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**KHARGE CRITICISES PETROL, DIESEL PRICE SURGE; CALLS IT 'FUEL LOOT' AMID FOURTH HIKE IN TWO WEEKS**

INSIDE PAGE

**TALIBAN BAN PUSHES AFGHAN GIRLS TOWARDS FORCED MARRIAGES**

WORLD | NEWS

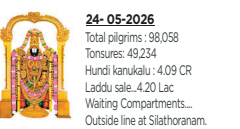
**LIGER BEAUTY'S BHARATANATYAM TRIGGERS HUGE BACKLASH**

CINEMA | PAGE

SCAN FOR E-PAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA


**THREE AIADMK MLAS RESIGN, JOIN TVK**

Chennai, May 25 : In a fresh political development that could reshape Tamil Nadu's post-election landscape, three AIADMK MLAs — Madurantakam MLA Maragatham Kumaravel, Dharapuram MLA Sathyabama, and Perundurai MLA Jayakumar — resigned from the Assembly on Monday and later joined the ruling TVK. The resignations have intensified speculation about further defections and the possibility of multiple Assembly by-elections in the state. The three legislators, considered close to the AIADMK faction led by former ministers C.V. Shanmugam and S.P. Velumani, submitted their resignation letters to Assembly Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar.

**Fuel prices rise again, petrol crosses Rs 100 mark in Delhi**


NEW DELHI (TSIT)

Petrol and diesel prices were increased once again across the country on Monday, marking the fourth hike in less than two weeks amid rising global crude oil prices and continued tensions in West Asia.

Oil marketing companies raised petrol prices by Rs 2.61 per litre and diesel prices by Rs 2.71 per litre. Following the latest revision, petrol prices in Delhi crossed the Rs 100-per-litre mark to reach Rs 102.12 per litre, while diesel prices climbed to Rs 95.20 per litre.

The latest increase comes after a series of fuel price hikes earlier this month. Prices were first raised by around Rs 3 per litre on May 15, followed by another increase of nearly 90 paise on May 19 and around 91 paise on May 23. With Monday's revision, cumulative hikes in petrol and diesel prices have crossed Rs 7.5 per litre within just two weeks. The repeated hikes have been attributed to volatility in global crude oil markets due to escalating geopolitical tensions in West Asia and concerns over disruptions in international oil supply routes.

**AP to Revamp Business Rules for Faster Public Services: CM Naidu**


VIJAYAWADA (TSIT):

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Monday directed officials to initiate reforms in the state's business rules to ensure faster and easier

delivery of government services to citizens. Reviewing the functioning of the Real Time Governance Society (RTGS) and the implementation of various departmental programmes at the grassroots level at the Camp Office, the Chief Minister said that with technology now fully available, government rules should facilitate public service delivery rather than delay it. "Government services should reach people easily and quickly. Rules should not become hurdles. We had already considered revising the business rules earlier, and now an action plan must be prepared," the Chief Minister said.

SEE MORE ON PAGE-2

**BJP increased prices, congress reduced burden through guarantees: Shivakumar**

BENGALURU (TSIT)

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC President D. K. Shivakumar strongly criticized the BJP-led Central government over rising fuel and essential commodity prices, stating that the Congress government in Karnataka has reduced the burden on people through its guarantee schemes. Addressing a joint press conference at the KPCC office in Bengaluru, Shivakumar said the Congress guarantees have received appreciation not only in Karnataka but across the



country and even from the United Nations. He questioned how difficult life would have become for ordinary people without these welfare schemes amid continuous price hikes. Highlighting the increase in commercial LPG cylinder prices, he said rates had been raised multiple times this year, severely affecting hotels and small businesses.

