jinnuri Rama Rao, with senior leaders in attendance.

## "Talent AP" Launched in Visakhapatnam

THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES Visakhapatnam: With the objective of developing digital talent in line with future needs in Andhra Pradesh, the "Talent AP" program was grandly launched in



Visakhapatnam. The initiative was inaugurated at the Infosys campus in the city by DeepTech Skills Foundation and the AP Digital Technology Industry Network. Through this program, the organizers stated that the goal is to equip the state's youth with world-class technological skills and expand opportunities in both national and international technology sectors. On this occasion,

Suresh Narra has been appointed as the President of Talent AP for the year 2026-27. Sreedhar Kosaraju will serve as the Chairman. Other prominent industry experts will take on responsibilities as board members.

Speaking on the occasion, Suresh Narra and Sreedhar Kosaraju stated that with the support of the Infosys Foundation, experts will be provided to conduct industry

immersion programs across the state. They noted that the primary objective of Talent AP is to equip youth with the skills required to adapt to the rapidly changing technological landscape driven by artificial intelligence.

Key initiatives under Talent AP include providing extensive training in artificial intelligence under the "AI Ready AP" program, enhancing industry exposure for faculty through industry immersion programs, identifying and encouraging talent as part of Talent Discovery & Innovation, and designing educational programs aligned with industry standards with the support of the Digital Tech Credentials Council.

The organizers emphasized that the aim of Talent AP is to transform Andhra Pradesh into a leading technology talent hub in the country. They also expressed their intention to expand this model across the nation in the future.

**INCRED FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED**  
(Formerly known as KKR INDIA FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD.)  
Registered office at: - Unit No. 1293, 12th floor, B Wing, The Capital, Plot No. C-70, G Block, Bandra - Kuria Complex, Bandra East, Mumbai - 400 051.  
**POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY / IES) - NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13 (4) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002**  
Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the InCred Financial Services Ltd. under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & 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/s on the date mentioned against each account calling upon the respective borrower/s to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notice(s)/date of receipt of the said notice/s. The borrower/s having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against each account. The borrower/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of InCred Financial Services Ltd., for the amount and interest thereon as per loan agreement. The borrowers' attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. :-

Loan Agreement No./Name of the Borrower(s)	Demand Notice date & Amount	Date of Possession Taken & Type of Possession
Loan Agreement No. LNHYD31523-246988295 1. Vennela Musicals And Mobiles 2. Uduga Leela Siva Sudha 3. Uduga Sai Venkata Ramayya (Hereinafter referred as "Borrower & Co-Borrowers")	09.02.2026 & Amount of INR. 20,07,820.65/- (Rupees Twenty Lakhs Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty and Sixty-Five Paise Only) as on 03.02.2026	23.04.2026 & Symbolic Possession

**Schedule of Mortgaged Property :** Property: All that residential property bearing D No.1-118, Assessment No.118, R.S No.68.6, in an extent of 145 Square yards, situated at Yarrapothavaram village and Grampanchayat K Gangavaram Mandal, Dr BR Ambedkar Komaseema District, Andhra Pradesh, Pin code:532262 with the following boundaries: On or towards the North by: 5 1/2 Yards (16.6 ft) 4ft Width Lane, On or towards the South by: 9 1/2 Yards (28.6 ft) Panchayat Cement Road, On or towards the East by: 18 Yards 2 Feet (56 ft) panchayat Cement Road, On or towards the West by: 20 Yards (60 ft) Site, House belongs to Adappa Manga Together or attached with (i) all present and future, buildings, structures of every description which are standing, erected incidental thereto, to the aforesaid premises or any part thereof and all rights to use common areas and facilities and with all present and future liberties, privileges, easements and appurtenances whatsoever to the said premises or any part thereof or usually held, occupied or enjoyed therewith or expected to belong or be appurtenant thereto; and (ii) all plant and machinery attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth, and such movable parts as they may comprise of.

If the said Borrowers fail to make payment to InCred Financial Services Limited as aforesaid, IFSL may proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risk, cost and consequences of the parties mentioned above.  
Place: Dr B R Ambedkar, Komaseema Date: 25.04.2026. Sd/- Authorised Officer For INCRED FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED

**केनरा बैंक Canara Bank Regional Office West**  
Chitrapur Mutt Complex, Malleswaram, 15th Cross, Bangalore-560055  
(A Government Of India Undertaking)

**DEMAND NOTICE [SECTION 13(2)] TO BORROWER/GUARANTOR/MORTGAGOR**  
**NOTICE ISSUED UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002**  
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Canara Bank, Regional Office West, Bengaluru had issued Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Security Interest Act(2002) by Speed post, to the addresses furnished to the Bank as mentioned below. Since the notice has not been acknowledged and returned due to non-availability of addresses at the said addresses / due to evading of service of the notices sent by Speed post, notice could not be served. The contents of the said notice are mentioned herein below.

**1. Name and Address of the Borrower / Co-Borrower / Mortgagor / Guarantor :**  
**1.Mr. Hussaini Dudekula** S/o Fakuruddin Dudekula, No 1-97/0/50, flat No: 201 Gillella Residency, Diamond Heights,nallagandla, Hyderabad, Telangana-500019 **1A)Mr. Hussaini Dudekula** S/o Fakuruddin Dudekula H.No:10-1032, Gadda Street, Koilkuntala, Dornipadu, Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh-518134 **1B) Mr. Hussaini Dudekula** S/o Fakuruddin Dudekula H.No.20, B Block, Aban Dazzle Apartment,no 40/1, Valagerakallahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal, Bangalore/Karnataka-562125

**Details of the credit facility/ies availed by the borrower:**

Loan Number	Date of Sanction	Sanctioned Amount In Rs	Liability with Interest as on date 16.04.2026	Rate of Interest
160002243195 Housing Loan	11.03.2024	Rs. 1,05,00,000.00	Rs. 69,94,386.00	7.20 % +2 % Penal Interest

**Total Liability Amount: Rs. 69,94,386/- (Rupees Sixty Nine Lakhs Ninety Four Thousand Three Hundred and Eighty Six Only), as on Date 16.04.2026** together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs.  
**NPA Date :15.04.2026 Demand Notice Dated :17.04.2026**  
**Name of the title holder: Mr. Hussaini Dudekula**

**Details of Immovable Properties :**  
**SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY :** (Description of the Immovable Property on which the Proposed VILLA APARTMENT Building is intended to be Constructed)  
All that piece and parcel of the immovable property comprising converted land (converted from agricultural use to non-agricultural residential use, by means of Order No.ALN [A](S)-SR/106/2012-13 dated 26-08-2013 passed by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District) bearing Sy.No.40/1, bearing E-Khatha No.150200100100520191, situated at Valagerakallahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, measuring 1 Acre 27 Guntas, out of 4 Acres 01 Gunta and bounded on: East by : Portion of same Sy.No.40/1 owned by First Party/Road, West by : Raja Kaluve, North by: Property belonged to Sri Rajappa, South by: Portion of same property in Sy.No.40/1.  
**SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY:** (Description of the Undivided Share) 1,259.10 Sq. Feet Undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in the land in Schedule 'A' Property.  
**SCHEDULE 'C' APARTMENT:(Description of the Apartment):** All that Residential VILLA APARTMENT bearing No 20 in the Block-"B" of the Project viz.. "ABAN DAZZLE" built in Schedule 'A' Property and VILLA APARTMENT measuring 2,798 Sq. Feet of Super Built up Area, comprising a carpet area of 2106 Sq. Feet with right to use ONE Covered Car Parking Space/s in the Ground level and the VILLA APARTMENT is bounded on East by : Drive Way, West by: Villa Apartment 19, North by: Drive Way , South by: Villa Apartment 21.

You are hereby called upon to pay Canara Bank, within a period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, the respective amount mentioned here above, failing which Canara Bank will take necessary action under the provisions of the said Act, against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the Borrowers, Guarantors & Mortgagors. The powers available to Canara Bank under the Act include (i) power to take possession of the secured assets of the Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagors including the rights to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realising secured assets and any transfer of secured assets by Canara Bank shall vest in the transferee rights in or in relation to, the secured asset transferred as if the transfer has been made by you. In terms of the provisions of section 13(13) of the said Act, you are hereby prohibited from transferring, either by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of your business), any of the secured assets as referred to in the Demand Notice and also Hypothecated / Mortgaged to the bank without prior written consent of the Bank. The notice is issued in terms of Section (13)2 of the said Act.

Date : 21.04.2026 Place : Bengaluru Sd/- Authorised Officer Canara Bank



# EDITORIAL

*Germany's First 'Military Strategy' In 77 Years Is A Wake-Up Call For India*

On April 22, India and Germany signed a Defence Industrial Cooperation Roadmap in Berlin, alongside a P-751 submarine deal inching towards closure between ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems and Mazagon Dock. On the same day, the Bundesministerium der Verteidigung released something far more consequential for Europe's strategic future: the public portion of the Gesamtkonzeption militärische Verteidigung, the "overall conception of military defence", Germany's first formal military strategy since 1949. The timing is deliberate and tells us something important.

### Why This Document Is Historic

For seventy-seven years, Germany has deliberately avoided having a "Militärstrategie". The word itself carried too much weight, too much memory. Post-war Bonn, and later Berlin, worked through Weissbücher, Verteidigungspolitische Richtlinien, and NATO planning documents. The deliberate vagueness was the point. A Germany with a signed military strategy was a Germany with strategic ambition, and strategic ambition was precisely what post-war German political culture had been built to suppress. That reticence is now history. Signed by Generalinspekteur Carsten Breuer in April 2026 and publicly endorsed by Defence Minister Boris Pistorius, the Gesamtkonzeption promulgates a single organising objective: to make the Bundeswehr "die stärkste konventionelle Armee Europas", that is, the strongest conventional army in Europe. Pistorius puts it in language that would have been heretical in Berlin a decade ago. Germany, he writes, must be the "Schrittmacher unter den europäischen Nationen", the pacemaker among European nations. The document's subtitle, "Verantwortung für Europa" (responsibility for Europe), bears the same weight.