**Congress targets centre over fuel price hikes, Rahul calls PM 'Inflation Man'**

NEW DELHI (TSIT)

The Congress on Monday launched a sharp attack on the Narendra Modi-led government over the recent increase in petrol and diesel prices, accusing the Centre of burdening citizens with repeated fuel hikes and triggering inflationary pressure across the economy. Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi alleged that the government was deliberately raising fuel prices in phases to avoid public



"Inflation Man' Modi strikes again. They increase petrol and diesel prices in installments — so that your pockets keep getting picked quietly, little by little."

backlash while continuing what he described as an assault on household finances. In a post on social media platform X, Gandhi said, "They increase petrol and diesel prices in installments — so that your pockets keep getting picked quietly, little by little."

**CM Vijay announces full waiver of crop loans to marginal farmers**

CHENNAI (TSIT):

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Monday announced complete waiver of cooperative bank crop loans of up to Rs 50,000 availed by marginal farmers across the state and up to Rs 5,000 to large farmers. The gesture would benefit 14.22 lakh farmers in the state and would entail an additional expenditure of



Rs 2,044 crore to the government, he said. The waiving of crop loans obtained by farmers was among the numerous poll promises made by Vijay, the TVK chief, in the run up to the April 23 Assembly

election. "Considering the current financial position and financial resources of the state government, and in the present difficult situation, the Chief Minister has ordered the waiver of crop loans obtained by farmers from cooperative banks from May 1, 2025 to February 28, 2026," a government release said.

**Over 300 tourists rescued as Gulmarg Gondola evacuation operation ends successfully**

Srinagar (TSIT) Over 300 tourists were safely rescued after a massive evacuation operation at the famous tourist resort of Gulmarg concluded successfully on Monday evening, after a technical snag in the Gondola system left dozens of cable car cabins stranded mid-air, officials said.

A large-scale rescue operation involving the Police, Indian Army, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), civil administration, and Gondola operators was launched after the snag developed in the Gondola system at Phase 1, forcing suspension of operations on both Phase 1 and Phase 2 routes.

Authorities clarified that the incident was not weather-related and that all cabins remained structurally intact.

Officials said around 65 cabins were stranded after the fault occurred, trapping over 300 hundred tourists.

Rescue teams immediately swung into action, with trained personnel from the Army, SDRF, Police, and Gondola operators jointly carrying out the evacuation operation. Locals were also seen



assisting authorities during the rescue efforts.

The Office of the Chief Minister said that the government remained in close coordination with all agencies throughout the operation, while authorities repeatedly maintained that there was no

cause for panic and that the situation remained under control.

The Army said the rescue operation was carried out through swift and coordinated efforts in collaboration with Gondola operators and other agencies. "Following a dis-

**NIA uncovers alleged plot for serial blasts in Lucknow linked to Red Fort car bombing case**

New Delhi: National Investigation Agency (NIA) sources have revealed a major breakthrough in the investigation into the Red Fort car bombing case, uncovering an alleged conspiracy to carry out serial blasts across key locations in Lucknow. According to the agency, the accused had planned coordinated explosions targeting high-security and crowded areas, including the Uttar Pradesh Assembly, Babu Bhavan, Imam Bara, Lal Bagh, and Aminabad. The NIA sources said the two main accused — Dr. Mujammil Shakeel and Dr. Shaheen Saeed, had trav-



elled from Faridabad in Haryana to Lucknow between August 25 and 30, 2025. Investigators believe the visit was part of a carefully planned reconnaissance mission aimed at identifying potential targets for future attacks. During the probe, officials allegedly found evidence that the suspects intended to use vehicles packed with explosives near government buildings and public spaces. Investigators also discovered that Mujammil had searched for

chemical suppliers in Lucknow capable of providing precursor materials required to manufacture Triacetone Triperoxide (TATP), a highly volatile explosive commonly referred to internationally as the "Mother of Satan." The same explosive substance was allegedly used in the November 10, 2025 Red Fort suicide car bombing in Delhi, that killed around 15 people and injured 20 others. The agency claims Shaheen Saeed wrote down the names of chemical shops at Mujammil's request, and that list was later recovered from his mobile phone during the investigation.

**US, Iran agree to fully reopen Strait of Hormuz within 30 days: Reports**

MOSCOW (TSIT).