### THIS IS A RUPTURE, AND A DELIBERATE ONE.

#### What Motivated It

The first force is Russia. The strategy names Moscow as the largest and most immediate threat to German, European and transatlantic security. It argues Russia is actively preparing the conditions for a war against NATO, already conducts hybrid operations inside alliance territory, including Germany, and views military force as a legitimate instrument of policy. Moscow's strategic goal, the document assesses, is the collapse of "Bündniskohäsion", that is, alliance cohesion, and the strategic decoupling of the United States from Europe. The second force, arguably the more important one, is Washington. The Gesamtkonzeption openly references the US 2026 National Defense Strategy and its calls for allies to take greater responsibility for their own security. It accepts with rare clarity that Europe must now do more. The thesis is one line: "Die NATO muss europäischer werden, um transatlantisch zu bleiben." It means NATO must become more European to remain transatlantic. This is a document planning for a semi-absent America while remaining diplomatic about it.

#### The Significant Facets

The document organises the Bundeswehr's transformation across three phases running to 2039. Phase one, to 2029, focuses on "Maximierung Verteidigungsfähigkeit", that is, maximisation of defence readiness. Phase two, roughly to 2035, delivers "starker Aufwuchs durchhaltefähiger Streitkräfte", marked by the growth of sustainable forces aligned with the alliance. Phase three, from 2039, aims for "technologisch überlegene Streitkräfte" (technologically superior forces). The personnel target is 460,000 soldiers, minimum, by 2035, active and non-active combined, with full equipment for all units, as the document calls it, "Vollausstattung". Six national capability priorities structure spending and procurement: long-range precision strike and integrated air and missile defence, "Informationsüberlegenheit", or information superiority, powered by artificial intelligence, a sovereign cloud-based "Digital Backbone", national command capability for Multi-Domain Operations, the "Operationsbasis Deutschland" or homeland as operational base for NATO forces, and national crisis response. The permanent deployment of the "Brigade Litauen" in Lithuania, the first such basing outside German soil in the Bundeswehr's history, is highlighted as the visible symbol of the new posture.

#### Ukraine, And The Lesson From It

The document's "Kriegsbild", its picture of future war, reads like a comprehensive distillation of three years of observation in Ukraine. It is organised based on six concepts. "Entgrenzung des Krieges", the dissolution of boundaries between civil and military, home and front, combatant and non-combatant. "Multi-temporaler Krieg", where state-of-the-art systems operate alongside legacy platforms and improvised drones. "Transparentes Gefechtsfeld", the transparent battlefield where real-time reconnaissance makes concealment nearly impossible. "Wirkung auf Abstand", long-range precision effects that eliminate safe rear areas. Automation and autonomy that compress decision cycles beyond human capacity. And most strikingly, "effiziente Masse", efficient mass, the recognition that cheap mass-produced systems combined with high-end assets produce decisive effects, and that the economy of war matters again. The explicit warning against building "die Armee von gestern für den Krieg von morgen" - the army of yesterday for the war of tomorrow - is a direct rebuke of institutional inertia. It is the lesson every serious military has had to confront since February 2022.

#### Why This Matters For India

First, Germany's move towards a more autonomous European defence posture alters the balance India has historically managed between Washington, Moscow, and Europe. For India, this means the previous policy framework of triangulating among these powers, within the context of a stable, US-led transatlantic order, is now evolving. India will have to adjust its approach as Germany signals a more independent European role, making Europe a more active strategic actor.

# An End To US-Iran War Is Hiding In Plain Sight - If They Can See It

America has achieved its core objective: Iran's nuclear threat is comprehensively set back years, if not decades. Staying in the Gulf now serves no purpose; the longer the standoff drags on, the greater the risk of a war that could cripple global energy lifelines. A strategic walkway - trading dominance for deterrence - may be the only way to prevent it. An indefinitely extended ceasefire should bring relief. In the Middle East, it brings a quieter dread. The truce that paused the 40-day US-Israel-Iran war has entered its third week - a pause, not a peace, in which everyone is reloading. America's seizure of an Iranian vessel and Tehran's calibrated retaliation show that no calm ever arrived. The Strait of Hormuz has become a stage for two exhausted adversaries in a high-stakes game of chicken, one radar blip from a conflagration neither wants. The question is straightforward: Where do we go from here? The Balance Sheet The war was an asymmetric dismantling. Iran absorbed the seismic shock of "Epic Fury" without state collapse - proof of its technocratic capacity, security apparatus, ideological resolve and nationalist sentiment. It defended its territory and projected defiance to rally support. Its leverage over the Strait of Hormuz is now its undisputed geopolitical currency. But the other side of the ledger is just as stark. American air and naval forces achieved their objectives. Iran's navy has been reduced to fast-attack craft and seabed debris; mili-



tary-linked industry is severely damaged. B-2 bombers have entombed the highly enriched 440kg uranium stockpile under tons of concrete and granite - a radioactive grave surveilled ceaselessly from above. Breakout time has been reset from weeks to years, perhaps indefinitely. The bill: over \$300 billion in Iranian infrastructure damages, a generational setback. The Realpolitik Calculus Continuing the blockade and "Economic Fury" sanctions yields diminishing returns and mounting risk. The blockade is a tripwire; the longer the Fifth Fleet plugs the Strait of Hormuz, the greater the chance of a miscalculation that reignites war. Stalemate is not stability - it is the prelude to crisis.

Some in Washington and Tel Aviv ask: Iran is on its knees, why not finish the job? The temptation is understandable - and catastrophically misguided. "Epic Fury" was devastating because it was calibrated. It struck nuclear and military targets while avoiding the regime's absolute red line: energy infrastructure. Should the war restart, there is nowhere left to go but up the escalation ladder, and the only remaining rungs lead directly to Iran's refineries and export terminals. Iran is Not Unprepared An attack on those targets would pose an existential threat, and Tehran has prepared for exactly this. Its missile and drone forces, degraded but far from destroyed, would be unleashed not on American

warships but on the soft underbelly of the global energy system. Aramco's Abqaiq facility could be struck repeatedly; the UAE's oil infrastructure would burn. Most ominously, the vulnerable desalination plants supplying over 90% of the Persian Gulf's freshwater - and Israel's own capacity - would be systematically targeted. The result would be a regional catastrophe rendering the littoral states of the Persian Gulf uninhabitable. This is not alarmism; it is the logical terminus of an escalation pathway both sides have so far had the prudence to avoid. To restart the war is to choose that terminus. Abandonment, Of A Different Kind This reality makes a cynical but pragmatic exit imperative. The

United States should abandon the conflict in its entirety - not via a treaty photo-op, but through quiet strategic de-escalation rooted in off-shore balancing. The hawks' objection is predictable: why walk away now? Because the nuclear programme is entombed, the navy wrecked, the industrial base shattered. An indefinite garrison achieves nothing; remaining merely converts a punitive success into an open-ended occupation of a waterway and a catastrophic escalation. Yet a half-measure exit - withdrawing the fleet while maintaining full financial warfare - is not de-escalation at all. It merely shifts the domain of conflict. Reopening the Strait while keeping the economy suffocated by sanctions removes

any incentive for Tehran to behave as a status-quo power. Denied revenue to rebuild, Iran would weaponise the very access America claims to have restored. The blockade would migrate from the sea lanes to the global economy. A withdrawal from the Gulf must, therefore, be paired with a de facto relaxation of "Economic Fury". The two levers are not independent; pulling one without the other guarantees that the mechanism jams. Washington can frame this as a mission-complete transition. The uranium is entombed; any attempt to rebuild enrichment sites will be met with precise air strikes. By stepping back, the White House can sell a narrative of punitive victory: Iran is denied the bomb and forced to live with the consequences of its intransigence. No Marshall Plan, no sanctions relief, no compensation. In Washington's transactional vernacular, that is the punishment. The Iranian Equation For Tehran, this is the bitterest of pills, but one it can swallow. Under this de facto arrangement, Iran does not surrender. It can claim it weathered the American storm, that its sovereignty remains intact. National pride remains unscathed. This path also offers Iran the only sustainable exit from economic oblivion. To rebuild, Iran must sell oil. To sell oil, it needs secondary sanctions to be eased - not lifted entirely, but rendered non-enforceable through deliberate inattention to third-party energy transactions.

## IS BORING GOOD? TIM COOK WOULD SAY 'YES'!

Steve Jobs famously said, "It's better to be a pirate than to join the Navy". But as his first chosen successor moves away from the top job at Apple, 15 years after Jobs' death, the company he founded is as far as possible from a bootleg vessel as can be. Jobs was a genius, a visionary in design, product and marketing. Is Tim Cook close to any of these? Heck, no! Apple events don't unleash epochal products anymore. In fact, recent announcements show a clear lack of imagination with AI or device innovation, with markets repeatedly giving them thumbs down after every new iPhone unveiling. Has Tim Cook in his 15 years made Apple boring? Of course, yes. But is boring as bad as it is made out to be? The answer in Apple's case is a resounding NO. Boring is essential for corporate longevity. So, Cook isn't a showman-inventor but an operations expert. While it's fun and glamorous to be a buccaneer-style founder, the heavy-lifting lies in putting the ship together to insulate it against choppy waters, regulatory and geopolitical attacks, and make it into an institution that is structured in operations, governance, product pipeline, succession planning, for these give returns to all its stakeholders, including the innovators at its core. In short, a closer look shows how Cook's every weakness is actually a thought-through strategy to steer Apple to stable waters. Let's begin with the biggest criticism of Cook: Making Apple boring. No out-of-the-world device innovations and no jaw-dropping AI announcement either.

#### APPLE'S AI HESITANCE

Cook is a firm believer in being the best, which might

not necessarily mean being the first. For him, market-timing and first-mover advantage is subordinate to readiness. Cook's strategy is to patiently wait while others validate demand and the noise settles. Historically, Apple then goes for the kill in that category with a product that is dramatically more useful and practical to mainstream users. The Cook era is full of late-but-integrated entries: Apple Watch in 2014, Apple Pay in 2014, AirPods in 2016, Vision Pro in 2023 with retail availability in 2024, and Apple Intelligence in 2024. None were first in their category; all were framed as deeply integrated with Apple's hardware, software and services stack. The success of each of these products is validation of Cook's strategy. Though analysts have labelled Apple as an AI laggard, Cook, while announcing John Ternus, the company's hardware chief, as his successor, did tease 2026 as the year with an 'incredible' pipeline of products, including a foldable iPhone and AI-focused wearables. But Cook's Apple doesn't build everything. It builds only when a dependency threatens to become a chokepoint. So, in the AI cycle, Cook has signalled a greater willingness to loosen his traditional M&A discipline, saying Apple was open to deals that accelerate its roadmap and had already acquired seven small AI firms in 2025.

#### LASTING LEGACY

It is now clear that there will be no radical iPhone upgrades, and yes, there are Reddit threads arguing for and against it; but the debate is largely settled around the belief that a boring phone is better than unstable, reckless radicalism.

## Between Fear And Opportunity: Sri Lanka's India Dilemma

Sri Lanka is once again at a moment of crisis - shaped by economic uncertainty, energy insecurity, and the aftershocks of its recent financial collapse. Recent attacks on Iran have further disrupted energy markets, exposing the fragility of supply chains. Yet, as so often in its post-independence history, the central question is not the nature of the crisis, but whether the country has the vision to convert it into opportunity. At a time when India is emerging as a principal driver of regional growth and connectivity, Sri Lanka faces a stark choice: align with this transformation, or remain constrained by the anxieties of the past. History offers instructive parallels. The Netherlands positioned itself as Europe's logistics hub after the Second World War, while Singapore became Southeast Asia's gateway. Both translated geographic advantage into sustained execution. Sri Lanka, too, was poised - by geography and history - to play a comparable role for South Asia. Yet its trajectory has been marked by false starts and unrealised expectations. External shocks played a part, but the deeper constraint has been internal: populist politics and an inward-looking mindset, accompanied by unease about external engagement, particularly with India. The contrast is striking. Sri Lankans have excelled globally in open, competitive environments. Yet, at home, the country has struggled to align policy with opportunity. Recent proposals on energy connectivity between India and Sri Lanka-including an oil pipeline, the development of the Trincomalee tank farm, and the transformation of the Port of Trincomalee into a regional energy hub-reflect a long-overdue recognition of strategic reality. Interest from the United Arab Emirates strengthens the case. Sri Lanka's annual oil and petroleum requirement is roughly equivalent to about one week's requirement for India, making practical arrangements on energy security relatively straightforward. These discussions have gained urgency. The strategic imperative, however, is fundamentally Sri Lanka's: to finally operationalise an asset that has remained unrealised for decades. Sri Lanka's wind energy potential in the northwest - estimated at over 15,000 MW, around three times current capacity - offers another opportunity. Exporting renewable energy to India is both commercially viable and strategically transformative. Yet, Sri Lanka's experience suggests that opportunity alone is not



enough. The trajectory of Indo-Sri Lankan economic relations reflects this pattern of missed opportunities. India's first-ever Free Trade Agreement with any country, signed with Sri Lanka in 1998, held considerable promise, but progress has been uneven. Delays in the Trincomalee tank farm project, signed in 2009, and the cancellation of the Sampur power project illustrate this pattern, as does the more recent cancellation of a major wind project in Mannar and Pooneryn. The ports sector tells a similar story. Sri Lanka's deep-water advantage at the Port of Colombo has made it a vital transshipment hub, with nearly 50% of its volume linked to India. However, as India expands its own port infrastructure, this advantage cannot be taken for granted. The withdrawal from the East Container Terminal arrangement reflected recurring hesitation, while progress on the West Container Terminal must be followed by further development, including Colombo's North Port. Connectivity must extend beyond ports. Bandaranaike International Airport requires expansion and investment, potentially through partnerships with India and Japan. Measures such as pre-clearance arrangements for Indian travellers in Colombo, akin to US-style pre-clearance in Abu Dhabi, could further deepen linkages. Looking ahead, more ambitious infrastructure links - through road and rail connections between India and Sri Lanka - should be explored, despite political sensitivities. Sri Lanka's mineral resources-graphite, phosphate, and ilmenite-also offer opportunities for integration into regional supply chains, particularly in meeting India's growing industrial demand. In this regard, the recent proposal by Japan for an India-Sri Lanka export-oriented economic cor-

ridor merits serious consideration. Across decades, successive governments have often squandered strong mandates through short-term populism. Each crisis has raised hopes of course correction; too often, those hopes have faded. There are, however, clear examples of progress. Tourism is one such area. India is now Sri Lanka's largest source of visitors, and this flow has been both economically beneficial and socially well-received. Sri Lanka has the potential to position itself as a preferred leisure destination for Indian travellers - perhaps even as a "new Goa" for segments of the market, with Colombo only about an hour further from Delhi. Digital cooperation is another promising frontier. Collaboration on digital public infrastructure, including initiatives around a unique digital identity, could enhance service delivery, expand financial inclusion, and integrate Sri Lanka more deeply into regional ecosystems. The central challenge, therefore, is not one of geography or resources, but of mindset. Sri Lanka must recognise that while asymmetries in size and power are real, India is an opportunity that should be seized with clarity and confidence, as an equal partner. For such a partnership to succeed, the Indian side must move decisively to translate agreements into tangible outcomes, with faster and more responsive execution. India, as the larger partner, should also be more sensitive to the imbalance inherent in the relationship, and accordingly more accommodating. If that shift occurs, Sri Lanka can still realise its long-delayed destiny as South Asia's logistics and economic hub-its own version of the Netherlands or Singapore, albeit belatedly. The present crisis is not just a test of resilience-it is a test of imagination.

# Petrol, Diesel Price Hike Imminent? Emkay Sees 'Rs 10/Litre Increase In First Round'

**AGENCY**  
**Mumbai:** A potential hike in petrol and diesel prices may be on the horizon, with brokerage firm Emkay Global Financial Services warning that continued disruptions linked to the Strait of Hormuz could force the government to act. The brokerage expects a first round of price hikes of around Rs 10 per litre, although it noted this would only partially offset losses faced by oil marketing companies (OMCs). In a report released on Friday, Emkay said that any prolonged closure or disruption in the Strait of Hormuz, a critical global oil transit route, would tighten supply and keep crude prices elevated, making India's current fuel price freeze increasingly unsustainable. The pressure stems from persistently high global oil prices, with Brent crude hovering around \$100-\$120 per barrel, exacerbated by geopolitical tensions affecting flows through the Strait of Hormuz. Since a significant portion of global oil supply passes through this chokepoint, any disruption directly impacts import-dependent economies like India. As a result, Indian fuel retailers are facing rising under-recoveries, as domestic pump prices have



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not kept pace with global benchmarks. Impact On Inflation, GDP And Markets According to Emkay, a Rs 10/litre increase would cover only about 53% of current under-recoveries, leaving room for further hikes if crude prices remain elevated. However, the brokerage cautioned that a sharper increase could trigger inflationary shocks and broader macroeconomic risks. It estimates that a Rs 10 hike could have an approximately 75 basis points impact on inflation, including second-order effects. Emkay noted that even a partial price hike would not allow the government to roll back recent excise duty cuts, which have

a potential fiscal impact of about 0.2% of GDP. Meanwhile, equity markets could react negatively in the short term. The brokerage warned that a fuel price hike could trigger a correction, especially as market valuations are already near long-term averages. Emkay also believes that if crude prices remain high due to continued tensions around the Strait of Hormuz, additional rounds of price hikes may follow, likely in a staggered manner. Despite this, the firm described the current energy shock as "transient", expecting eventual stabilisation in global markets once supply normalises. The report also flagged sectoral

risks, noting that automobiles (OEMs, ancillaries, lenders) and cement companies are likely to be among the biggest losers due to higher fuel costs. Separately, Kotak Institutional Equities had outlined a more severe scenario. In its recent report, the brokerage estimated that fuel prices may need to rise by Rs 25-28 per litre to fully align with global crude prices, assuming an Indian crude basket of \$120 per barrel. However, it added that

political considerations, especially around ongoing state elections, have likely kept actual hikes more moderate. Kotak also highlighted that Indian refiners are facing an incremental monthly burden of around Rs 270 billion, despite modest increases in LPG and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices. A Rs 10/litre excise duty cut announced on March 27, 2026, has provided some relief but limited the government's fiscal flexibility. However, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has dismissed reports of an imminent price hike. In a statement posted on X, the ministry said there is "no such proposal under consideration", calling such reports "misleading" and aimed at creating panic. The government also emphasised that India is among the few countries where petrol and diesel prices have remained unchanged for nearly four years, attributing this stability to coordinated efforts between the government and public sector oil companies to shield consumers from global price volatility.

## AI is already leading to fewer jobs for young people, says Sunak

**AGENCY**  
**London:** Artificial intelligence (AI) is flattening the jobs market for young people and governments should eliminate National Insurance to make hiring workers more attractive, former prime minister Rishi Sunak has told the BBC. Sunak, now an adviser to AI firm Anthropic and Microsoft, said while he is an enthusiast for the transformative impact of AI, he said concerns from graduates looking for entry level jobs were justified. He said company bosses were privately acknowledging to him that recruitment of young people is flattening because of the technology. "There are reasons to be worried and think about the future. But we are able to do something about this," he said. Sunak suggested rebalancing the tax system by abolishing National Insurance

"over time" and replacing with it with taxes on corporate profits. These, he said, would be boosted by productivity and efficiencies in deploying AI. Sunak said it is becoming tougher for

young people to get jobs in service sectors such as law, accountancy and the creative industries. Meanwhile, he said chief executives are telling him that "flat is the new up".