The United States and Iran have agreed, as part of a preliminary deal, to fully reopen the Strait of Hormuz within 30 days, the Washington Post reported citing an unnamed diplomat. Preliminary US-Iran peace agreement also envisages postponing nuclear talks until a later date, the publication said citing an



unnamed Iranian official. The preliminary framework agreement between Iran and the US has not yet been approved by the Iranian side, it noted citing an unnamed diplomat. According to the newspaper, the parties agreed to extend ceasefire for 60 days to reach the final settlement.

The US-Iran framework agreement is "95% there," although negotiators are still debating over the wording regarding the Strait of Hormuz and Tehran's nuclear stockpile, Fox News reported citing sources. US President Donald Trump previously stated that the deal with Iran was largely agreed upon, and the final aspects and details were being discussed and would be announced soon.



## Six cops suspended for security lapse after explosives found on PM route in Bengaluru



Bengaluru, May 24: Six police personnel, including an officer, have been suspended for alleged dereliction of duty after explosive materials were discovered on a route where Prime Minister Narendra Modi's convoy was scheduled to pass earlier this month in Bengaluru.

The incident took place on May 10 near Vaderahalli Gate in Bengaluru South taluk, just hours before the Prime Minister was due to travel to the Art of Living International Centre.

According to an order issued by Bengaluru South district superintendent of police Srinivas Gowda, disciplinary action has been taken against one PSI, one assistant sub-inspector (ASI), and four constables deployed for security and bandobast duties. Police sources said the personnel were part of a high-security deployment for the Prime Minister's visit but allegedly failed to exercise adequate vigilance and caution. Around 9 am on the day of the incident.

## Parents Protest in Bengaluru Demanding Action Against Alleged Unauthorized School Admissions

Bengaluru, May 25, 2026

A group of parents staged a protest in front of the Office of the Commissioner of the School Education Department in Bengaluru, demanding strict action against Saamar International Islamic School over allegations of illegally admitting students in the name of a madrasa despite orders issued by the School Education Department and the High Court.

The protest was led by parent Abdul Rahim, who accused the institution of violating government regulations and court directives. Protesters alleged that unauthorized educational institutions operating under different names were misleading parents and students, thereby affecting the future of chil-



dren and posing a threat to social harmony.

According to the protesters, complaints regarding the matter have already been submitted to the government, police authorities, the Commissioner of the School Education Department, and other senior officials. They demanded immediate legal action against the school management for allegedly continuing admissions despite the cancellation of recognition based on High

Court directions and recommendations of a three-member committee of the School Education Board.

The protesters further alleged that organizations including Jamia Mohammadia Education Society Mumbai, Jamia Muhammadiyah Mansoorabad Madrasa and The Al-Jamia Muhammadiyah Mansoorabad Education Society had created records under different names and submitted misleading information to the Education Department.

## Citizen Groups' Suggestions Accepted to Strengthen Waste Management in Bengaluru South City

Bengaluru, May 25, 2026 —

K. N. Ramesh, Commissioner of Bengaluru South City Corporation (BSCC), chaired an important meeting with representatives of citizen forums and voluntary organizations to discuss permanent solutions for solid waste management issues within the corporation limits.

The meeting was attended by BSWML Ambassador and actor Aniruddha Jatkar, Srinath from the Kumaraswamy Layout Citizen Task Force, members of Women of Wisdom (WOW), JP Nagar, and representatives of the HSR Citizen Forum, HSR Layout. Participants shared their experiences in coordinating with civic authorities on waste management practices and provided several recommendations to improve the system. The efforts of the Women of Wisdom organization in JP Nagar was



appreciated for successfully achieving a mixed-waste-free environment through 100 per cent waste segregation. Awareness campaigns through wall paintings by the Aravani team were also highlighted. Participants suggested making waste segregation compulsory

in all apartments and paying guest accommodations.