## String Metaverse Limited Announces Successful OFS with Strong Retail Participation; Board to Consider Bonus Issue for Public Shareholders



**Hyderabad, India - April 24, 2026:** String Metaverse Limited today announced the successful completion of its Offer for Sale (OFS) of equity shares, which witnessed a strong and broad-based response from investors across categories. The OFS was conducted over two trading days with the following subscription levels: - Non-Retail Investors (April 21, 2026): Subscribed approximately 149% - Retail Investors (April 22, 2026): Subscribed approximately

495% The Company noted particularly strong participation from retail investors, reflecting sustained investor confidence in its growth prospects and strategic direction. Following the successful completion of the OFS, the Company expects to be in compliance with the Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) requirements as prescribed under applicable regulations. In recognition of the strong participation and continued support

from public shareholders, the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to meet on April 29, 2026, inter alia, to consider a proposal for the issuance of bonus equity shares subject to necessary approvals and applicable regulatory requirements: - The proposed bonus issue may be structured to enhance participation of public shareholders - The promoters may forgo/renounce their entitlement to the bonus shares, thereby supporting an increase in public

shareholding The proposed corporate action is aimed at: - Rewarding public shareholders for their participation and continued support - Enhancing public shareholding and market liquidity - Aligning the Company's ownership structure with its long-term growth and participation objectives The proposed bonus issue remains subject to approval of the Board of Directors and such statutory and regulatory approvals as may be required.

## RELIANCE INDUSTRIES Q4 RESULTS:

### Profit Declines 9%, Margin Contracts The Most In 14 Quarters

**AGENCY**  
**Mumbai:** Reliance Industries Ltd. reported a 9% quarter-on-quarter fall in fourth-quarter profit, while operating margin posted its sharpest contraction in 14 quarters as lower profitability offset higher revenue growth. Revenue rose 11% from the previous quarter, but lower operating performance weighed on earnings, the oil-to-telecom conglomerate said in an exchange filing on Friday. The operating income or the earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation fell 4% on a sequential basis and margin narrowed to 15% from 17.4%. Reliance Industries Q4 Results Key Highlights (Consolidated, QoQ) Revenue up 11% to Rs 2,94,059 crore versus Rs 2,64,905 crore (Bloomberg Estimate: Rs 2,82,748 crore) Ebitda down 4% to Rs 44,141 crore versus Rs 46,018 crore (Estimate: Rs 47,343 crore) Margin contracts 240 basis points to 15.0% versus 17.4% (Estimate: 16.7%) Profit down 9% to Rs 16,971 crore versus



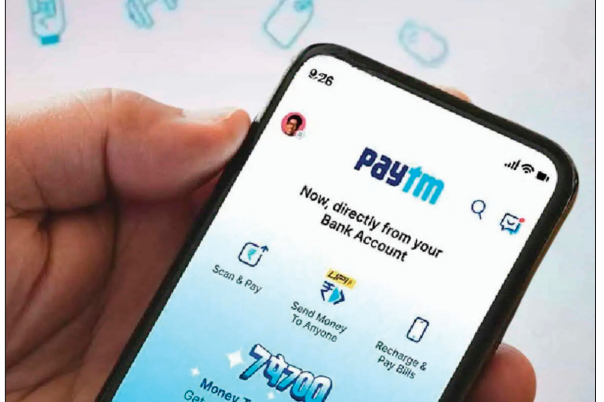
Rs 18,645 crore (Estimate: Rs 16,944 crore) Segment Performance Digital revenue rose 3% quarter on quarter to Rs 45,945 crore, while Ebitda increased 4% to Rs 20,041 crore. Margin expanded to 43.62%, making it one of the stronger contributors in the quarter. Retail revenue increased 1% to Rs 98,457 crore. Ebitda was largely flat at Rs 6,921 crore, Margin contracted to 7.03%. O2C revenue rose 14% to Rs 1,84,944 crore, but Ebitda fell 12% to Rs 14,520 crore. Margin contracted 7.85%, indicating pressure

despite higher sales. Oil and gas revenue increased 1% to Rs 5,867 crore, while Ebitda declined 14% to Rs 4,195 crore. Margin contracted to 71.50%. Other businesses posted revenue growth of 57% to Rs 27,976 crore, while Ebitda was flat at Rs 2,746 crore. Margin contracted to 9.82%. Jio Listing, Consumer Growth "Jio continues to transform India's digital landscape," Chairman and Managing Director Mukesh Ambani said. He added that the company is "advancing steadily towards the listing of Jio

Platforms." Reliance's investor presentation showed Jio ended FY26 with more than 524 million subscribers, including 268 million 5G users. Fixed broadband connections crossed 27 million, while AirFiber subscribers reached 12.9 million. Balance Sheet Growth For FY26, Reliance reported record consolidated revenue of Rs 11,75,919 crore, up 9.8% from a year earlier. Ebitda rose 13.4% to Rs 2,07,911 crore, while profit after tax increased 18.3% to Rs 95,610 crore.

## RBI cancels banking licence of Paytm Payments Bank

**AGENCY**  
**Mumbai:** The Reserve Bank of India on Friday, April 24, said it has cancelled the banking licence issued to Paytm Payments Bank. The licence was cancelled as the "affairs of the bank were conducted in a manner detrimental to the interest of the bank and its depositors", the RBI said in a statement. "The general character of the management of the bank is prejudicial to the interest of depositors as also the public interest," it said. Consequently, Paytm Payments Bank is prohibited from conducting any "banking" business, it said. The RBI also said it will make an application to the high court to wind up the bank. "Paytm Payments Bank Limited has enough liquidity to repay its entire deposit liability upon winding up of the bank," it said. Paytm Payments Bank has been barred from onboarding new customers with



effect from March 11, 2022. Paytm Payments Bank Ltd has lost its banking licence, with the Reserve Bank of India banning the lender from carrying out operations with immediate effect. The RBI said Paytm Payments Bank has enough funds to repay its liabilities during the winding-up process. Today's decision is the last RBI action against the lender in a long process of regulatory action to close Paytm Payments Bank. The RBI

had already banned it from taking new customers and accepting deposits. The RBI's action began in 2022 when it imposed curbs on the lender. It tightened the curbs in 2024 after repeated supervisory concerns over governance, compliance and operations surfaced. The RBI cited multiple grounds for cancelling the licence, including the conduct of the affairs of the bank going against the interests of the lender and its depositors.

## Markets slide for third straight day as crude spike, IT sell-off drag sentiment

**AGENCY**  
**Mumbai:** Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty tumbled over 1 per cent on Friday, falling for the third consecutive day, as a sharp rally in crude prices and massive selling in IT counters weighed heavily on investors' sentiment. Unabated foreign fund outflows, a negative trend in global markets amid prolonged conflict and continued disruption in the Strait of Hormuz added to the gloom. The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 999.79 points, or 1.29 per cent, to settle at 76,664.21. During the day, it plunged 1,260.13 points or 1.62 per cent to 76,403.87. A total of 2,905 stocks declined, while 1,326 advanced and 158 remained unchanged on the BSE. The wider gauge NSE Nifty slumped 275.10 points, or 1.14 per cent, to end at 23,897.95. On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark tanked 1,829.33 points, or 2.33 per cent, and the Nifty dropped 455.6 points, or 1.87 per cent. "Indian equity markets extended their



decline for a third consecutive session, as renewed risk-off sentiment weighed on investor confidence. Ongoing tensions in the Middle East, coupled with persistent weakness in the IT sector, continued to pressure an already fragile market backdrop. "Volatility also increased, with the India VIX rising 6 per cent, reflecting heightened fear and uncertainty amid the prolonged conflict and continued disruption in the Strait of Hormuz, with no meaningful signs of de-escalation,"

Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said. From the Sensex constituents, Infosys dived 7.09 per cent after its revenue growth forecast for FY27 came in lower than market expectations. HCL Tech, Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra, Sun Pharma, Asian Paints and ICICI Bank were also among the major laggards. In contrast, Trent, Bajaj Finance, State Bank of India, HDFC Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank were the winners. The

**Highlights**  
Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty tumbled over 1 per cent on Friday, falling for the third consecutive day, as a sharp rally in crude prices and massive selling in IT counters weighed heavily on investors' sentiment.

BSE SmallCap Select index dropped 0.95 per cent, and the MidCap Select index dipped 0.91 per cent. All sectoral indices ended lower. The BSE IT tanked 5.13 per cent, BSE Focused IT (4.65 per cent), Healthcare (1.35 per cent), Telecommunication (1.33 per cent), Realty (1.30 per cent), Services (1.17 per cent) and Consumer Discretionary (1.04 per cent). "Indian markets extended their weakness for a third consecutive session, closing on a cautious and lower note as subdued global

cues, weak earnings sentiment from IT majors, rising crude oil prices, inflation concerns, and currency pressure weighed on overall sentiment, keeping investors largely on the sidelines despite selective stock-specific buying interest," Gaurav Garg, Analyst, Lemonn Markets Desk, said. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 2.17 per cent higher at USD 107.3 per barrel. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 3,254.71 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data. "IT stocks led the decline following disappointing quarterly earnings, while selling pressure was broad-based across sectors. FIIs returned to net selling again after a brief spell of inflows," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said. In Asian markets, South Korea's benchmark Kospi and Shanghai's SSE Composite index ended lower, while Japan's Nikkei 225 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng settled higher.