Citizen groups recommended installing CCTV cameras at garbage blackspots and introducing strict monitoring to prevent illegal dumping of waste. Evening garbage collection was also suggested to reduce road-

side littering.

The meeting stressed the importance of establishing Waste

Management Learning Centres (Kalika Kendras) in every ward and encouraging school and college students to visit such centres to build awareness among youth. Suggestions were

also made to seek Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) support from companies for installing lane compressing machines, section vehicles, and infrastructure. Officials at the meeting that corbidge vehicles found waste from commercial shipments would be immediately.

Participants also recommended mandatory GPS tracking for all waste collection vehicles to ensure efficient door-to-door garbage collection.

To expand public awareness, the corporation plans to intensify Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) activities under the 'Suchimitra' programme. Awareness advertisements on waste management are also proposed to be screened in theatres and aired on television channels.

Acting on the suggestions made during the meeting, Commissioner K.N. Ramesh directed officials to organize a major public awareness programme in Gurappanapalya during the first week of June. He stated that the corporation is committed to transforming Bengaluru South City into a clean and garbage-free city through active public participation and support from voluntary organizations.

| <div>  <div> <b>Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd.</b><br/> Corporate Office : Unit No. 19-NE, 19th Floor, The Ruby, Senapati Bapat Marg,<br/> Near Ruparel College, Dadar (West), Mumbai, Maharashtra - 400 028 </div> </div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>POSSESSION NOTICE</b> [As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(B) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002]                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                       |
| Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of <b>Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd. (MHIL)</b> under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd. for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon. |                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                       |
| The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                       |
| Sr. No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Loan Account No./Branch    | Brief details of secured assets                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Date of Demand Notice & Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.)                                                                                                                                                               | Possession Taken Date |
| 1.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Ananth R C/ Shridhara R C/ RAN-NHL-000005/ Ramnagara                | All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing Present Municipal Katha No. 1001/842/490/A/103/ A/38A And Pld No. 1-2-511-2/A, Measuring East To West 12,19204 Meters And North To South 4.572009 Meters, Total Measuring 55.7418 Sq. Meters, Situated At Ward No. 1, No. 2/A, #1, B1 North, 6th Cross, 2nd Block, Vinayakanagara 2nd Stage, Chamundiapura, Ramanganara Town And Bounded on: East By: 30 Feet Road, West By: Road, North By: House of Thayamma And Site No. 37, South By: Remaining Own Rcc Roofed House In Same Number Site.                                                                                                                        | 28-Feb-2026/- Rs.10,53,974/- Rupees Ten Lakh Fifty Three Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Four Only.                                                                                                                  | 22-May-2026           |
| 2.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | B M Manjeshwar/ Amrutha Manjeshwar/ BAN-NHL-001225/ Bangalore       | All That Piece And Parcel of The Eastern Portion of Property No. 344/550, 551, 552, Katha No.677, Measuring East To West 35.35f And North To South 37ft, In All 1306.1 Sq.ft, Situated At Beguru Gramatana, Beguru Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk And Bounded: East By: Road, West By: Property of A Schedule Holder Shamanna M, North By: Road, South By: House of Rajappa And Private Property.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 28-Feb-2026/- Rs. 27,45,354/- Rupees Twenty Seven Lakh Forty Five Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Four Only.                                                                                                          | 22-May-2026           |