# B. Netanyahu treated for early-stage prostate cancer

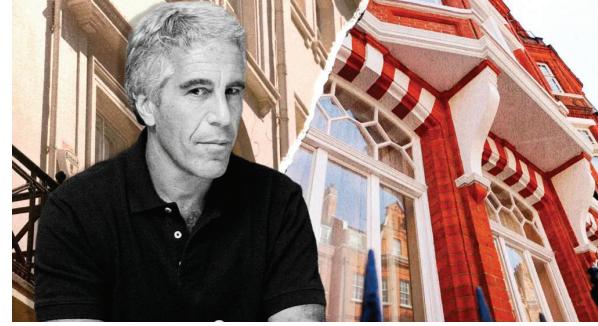
**AGENCY**  
**Tel Aviv:** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said he is "in excellent physical condition" after the publication of his annual medical report revealed he had a malignant tumour removed. In a post on X on Friday, Netanyahu said that during routine medical monitoring following successful surgery for an enlarged benign prostate, doctors found an early-stage malignant tumour. Treatment had "removed the problem and left no trace of it", he added. Netanyahu said he had requested to delay publication of his health record so it was not released at the height of the US and Israel's war with Iran, to prevent Tehran from spreading "even more false propaganda against Israel". The 76-year-old Israeli leader said he underwent the initial surgery for an

enlarged benign prostate in 2024 and has been under routine medical monitoring. "A tiny spot of less than a centimetre" was discovered during the most recent check up. "I had a minor medical issue with my prostate that was completely treated. Thank God, it's behind me," he said. In the lengthy post, Netanyahu also said he chose to undergo treatment because "when I'm given information in time about a potential danger, I want to address it immediately". He added: "This is true on the national level and also on the personal level". The revelation comes as Netanyahu is due to visit the White House in the coming

weeks as the US seeks to broker a long lasting peace deal in the war with Iran. Israel's ceasefire agreement with Lebanon, following fighting between Israel and Iran, b a c k e d Hezbollah, has also been extended by three weeks.



## EPSTEIN HOUSED ABUSE VICTIMS IN LONDON FLATS



**AGENCY**  
**London:** Sex-criminal financier Jeffrey Epstein housed women who say he abused them in several London flats in the years after UK police decided not to investigate him, the BBC can reveal. We found evidence of four flats, rented in the affluent borough of Kensington and Chelsea, in receipts, emails and bank records contained within the Epstein files. Six of the women housed in them have since come forward as victims of Epstein's abuse. Many of them - from Russia, eastern Europe and elsewhere - were brought to the UK after the Metropolitan Police decided not to investigate Virginia

Giuffre's 2015 allegation that she had been a victim of international trafficking to London. The Met said it followed "reasonable lines of inquiry" at the time, interviewing Giuffre on multiple occasions following her complaint and co-operating with US investigators. Some of the women housed in the London flats were coerced by Epstein to recruit others into his sex trafficking scheme, as well as regularly transported to Paris by Eurostar to visit him, according to emails in the files, searched through millions of pages of records gathered by the US Department of Justice in its investigation of the disgraced financier.

## South Africa's top envoy to Ghana summoned over attacks on foreigners



**AGENCY**  
**Ghana:** has summoned South Africa's top envoy to the country over reported "acts of intimidation and harassment" against its citizens and other African migrants in the southern African nation. Earlier this week, video clips were shared online showing vigilante groups attacking and confronting people they believed were in South Africa illegally - in one of them they challenge a Ghanaian man over his status. Xenophobia has long been an issue in South Africa and has been accompanied by occasional outbursts of deadly violence.

Ghanaian officials have met the man in the video to offer him support and also urged citizens living abroad to continue being "law-abiding". The West African nation's foreign affairs ministry said it had also met South Africa's acting high commissioner to Ghana, Thando Dalamba, and raised a formal protest over the recent "xenophobic incidents" against foreigners, including its citizens. It cited a video clip showing a group of South Africans questioning a Ghanaian man. The group demand to see the man's documents and even when he produces them.

## Behind Nigeria's murky coup plot - the money, the prayers and a Nollywood arrest



**AGENCY**  
**Nigeria:** For months rumours and secrecy have surrounded last year's alleged Independence Day coup plot in Nigeria - but with this week's indictment of six civilians accused of involvement comes the first details of what is said to have been an elaborate plan to oust President Bola Tinubu. It was due to take place on 1 October 2025 - the day Nigeria marked the 65th anniversary of its independence from the UK. But at the very last minute the celebratory parade, to be attended by the president, was cancelled - and the government and military were tight-lipped about why. It was only in January that the military announced, in a statement short on detail, that 16 unnamed senior military officers were to face a court-martial over an alleged plot - effectively admitting a coup attempt had been thwarted. Now court documents, filed by state prosecutors at the Federal High Court in the capital, Abuja, have revealed the name of the alleged mastermind and suggest that one of the major aims of the plotters was to destabilise the state ahead of the planned takeover. The

six going on trial at the High Court cannot go before a military court as they are civilians, including a serving police inspector and retired military personnel. They have denied the 13 charges, including treason, terrorism and money laundering - and while they may not necessarily be the ringleaders, their trial is likely to shed light on an alleged plan that is said to have involved all elements of Nigeria's security forces. Nigeria has a long history of military takeovers but has been under civilian rule since 1999. Several other West African countries have experienced coups in recent years and there has been speculation that Nigeria could be next, with economic hardship rising and accusations that the political system was rigged in favour of a small elite. Court documents point to Colonel Mohammed Ma'aji as the alleged chief strategist. Little is known about the 50-year-old, a Muslim born in western Niger state who spent much of his early army career in the southern oil-rich Niger Delta region and where he climbed the ranks in the mid-2000s.

## POISONING SUSPECTED IN DEATHS OF 18 WOLVES IN ITALIAN NATIONAL PARK

**AGENCY**  
**Italy:** Poisoning is suspected in the deaths of 18 wolves within a few days in a national park that straddles three regions of central Italy. After the carcasses of 10 wolves were found last week, another eight were found when patrols were stepped up in recent days in the Abruzzo, Lazio, and Molise National Park. The park authority said last week that traces of suspected poisoned bait had been found in an area where five of the wolves had been found dead and the latest deaths elsewhere raised "very strong suspicion" of further poisoning. The authority said it was working to determine the cause of death and collaborating



with local public prosecutors. The park's initial suspicions appear to have been corroborated in tests carried out by the local animal health research institute IZS. Thirteen of the dead wolves were taken to the institute in Teramo, which found the "presence of pesticides for agriculture used in poisoned bait for animals".

## Nato says 'no provision' to expel members after report US could seek to suspend Spain

**AGENCY**  
**Kyiv:** Nato says there is no provision for member states to be suspended or expelled from the military alliance after a report said the US could seek to suspend Spain over its Iran war stance. Reuters quoted a US official who said an internal Pentagon email had suggested measures for the US to punish allies it believed had failed to support its campaign. The email also suggested reviewing the US position on the UK's claim to the Falklands islands in the south Atlantic, which are also claimed by Argentina. A Nato official told the BBC that the alliance's founding treaty "does not foresee any provision for suspension of Nato membership, or expulsion". Spain's leader has also



dismissed the report. The BBC has contacted the Pentagon and UK government for comment. US President Donald Trump has repeatedly criticised Nato allies for their reluctance to play a greater role after the US and Israel attacked Iran on 28 February and Iran subsequently restricted shipping through the key Strait of

Hormuz route. Spain has refused to allow the use of air bases on its territory for attacks on Iran. The US has two military bases in Spain, Naval Station Rota and Morón Air Base. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez told reporters: "We do not work based on emails. We work with official documents and official positions taken, in this case,

by the government of the United States." Sánchez added that Spain supported "full co-operation with its allies, but always within the framework of international law." Meanwhile, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer has insisted that greater involvement in the war or the current US blockade of Iran's ports is not in the UK's interest. The UK has allowed the US to use British bases to launch strikes on Iranian sites targeting the Strait of Hormuz and RAF planes have taken part in missions to shoot down Iranian drones. The UK, France and others have said they would be willing to keep the Strait of Hormuz - a global oil shipping route - open after a lasting ceasefire or the end of the war.

## No 10 says Falklands sovereignty rests with UK after report of US 'review'

**AGENCY**  
**London:** Sovereignty of the Falkland Islands "rests with the UK", Downing Street said, following a report the US could review its position on Britain's claim to the territory. An internal Pentagon email reported by Reuters suggested the US was considering options to punish Nato allies it believed failed to support its war on Iran. The options discussed also included seeking Spain's suspension from Nato over its opposition to the war. BBC News, which has not been able to review the document, has contacted the Pentagon about it. The Falkland Islands, a British overseas territory in the



south-west Atlantic Ocean, remain the subject of a sovereignty dispute between Britain and Argentina. Asked about the report, a No 10 spokesman on Friday said: "The Falkland Islands have hugely voted overwhelmingly in favour of remaining a UK overseas

territory, and we've always stood behind the islanders' right to self-determination and the fact that sovereignty rests with the UK." The prime minister's official spokesman also said the government "could not be clearer about the UK's position", and that "sovereignty

rests with the UK and the islanders' right to self-determination is paramount". He continued: "We've expressed this position previously clearly and consistently to successive US administrations and nothing is going to change that." Previous US administrations have formally recognised the UK's de facto administration of the islands, but have not taken a formal position regarding sovereignty. "The Falkland Islands has complete confidence in the commitment made by the UK government to uphold and defend our right of self-determination," the islands' government said in a statement.