| 3.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Krishna N/ Lavanya R/ BAN-NHL-001110/ Bangalore                     | All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Site No.131, Cmc Katha No.229, Sy. No.135/3, Measuring East To West 60f And North To South 40ft, In All 2400 Sq.ft, Situated At Laggere Grama, Yashwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk And Bounded on: East By: Road, West By: Private Property, North By: Private Property, South By: Site Bearing No.131A.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 28-Feb-2026/- Rs. 6,88,272.1/- Rupees Six Lakh Eighty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Seven And Paise Ten Only.                                                                                                | 22-May-2026           |
| 4.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Mahadeva Nayaka/ Pallavi/ 054-05400131 & 054-05400194/ Mysore       | All That Part & Parcel of The Property House / Main No. 16, Situated At Bhryaweshwara Nagara, Ooty Main Road, Khille Mohalla, Mysore, Measuring E-w: 20 Feet & N-S: 30 Feet. Bounded on: East By: Road; North By: Road; West By: Site No. 17; South By: Private Site                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 28-Feb-2026/- Rs. 8,12,327/- & 24,159/- Rupees Eight Lakh Twelve Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Seven Only, & Rupees Twenty Four Thousand One Hundred Fifty Nine Only.                                              | 22-May-2026           |
| 5.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Usha M S/ Kumar / MYS-HL-000239/ Mysore                             | All That Part & Parcel of The Property Bearing Site No. Site No. 390/340, Situated At, Allanahalli (D) And Grampanachayath, Mysore Taluk, Mysore (J), Measuring E-W: 10.668000000000001 Meters & N-S: 12.192 Meters. Bounded On: East By: Site No. Property Y.N. Srikanthmurry, North By: Road, West By: Property S. Shanthkumari, South By: Property S. Suresh                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 28-Feb-2026/- Rs. 19,21,606.2/- Rupees Nineteen Lakh Two Thousand Six Hundred Six And Paise Twenty Only.                                                                                                           | 22-May-2026           |
| 6.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Madhusudhan P/ H C Prakash/ Bhagyanima/ BAN-NHL-001061/ Bangalore   | All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No.6, Khashenamuri No.101, Measuring 35 X 32 In Ft. All Measuring 1120.sq.ft., Situated At Hennagara Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore. At Thimru Th The Limit of Hennagara Village Panchayat And Bounded on The: East By: Road, West By: Property of C. Narayani, North By: Property of Agasara Verappa., South By: Property of Narasimha And Children.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 28-Feb-2026/- Rs. 16,55,744/- Rupees Sixteen Lakh Fifty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Four Only.                                                                                                               | 22-May-2026           |
| 7.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Manjunatha K/Sunitha H R/ BAN-HL-001034 & BAN-NHL-001034/ Bangalore | All That Piece And Parcel of Immovable Property Bearing Sy. No.150/2, Measuring 0.0.1.04 Guntas Out Digri Measuring 0.22 Guntas, Situated At Thimru Th Village, Kasaba Hobli, Magadi Taluk, Ramanganara District, Presently Comes Under The Limits of Town Municipal Council Magadi Municipal Ward No.1, Bearing Pld. No.12-540-282-1, Assessment No. 214/1/27/127/150/ 15, Measuring East To West 9.144018 Meters, And North To South 12.192024 Meters., In Totally Measuring 111.4836 sq.meter., And Bounded on The: East By: Block- 1, (Road), West By: Block-1, (Remaining Portion), North By: Block-1, (Galli), South By: Property Belongs To Belagumbada Ramanna | 28-Feb-2026/- Rs. 30,72,250.99 / & 14,40,85.5/- Rupees Thirty Lakh Seventy Two Thousand Two Hundred Fifty And Paise Ninety Only, & Rupees Fourteen Lakh Forty Thousand Eight Hundred Fifteen And Paise Sixty Only. | 22-May-2026           |
| Date: May 26, 2026,<br>Place: Hobli, Mysore                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                     | Sd/- Authorized Officer,<br><b>Muthoot Homefin (India) Limite</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                       |

**Notice**

We wish to inform our esteemed customers, intermediaries and public at large that our branch situated at First Floor, Adarsh Building, Opp. Horticulture Centre Main Road, Doddabattahalli, Yelahanka Dist Bangalore, Pin code-560097, Karnataka shall be closed within 2 to 3 months.

You are requested to take note of the said notice and visit our nearest office situated at 2nd Floor, Panchajanya Towers, 1022/33, 4th Block, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajsangam Bangalore, District Bangalore, Pin code-560010, Karnataka or visit our website [www.iciclombard.com](http://www.iciclombard.com) for the nearest office or download IL take care app to avail services available for your policy including renewals and claim related assistance.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Arun Kumar**  
Authorized Signatory

**ICI CL Lombard**  
GENERAL INSURANCE ———

Corporate Address: ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Limited, ICICI Ltd., House No. 114 P B Rd, Marol, Off New Silknet Road, Near Siddhi Vinayak Temple, Prabhavathi, Mumbai 400 022. Insurance is the subject matter of contract. Tenders, Trade logos displayed above belong to ICICI Bank Ltd & Northbridge Financial Services Pvt.Ltd. and are used by ICICI Lombard ECL Ltd. under license. IRDA Reg. No. 15 / 15 of Nov. 2000. 1992 2006.  
For Tel: 020 3938 3323, CN 4870400000000000 Website: [www.icicilombard.com](http://www.icicilombard.com), Email: [care@icicilombard.com](mailto:care@icicilombard.com)

| <b>CLIX CAPITAL SERVICES PVT. LTD. (CLIX)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>(APPROVED NOTICE)</b>                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Registered Office:</b> W/214, 1st Floor, West Patel Nagar, Delhi, 110008                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>(Possession) IV Rule 8(1)</b>                            |
| Whereas the Authorized officer of CLIX CAPITAL SERVICES PVT. LTD. (CLIX), a Non- Banking Financial Company duly incorporated and registered under the Companies Act, 1956, having its Registered Office at: W/214, 1st Floor, West Patel Nagar, Delhi, 110008, under the provisions of Section 13(2)(c) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SA of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "Act") and in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by the said Act, has issued a notice dated 22.05.2026 pursuant to the said Act and the Rules framed thereunder, viz., The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002 issued a Demand Notice to the following borrowers and co-borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The notice was sent to all the borrowers and co-borrowers by registered post and e-mail and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act No. 25 of 2002 and the rules framed thereunder, viz., The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002 issued a Demand Notice to the following borrowers and co-borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice and with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of "CLIX" and the interest accrued on the said loan account. In pursuance of the said demand notice, sub-section (6) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset. |                                                             |
| <b>Name &amp; Address Of Borrower/Co-Borrower : 1. NINGAPPA KALAPPA BADIGER S/O KAALAPPA, 2. ABHISEKH NINGAPPA BADIGER S/O NINGAPPA, 3. SHWETHA NINGAPPA KALAPPA BADIGER S/O NINGAPPA, 4. BHASKAR S/O NINGAPP S/O NINGAPP (Gt. Grandson) KALAGATHGI KALAGATHGI KALGHATGI KALGHATGI DHARWAD DHARWAD, KARNATAKA, 581204, ALSO AT: P O NO-193 which is BEARING E SWATTU NO-10- 110-1 SITUATED AT KALAGATHGI TO VLGHATHI DIST DHARWAD</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                             |
| <b>Demand Notice Date :</b> 10.03.2026 <b>Date of Possession :</b> 22.05.2026<br><b>Amount of Demand Notice :</b> Rs.38,35,713/-55/- as on 09-03-2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                             |
| <b>Details of Property :</b> All That Piece And Parcel Of Residential Property Bearing V/P No. N/No-193/333 situated at P.O.No-193, Sub Post Office No-33333 grt. Grandson (Gt. Grandson) KALAGATHGI To Kalgathgi Dist Dhawad, East:- Property Of Channappa Badiger, West:- Property Of Dambal Doctor, North :- Property Of Babusab Beraki, South:- Govt Road                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                             |
| <b>Date : 22.05.2026, Place : Dhawad</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Authorised Officer (CLIX Capital Services Pvt. Ltd.)</b> |

[illegible]

## EBG GROUP LAUNCHES NATUF CAFÉ IN KORAMANGALA, BENGALURU

Bengaluru : EBG Group has announced the launch of NATUF Café in Koramangala, Bengaluru, marking an important milestone in the group's growing food and consumer brand portfolio under EBG Group.