## Key suspect in notorious Tadamon massacre during Syria civil war arrested



**AGENCY**  
**Syria:** A key suspect in one of the most notorious killings of the Syrian civil war has been arrested, Syria's interior minister has said. Amjad Youssef was wanted over the mass killing of civilians in April 2013 in the Tadamon district of Damascus. Footage emerged in 2022 showing Syrian soldiers leading victims, bound and blindfolded, to a pit before shooting them. The video became one of the most direct pieces of visual evidence of extrajudicial killings by then government forces. Interior Minister Anas Khattab said Youssef was the main perpetrator of the massacre and was taken into custody after a "well-executed" security operation. Syria's state news agency said he was detained in Hama province. Footage published by the UK-based monitoring group the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) appeared to show Youssef after his arrest, sitting in a police car, his nose and forehead bloodied. The killings at Tadamon attracted widespread attention after video, filmed by the perpetrators, showing it taking place was leaked nine

years later. In the film, victims are seen being led one by one to the pit and shot. It was one of several mass killings in Tadamon by government forces around that time. Human Rights Watch (HRW), which has visited the site, said there was evidence that 288 were killed in Tadamon, 41 in the incident in April 2013. It said 11 blindfolded victims shown in the video were shot at close range and pushed into a machine-dug grave. It has called the area "a huge crime scene". HRW senior researcher Hiba Zayadin said the leaked video "filmed by the perpetrators themselves who laughed as they killed their victims, shows the [former] Syrian government's callous disregard for people's lives." "This massacre is just one horrific incident in a pattern of state violence and apparent war crimes." The government at the time, led by President Bashar al-Assad, was toppled by rebels in December 2024. Assad's forces had fought jihadist and rebel groups in the civil war which began in March 2011 when security forces cracked down violently on peaceful pro-democracy protests.

## Tehran should make a 'wise deal', Hegseth says, as Iran's foreign minister heads to Pakistan for talks

**AGENCY**  
**Iran's** Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi says his trip to Islamabad, Muscat and Moscow is to "closely coordinate with our partners on bilateral matters and consult on regional developments". In a post on X, he says: "Our neighbors are our priority". Away from the Middle East, EU leaders are hosting a summit with their counterparts from Egypt, Syria and Lebanon in Cyprus. German Chancellor Friedrich Merz told fellow leaders that the EU is willing to gradually ease sanctions on Iran in the event a comprehensive agreement is reached, according to the Reuters news agency. "It is, so to speak, part of the contribution we can make to advance this process and,



hopefully, lead to a lasting ceasefire," Merz said. AFP is reporting comments from European Council President Antonio Costa, who said the Strait of Hormuz must "immediately reopen without restrictions and without tolling", adding that this is "vital for the entire world". Speaking before the meeting, the bloc's foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas warned

that the world could end up with a more dangerous Iran if talks did not produce as strong an agreement as the 2015 Iran nuclear deal President Trump withdrew from during his first term. We've been keeping an eye on two ships sanctioned by the US over their links to Iran as they travelled through the Strait of Hormuz today. Ship-track-

ing data from MarineTraffic shows a crude oil tanker named Yuri began crossing the strait overnight before coming to a halt to the east of Larak Island, where it has remained throughout today. The tracking site shows the ship is loaded with cargo and had previously broadcast its location close to Kharg Island, Iran's main oil export port. The ship's current destination is not known. A second ship, a chemical tanker named Avon, also transited through the strait early this morning. It had spent much of this month sitting off the coast of the UAE and ship tracking data shows it is laden with cargo. It now appears to be heading out into the Gulf of Oman, where the US last week implemented a blockade line.

## KENYAN LEADER SPARKS UPROAR AFTER MOCKING NIGERIANS' SPOKEN ENGLISH

**AGENCY**  
**Kenyan** President William Ruto has faced a social media backlash after publicly suggesting that Nigerian-accented English was incomprehensible and required a translator. Addressing Kenyans living in Italy on Monday, Ruto said: "If you listen to a Nigerian speaking, you don't know what they are saying - you need a translator," while boasting that Kenyans spoke "some of the best English in the world". His remarks drew fierce condemnation from Nigerians and other Africans online who accused the Kenyan leader of demeaning a fellow African nation. "English is a colonial language, not a measure of intelligence,

capability, or national progress," wrote Hopewell Chin'ono, a Zimbabwean journalist. As former British colonies, both Kenya and Nigeria share English as an official language, but each country has developed distinct spoken varieties with different phonetic structures. These differences reflect the influence of indigenous languages - Nigeria has more than 500 languages which shape its cadence and intonation, while Kenya's Bantu, Nilotic and Cushitic mix give rise to its own accents. But in his address to the diaspora gathering, Ruto said Kenya's education system produced strong English proficiency and that it was difficult to understand Nigerians when they spoke English.



## IPL 2026: Gujarat Titans Set 205/3-Run Target for Royal Challengers Bengaluru

AGENCY

**Mumbai:** Virat Kohli was dropped on duck by Washington Sundar in the first over of RCB's 206-run chase against GT in Bengaluru. Earlier, Sai Sudharsan's third IPL century powered GT to 205/3 against RCB. Sudharsan slammed 100 off just 58 balls to lead GT's charge, slamming 11 fours and five sixes to lit up the Chinnaswamy Stadium. During his knock, Sudharsan broke Chris Gayle's record to become the fastest player to score 2,000 runs in IPL. Put in to bat, Shubman Gill had a 128-run opening stand with Sudharsan, the last season's Orange Cap winner with 759 runs, getting into his rhythm hitting 11 fours and five sixes. Gill made a quiet 24-ball 32. Making his GT debut, Jason Holder (23 not out; 10 balls) smashed two sixes and one four in the final over to prop up the total. Kohli dropped on 0! Massive blunder from Sundar as he fumbled



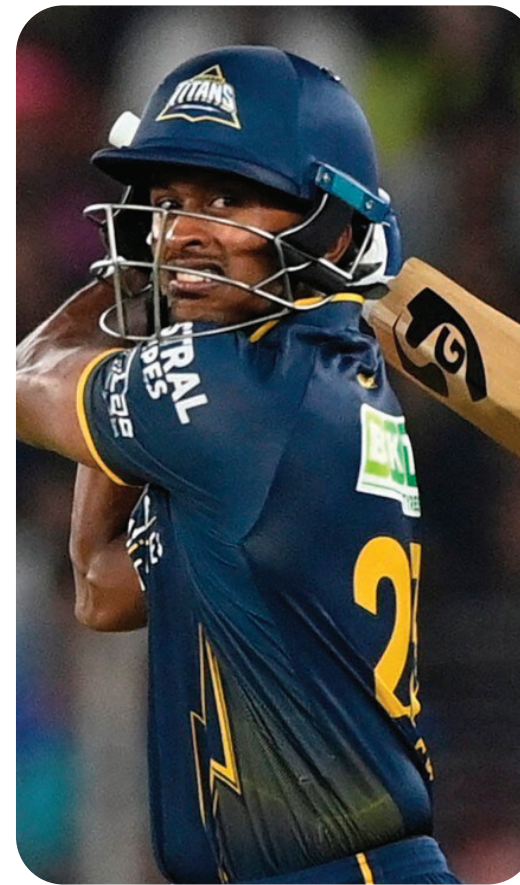
an easy catch at mid-wicket. Kohli went for the flick and hits it straight at Sundar, who absolutely shells it. Huge let-off for Kohli! 18 runs off the final over and GT reach 205/3! This is the highest total for GT vs RCB, bettering 200/3 at Ahmedabad in 2024. Decent cameos from Sundar, Buttler and Holder take GT past the 200-run mark after Sai Sudharsan's anchored the

innings with a 58-ball 100. Big chase coming up in Chinnaswamy! Now Krunal has gone down! Holder is having a laugh about it, perhaps at the sheer absurdity of another injury delay. The physio has charged down to the middle once again. After a brief wait, Krunal has decided to soldier on. Holder clearly sees the humorous side to all the drama! Holder goes bang! Patidar gives the

ball to Krunal and regrets it straightaway. Holder welcomes him back with a towering six—just clearing his front leg to heave the ball over cow corner. A top-tier shot from the big man! Drama in the final over! Rasikh Salam Dar goes down, clutching his right leg. The physio has rushed out straightaway. He was just about to deliver the first ball of the innings' finale but had

to pull out late in his run-up. This looks like a serious concern for RCB! Gujarat Titans opener Sai Sudharsan scripted history with his batting on Friday night during a match against Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium. The southpaw, who started the season poorly with just one fifty in six matches, slammed a sensational century (100 off 58) against RCB. During the knock, Sudharsan also reached the milestone of 2,000 IPL runs. He achieved the feat in his 47th innings, surpassing the previous record held by Chris Gayle. The former West Indies opener had reached the milestone in 48 innings. RCB skipper Rajat Patidar won the toss and opted to field against GT in the game. It's the Royal Challengers Bengaluru's final home game of the season at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium. The Gujarat Titans came into this clash on the back of a heavy 99-run loss to the Mumbai Indians.

Sai Sudharsan Regains Form In Style, Slams Century For Gujarat Titans Against RCB



Gujarat Titans batter Sai Sudharsan regained form in style as he slammed a century off 57 balls during the IPL 2026 match against Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Friday. The knock consisted of 11 fours and five sixes. It has been a modest season for the batter as he scored just 135 runs in his first six innings of IPL 2026 with just one half-century. However, he looked in complete control against the RCB bowlers as he played brilliant cricket to keep the scorecard ticking. He looked completely at ease against the likes of Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Josh Hazlewood as he faced the majority of balls in the powerplay and made sure that GT was well on its way to a big total.

## Ex-New Zealand Star, Who Played 28 Tests, Banned From County Cricket For Cocaine Use

AGENCY

**New Zealand:** Former New Zealand cricket team pacer Doug Bracewell was banned from county cricket after he tested positive for cocaine on for a second time. The cricketer was handed a two-year suspension by the England Cricket Board (ECB)'s Cricket Regulator for the violation during a match in September 2025. The sample was collected during a Division One match between Essex County Cricket Club and Somerset County Cricket Club in Chelmsford on September 25. According to reports, the World Anti-Doping Agency-accredited laboratory in London confirmed the presence of cocaine. Bracewell did not possess a Therapeutic Use



Exemption and he also admitted to using cocaine on the evening of September 24 and into the early hours of September 25. The charge, brought under Articles 2.1 and 2.2 of the ECB Anti-Doping Rules, related to "both the presence and use of a prohibited substance". However, the cricket regulator said that

the substance use was unrelated to sporting performance and that led to the two-year suspension which is in line with the punishment for substance abuse. Bracewell accepted the punishment and as a result, no hearing took place in the matter. The suspension was backdated to November 24 and it will run

to November 23, 2027. All results recorded between the date of the test and the provisional suspension were disqualified. Bracewell, who played 28 Tests for New Zealand, announced his international retirement in December. "The Club supports the Cricket Regulator's decision to impose a period of ineligibility of two years. All employees are required to meet the highest standards of professional conduct. While the Club does not condone Bracewell's behaviour, we are committed to supporting him through rehabilitation in line with our policies and procedures. Essex County Cricket Club will not be sanctioned as part of the decision," the official statement from the county side read.