Located in the heart of Koramangala, one of Bengaluru's most active food, startup, student, and lifestyle destinations, the new NATUF café has been designed as a modern, premium, and accessible dining space for customers looking for fresh, flavourful, and thoughtfully crafted food.

Spread across approximately 2200 sq. ft., the café can accommodate around 40+ guests, making it suitable for casual dining, work lunches, family visits, evening conversations, small group gatherings, and delivery-led orders.

NATUF brings a premium Middle Eastern and



Mediterranean-inspired food experience to Indian consumers through a menu built around hummus, falafel, pita, wraps, bowls, dips, sauces, fresh meal formats, and café-style offerings. The brand focuses on food that is flavorful, ingredient-led, cleaner in presentation, and suited to modern urban lifestyles.

The opening day saw an encouraging response, with more than 250 visitors experiencing the café a positive

early signal for NATUF's entry into Bengaluru's highly competitive food market. Speaking on the launch, Dr. Irfan Khan, Chairman, EBG Group, said: "Koramangala is one of India's most exciting food and lifestyle markets, and it is the right place for NATUF to begin its Bengaluru journey. NATUF has been created for customers who want food that feels fresh, flavoured, clean, and modern without losing warmth or comfort."

| ICI Home Finance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                       | Corporate Office: ICICI Home Finance Company Limited ICICI HFC Tower, Andheri - Kurla Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400059, India<br>Branch Office: 2nd floor, R.D Baddi Mansion, Above Kotak Bank, Dharwad Hubli 123, D Club Road, Hubballi- 580029<br><u>[See proviso to rule 8(6)] Notice for sale of immovable assets</u> |                                |                                     |                                      |                                    |                               |                     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                |                                     |                                      |                                    |                               |                     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd., will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder; |                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                |                                     |                                      |                                    |                               |                     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sr. No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Name of Borrower(s)/ Co Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Legal Heirs, Loan Account No.          | Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Amount Outstanding             | Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit | Date and Time of Property Inspection | Date & Time of Auction             | One Day Before Auction Date   | SARFAESI Stage      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (A)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | (B)                                                                                   | (C)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | (D)                            | (E)                                 | (F)                                  | (G)                                | (H)                           | (I)                 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Rajeshwari V Kannakana (Borrower) Neelkanta V (Co-Borrower) Loan No. LHHMG00001394832 | Pid No. 15090070360040044 8, Indira Nagar Vaddaradibba Village Mudugodu G P Lakkavalli Hobli Chikkamangalur Pin Code 577144 Tarikere Karnataka- 577228                                                                                                                                                                         | Rs. 9,31, 28,32/- May 19, 2026 | Rs. 16,02, 000/- Rs. 1,60, 200/-    | June 22, 2026 11:00 AM To 12:00 PM   | June 29, 2026 11:00 AM To 12:00 PM | June 25, 2026 Before 05:00 PM | Symbolic Possession |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