## Pakistan Star's Emotional Outburst On Live TV On National Team Snub: "700-800 Runs"

AGENCY

**Islamabad:** Pakistan cricket team batter Khushdil Shah questioned the team management and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) over his exclusion from the national side despite enjoying a brilliant run of form. Khushdil, who currently plays for Karachi Kings in the Pakistan Super League (PSL), slammed an unbeaten 44 off just 14 deliveries to guide his team to victory over Lahore Qalandars at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore on Thursday. Following the win, Khushdil spoke to Pakistan great Rameez Raja and opened up about not being considered for the Pakistan cricket team. "Sab players se main alag hoon. Na main social



media par hoon, na main purani baaton ka rona rota hoon ki mere saath kya galat hua [I'm different from everyone else. I'm not on social media, nor do I hold grudges that I was treated unfairly]." "Maine abhi haal hi mein No. 5 aur 6 par 700-800 runs banaye hain, double hundred bhi kiya hai,

badi innings kheli hain. Phir bhi, itne sab ke baad mujhe team se drop kar diya gaya [I scored 700, 800 runs at number 5 or 6 in domestic cricket, yet I was dropped from the team]," he said in the post-match interview. Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has withdrawn the No Objection Certificate (NOC) issued to pacer Mustafizur Rahman for the Pakistan Super League 2026, following a medical review after the third ODI against New Zealand. According to a BCB statement, Mustafizur will undergo an immediate scan to assess his condition. He will then begin a rehabilitation programme under the supervision of the board's medical team, ruling him out of the remainder of this season's PSL. "The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) wishes to inform that, following the conclusion of the 3rd ODI against New Zealand, the team's medical staff has reviewed the condition of national team pace bowler Mustafizur Rahman,"

## Rafael Nadal Teams Up With Thibaut Courtois, Plays Tennis Against Jude Bellingham Inside Bernabeu



AGENCY

**Mumbai:** Rafael Nadal was back on a tennis court — one inside Real Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu stadium — on Thursday. The Madrid Open set up the temporary court on the Bernabeu field and players will be allowed to practice on it until April 30. The retired Nadal, an avid Madrid fan, is the most

successful player at the Madrid Open, having won the tournament five times. He partnered with Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois in a friendly session against world No. 1 Jannik Sinner and Madrid midfielder Jude Bellingham. Bellingham was at the Madrid Open on Wednesday watching young Spanish sensation Rafael

Jódar win in his debut at the tournament. The Madrid Open is being played at the Caja Magica tennis complex in the Spanish capital. "It was very special to enjoy this unique court at the Bernabeu," Nadal wrote on Instagram. Iga Swiatek, ranked No. 4 on the women's tour, also was at the Bernabeu event.

## Korda takes Chevron lead as England's Rhodes impresses

AGENCY

**NYC:** American Nelly Korda leads the Chevron Championship — the first women's major of the year — by two strokes after posting a sublime seven-under-par 65 in the first round. The two-time major winner, who claimed this title in 2024, looked back to her imperious best in a bogey-free round at Houston's Memorial Park Golf Course. "The wind was picking up here and there," said Korda. "Through the trees it was definitely gusting so I had to lock in on a couple of yardages here and there. Overall, I just felt really good, though, out there." England's Mimi Rhodes, who won three times during last season's Ladies European Tour, is four shots off the top on her tournament debut. The 24-year-old had five birdies and two bogeys in an impressive 69 and is one of 10 players on three under par. "I felt ready," said Rhodes. "Getting here on Sunday, it was probably a benefit to me that I was able to see the course a bit more. I did as much prep as I could and felt comfortable coming into this round. It was more about coming in and



being confident around there, which I thought I did." South Korea's Somi Lee and Thailand's Patty Tavatanakit, who won this tournament in 2021 when it was in California, both carded 67s and are joint second on five under. England's Charley Hull, who is fourth in the women's world rankings, is on level par following a round that included three birdies and three bogeys.

## TURKEY TO RETURN TO F1 CALENDAR IN 2027



AGENCY

**Turkey:** The Turkish government says Formula 1 is to return to the country next season for the first time since 2021, on a five-year agreement. The government said the agreement was due to be announced Friday at an event featuring Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Formula 1 chief executive Stefano Domenicali and FIA President Mohammed Ben Sulayem. Erdogan said the deal would be for "at least five years". The Istanbul Park circuit first hosted F1 from 2005 through 2011, and next year's race would be the first since Turkey returned to the calendar in 2020 and 2021 during disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Valtteri

Bottas won the most recent race for Mercedes. Hosting F1 would "demonstrate to the world that our country is the safe haven of its region," Erdogan said. There was no immediate confirmation from F1 or the FIA. The news comes after the Iran war caused widespread disruption to sports in the region and forced F1 to call off races in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia scheduled for this month. That left a large gap in this year's schedule. The Miami Grand Prix next week will be the first F1 race since the Japanese Grand Prix on March 29. F1's return to Istanbul had been widely expected since Domenicali said in February that it was a candidate to return.

## Rs 21 Crore For One Ticket? FIFA World Cup Final Prices Break Internet

FIFA's resale site has four tickets on sale for the World Cup final for just under \$2.3 million (approx. Rs 21.67 crore) each. The \$2,299,998.85 seats for the July 19 match at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, are located behind a goal in the lower deck in block 124, row 45, seats 33-36. FIFA does not control the asking prices on its Resale/Exchange Marketplace but takes a 15% purchase fee from the buyer of each ticket and a 15% resale fee from the seller. An aisle seat 33 in block 146, row 32 of the lower deck listed as easy access standard was listed at \$207,000, while a category two seat in the last row of the uppermost third deck was listed at \$138,000 for



block 310, row 26, seat 23. A few feet away, seat 21 has an asking price of \$23,000. The lowest-priced tickets for the final listed Thursday on the

Marketplace were \$10,923.85 for four seats four rows from the top of the upper deck behind a goal, in block 323, row 23, seats 13-16. "FIFA has

established a ticket sales and secondary market model that reflects standard ticket market practices for major sporting and entertainment

events across the host countries," the governing body said in a statement. "The applicable resale facilitation fees are aligned with industry standards across North American sports and entertainment sectors. FIFA's variable pricing ticketing approach aligns with industry trends across various sports and entertainment sectors, where price adaptations are made to optimize sales and attendance and ensure a fair market value for events." FIFA says it reinvests World Cup revenue among its 211 members to develop the sport. FIFA put new blocks of tickets on sale Wednesday on its direct tickets site. Available tickets for the final cost \$10,990. Tickets were available from FIFA at

\$11,130 for the July 14 semifinal in Arlington, Texas, and at \$9,660 and \$4,360 for the July 15 semifinal in Atlanta. Prices for the U.S. opener against Paraguay on June 12 at Inglewood, California, were listed at \$4,105, \$2,735, \$2,330 and \$1,940, while seats for the Americans' second match against Australia on June 19 at Seattle cost \$2,715. Tickets for the U.S. group stage finale against Turkey on June 25 at Inglewood cost \$2,970 and \$1,345. Canada's opener vs. Bosnia and Herzegovina on June 12 at Toronto was available for \$3,360, \$2,240, \$1,645 and \$980. No tickets were listed directly by FIFA for the June 11 tournament opener between Mexico and South Africa in Mexico City.

## 'Kara Official Telugu Teaser' Unveiled - Dhanush Headlines a Grit-Driven Drama Set for April 30, 2026 Release

The makers of Kara, starring Dhanush and directed by Vignesh Raja, have released the Kara Official Telugu Teaser, marking a decisive push into the Telugu market ahead of the film's theatrical arrival on April 30, 2026. With this, the film sharpens its presence among Telugu audiences, who have already been tracking its content across languages. Presented in Telugu by CH Sathish Kumar & Rajesh Kumar Bobbara under Vigneshwara Entertainments - R Star Logistics, the film is set for a wide theatrical rollout across the Telugu States. Backed by Dr. Ishari K. Ganesh under Vels Film International Ltd, in association with Think Studios and Vigneshwara Entertainments, Kara has been steadily positioning itself as a cross-market film drawing attention beyond its primary language. The Kara Official Telugu Teaser stands apart in its approach. Instead of revealing plot details, it establishes mood, terrain, and character. Framed within a stark, lived-in landscape, the teaser introduces Dhanush in a stripped-down, unembellished form, where stillness and observation replace conventional hero-driven beats. The emphasis is not on spectacle, but on the weight carried by the character himself, suggesting a figure shaped by circumstance and consequence. Director Vignesh Raja, who earned critical recognition for Por Thozhil, appears to extend his preference for controlled storytelling here as well. The



teaser signals a film that leans into atmosphere and character dynamics, rather than overt exposition, allowing intrigue to build through suggestion rather than declaration. Audience engagement around Kara has been gradually intensifying. The Telugu track from the movie, Kannamma Naa Kannamma has crossed 4.1 million views, indicating a strong emotional response. In parallel, Telugu viewers have been actively following Tamil-language songs, promotional material, and interviews, reflecting the film's growing resonance across linguistic boundaries. With a

proven connection to Telugu audiences through films like Raghuvaran B.Tech (VIP), Asuran, and Saar (Vaathi), Dhanush returns with a role that appears to prioritize internal conflict and performance depth. The film also stars Mamitha Baiju alongside an experienced ensemble including Jayaram, K. S. Ravikumar, Karunas, and M. S. Bhaskar. Technically, Kara is supported by a team known for craft-driven work. Cinematographer Theni Eswar brings a grounded visual approach, while editor Sreejith Sarang shapes the film's rhythm with precision.

## 'THEATRES ARE IN THE HANDS OF FOUR DEMONS'

Actor-director Sheraz Mehdi has expressed deep anguish over the lack of theatre allocation for the re-release of his film O Andala Rakshasi, alleging that small films are being systematically sidelined in the Telugu film industry. Speaking at a press meet held at the Telugu Film Chamber, Sheraz Mehdi said that despite planning a re-release of the film on April 24 following audience demand, not a single theatre was allotted in the Nizam region. He described the situation as unfair and discouraging for independent filmmakers. "This is not the first time our film has been denied theatres. Small films are being suppressed," he said. He further alleged that the theatre distribution system in the Telugu film industry is concentrated in the hands of a few individuals. "Movie theatres are in the control of four powerful people who are blocking small films from releasing. I will fight this legally," he stated.



ances regarding screen allocation.

### "SMALL FILMS ARE BEING KILLED"

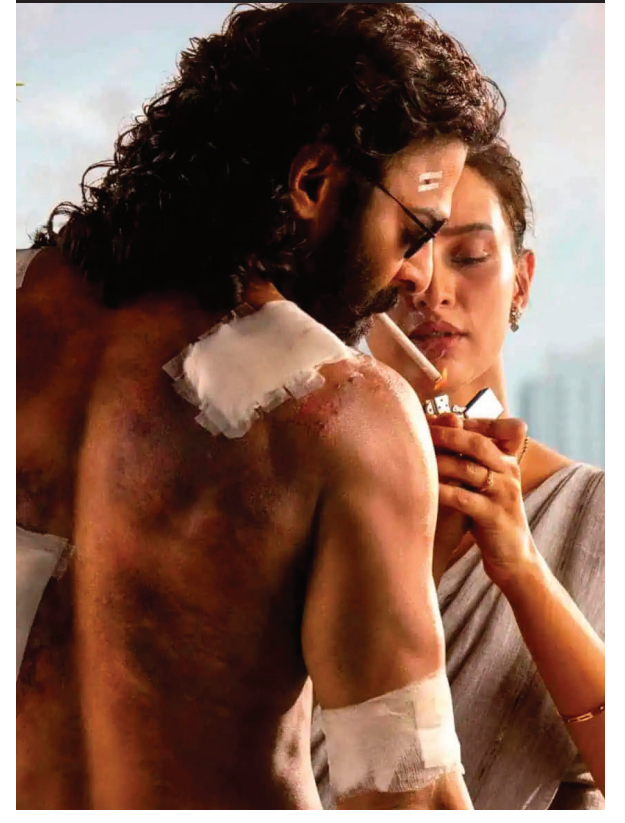
He warned that the current environment is extremely difficult for small producers and filmmakers. "Small filmmakers are suffering. Good films are being killed before they reach audiences. Such a situation does not exist anywhere else in the world—not even in Bollywood," he remarked. He added that unless equal opportunities are provided to smaller productions, emerging talent will struggle to survive in the industry.

### POSITIVE RESPONSE TO O ANDALA RAKSHASI

According to the film's team, O Andala Rakshasi, directed by Sheraz Mehdi and featuring him in the lead role, had earlier received a positive response from audiences.

## Spirit Schedule Change, Prabhas To Vacation

A key schedule of Prabhas' Spirit that was supposed to happen this month was pushed to May. We do not know the reasons and Prabhas headed to Europe for a vacation in this gap. In all probability, there may be change in Kalki 2 schedule planned next month as a result of this change. A leaked picture from the sets of Prabhas' upcoming film Fauzi has gone viral on social media, forcing the makers to issue a strict warning. Director Hanu Raghavapudi urged fans not to share such images and spoil the cinematic experience. The team warned that accounts circulating the leaked photos could face legal action and be treated as cybercrime. Rebel star Prabhas is currently one of the busiest actors in Indian cinema, with multiple projects lined up. Amid this packed schedule, new developments have emerged regarding potential collaborations being discussed behind the scenes. We at Guite reported earlier that Dinjith Ayyathan, who gained attention with the films like Kishkinda Kaanda and Eko, recently narrated a script to Prabhas. According to reliable industry sources, the story is said to be a larger-than-life concept designed on a grand scale that could suit the actor's pan-Indian image. However, the final approval from Prabhas is still awaited. Interestingly, Dinjith is not the only filmmaker who has pitched an idea to the star. Rajkumar



Periasamy, who directed the successful film Amaran, has also reportedly narrated another story to Prabhas a few days ago. As of now, the actor has not made a final decision regarding either of the scripts. Both projects were reportedly pitched by Hombale Films, the production house that has been closely working with

Prabhas on multiple ventures. Fans are now eagerly waiting to see if the actor will give the green signal to either of these scripts. If even one of these projects moves forward, it could turn into another big-ticket pan-Indian film featuring the Baahubali star.



While Aditya Dhar continues to make headlines with his high intensity storytelling and the buzz surrounding Dhurandhar, it is his wife Yami Gautam who is now drawing attention for a very different reason.

## Yami Gautam spent 4 months learning Quran

While Aditya Dhar continues to make headlines with his high intensity storytelling and the buzz surrounding Dhurandhar, it is his wife Yami Gautam who is now drawing attention for a very different reason. During the making of Haq, Yami reportedly underwent an intense preparation process for her role as Shazia Bano. According to the film's director Suparn Verma, the actress spent close to four months studying the Quran to better understand the character and her world. The preparation was not limited to reading alone. It involved grasping the context, emotional depth, and cultural nuances required to portray a character inspired by the Shah Bano case. The film itself deals with sensitive subject matter, making authenticity a key aspect of the performance. In an industry where quick turnarounds are often the norm, such a

detailed approach to a role stands out. Yami's effort reflects a commitment to craft that goes beyond the surface, focusing on immersion rather than just execution. What makes this even more noteworthy is the contrast it presents. While Dhar's films are known for their scale and impact driven storytelling, Yami's process for Haq highlights a quieter, more internal method of approaching a character. Two distinct creative approaches, yet a shared dedication to storytelling. And perhaps that is what makes this story resonate, not just the preparation itself, but the intent behind it. Filmmaker Suparn S Varma opened up about the extensive research that went into making Haq. He revealed that the team spent nearly a year and a half understanding Islamic law to bring authenticity to the story, while lead actor Yami Gautam also learnt the Holy Quran to prepare for her role. In a recent

conversation with BBC Asian Network, Suparn spoke about the preparation behind the film and praised Yami's commitment to her character. "I literally had Yami learn the Quran. She spent four months understanding the dialect, the way we are using Quran," he said. The director said the research process was particularly important given the current climate of misinformation.

## MIRAI GIRL BREATHED IN THE DARK

Ritika Nayak just shared stunning new pictures, and they are impossible to scroll past. Shot in dramatic low light, the Mirai actress wears a simple black scoop-neck bodysuit paired with loose cargo trousers, and proves that less is always more. In the black and white shot, she leans back with both arms raised above her head, eyes looking straight into the camera with a confidence that hits hard. The moody shadows and sharp contrast make the photo look like a professional magazine spread. The other pictures switch to warm golden tones and

the result is breathtaking. Same outfit, same pose, but the rich amber lighting wraps around her like fire, making her glow from within. Hair loose and wild, red earrings adding a tiny pop of colour, she gazes upward looking effortlessly stunning. Ritika debuted with Ashoka Vanamlo Arjuna Kalyanam in 2022 and scored her biggest hit yet with Mirai in 2025. She has films with Anand Deverakonda and the Indo-Korean horror comedy Korean Kanakaraju lined up next. These pictures are just more proof that her star is firmly on the rise.

## RUGGED CHARM MEETS EFFORTLESS STYLE

VishnuManchu turns up the heat in this striking new photoshoot, exuding raw intensity and masculine elegance. Dressed in sleek black jeans and a leather-textured jacket, #VishnuManchu balances mass appeal with refined swag. From the earthy backdrop to the powerful stance beside the beastly machine, every frame screams attitude and confidence.



## 'JAITLEY' IS A GOOD ENTERTAINER WITH HUMOR, SUSPENSE AND THRILL. AUDIENCE WILL BE SURPRISED: DIRECTOR RITESH RANA

Bollywood's favorite duo Satya and director Ritesh Rana are going to entertain with 'Jaitley'. Produced by Chiranjeevi (Cherry) Hemalatha Peddamallu under the banner of Clap Entertainment, this film is being presented by Mythri Movie Makers. Miss Universe India Rhea Singha is making her debut in Telugu cinema as the heroine. Venela Kishore and Ajay are playing key roles. The teaser trailer of this film has created a good buzz with a wonderful response. 'Jaitley' is going to be released in theaters on May 1st as a world wide grand. On this occasion, director Ritesh Rana shared the features of the film in a press conference.



I developed this story with a writer named Jayendra during Covid in 2020. We have been planning to make this film since then. We finally started it last November and are now bringing it to release.

When did the 'Jaitley' journey begin?

just a thriller but a thriller with some humor. The entire shooting will take place on a flight. It is an experiment. When I spoke to some people, I got opinions about whether such an experiment is necessary at this time. Later, I felt like doing this film with Satya. After 'Mathu Vadalara', I got that budget and market scope. We changed the character to suit Satya and made it.

What was Satya's reaction when he told the story? When I first told him this story, his character was a flight attendant. Then when I told him, 'You are the hero,' he was shocked. At first, he said it was a risk. But after I explained in detail how I would make it, he got very excited. His character has seriousness, humor, suspense... everything.