| ASSETS CARE & RECONSTRUCTION ENTERPRISE LTD.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                         |                           |                                         |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                               |                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Registered Office: 14th Floor, Eros Corporate Tower, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 Tel: 91-11-43115600<br>Fax: 91-11-43115618                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                         |                           |                                         |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                               |                    |
| Corporate Office: Unit No. : 502, C Wing, One BKC, Radius Developers,<br>Plot No. : C-66, G-BLOCK, Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai – 400051 Tel.: 022 68643101<br>E-mail : a-care@acreindia.in Website : www.acreindia.in CIN : U65993DL2002PLC115769                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                         |                           |                                         |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                               |                    |
| POSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable property)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                         |                           |                                         |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                               |                    |
| WHEREAS, The Authorized Officer of Assets Care & Reconstruction Enterprise Ltd./Original Lender acting in its capacity as trustee of Trusts as mentioned below, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice calling upon the borrowers to recover repay the amount as mentioned in the notice as below:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                         |                           |                                         |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                               |                    |
| Sr. No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Assignor Bank/ Original Lender (TRUST)  | Assignment Agreement date | Borrowers                               | Date of Notice issued under Sec. 13(2) of SARFAESI Act 2002 | Outstanding amounts mentioned in the notice issued under Sec. 13(2) of SARFAESI Act 2002.                                                                                                     | Date of possession |
| 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Yes Bank Ltd./ JCF ARC (ACRE 166 TRUST) | 14.02.2025                | 1) Vijay Kumar V<br>2) Shobha V         | 31.12.2025                                                  | Rs. 26,46,327/- (Rupees Twenty Six Lacs Forty Six Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Five Paise Eight Nine Only) against Loan Account No. AFH00220045143 as on 26-12-2025 and interest thereon.    | 22.05.2026         |
| <b>Description of Immovable Property:</b> All That Piece and Parcel of Property called "Lucky Homes" Of Land Mark Realities, House List No. 205/19 (Site No. 16), E-Khata Form No. 9 & 11A Bearing No. 152800201701320205, Measuring To An Extent East West 9.144 Meters, North To South 12.19 Meters, Totally 111.48 Square Meters, (Said Site Carved in Sy.No. 121, Measuring 3-00 Acres Converted Agricultural To Non-Agricultural Residential Purpose Vide Order No. Aln.Sr(C), Sakala 37/12015-16, Dated 23.03.2016), Situated Balajigalga Village, Hosahudya Gram Panchayathi, Nandi Hobli, Chikballapur Taluk Along With All Easement And Other Rights Appearance Thero And Thereupon And Bounded On The East By : Site No. 15, West By 9 Meters Road, North By : Site No. 17, South By : 9 Meters Road. |                                         |                           |                                         |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                               |                    |
| 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Yes Bank Ltd./ JCF ARC (ACRE 166 TRUST) | 14.02.2025                | 1) V Pavan Kumar 2) Chaitra             | 31.12.2025                                                  | Rs. 18,76,731/- (Rupees Eighteen Lacs Thirty Six Thousand Seven Hundred Thirteen and Paise Two Only) against Loan Account No. AFH002200442636 as on 26-12-2025 and interest thereon           | 22.05.2026         |
| <b>Description of Immovable Property:</b> All That Piece And Parcel Of Site No. 10, Measuring West To East 33 Sq. Feet, North To South 25 Sq. Feet, In All Measuring 825 Square Feet, Of Lucky Homes Property, (Said Site Carved in Sy.No. 121, Measuring 3-00 Acres Converted Agricultural To Non-Agricultural Residential Purpose Vide Order No. Aln.Sr(C), Sakala 37/12015-16, Dated. 23.03.2016), Situated Balajigalga Village, Hosahudya Gram Panchayathi, Nandi Hobli, Chikballapur Taluk Along With All Easement And Other Rights Appearance Thero And Thereupon And Bounded On The East By : Site No. 15, West By 9 Meters Road, North By : Private Property South By : Site No. 9                                                                                                                      |                                         |                           |                                         |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                               |                    |
| 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Yes Bank Ltd./ JCF ARC (ACRE 166 TRUST) | 14.02.2025                | 1) B V Mohan 2) Sindhu C N              | 05.12.2025                                                  | Rs. 17,299,665/- (Rupees Seventeen Lacs Twenty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Eight and Paise Six Five Only) against Loan Account No. AFH002200443986 as on 02-12-2025 and interest thereon | 22.05.2026         |
| <b>Description of Immovable Property:</b> All That Piece And Parcel Of Property called "Lucky Homes" Of Land Mark Realities, House List/Site No. 186/9 (Site No. 9), E-Khata Form No. 9 & 11A Bearing No. 152800201701320173, Measuring East To West 9.14 Meters, North To South 7.6 Meters, In All Measuring 69.46 Square Meters, (Said Site Carved in Sy.No. 121, Measuring 3-00 Acres Converted Agricultural To Non-Agricultural Residential Purpose Vide Order No. Aln.Sr(C), Sakala 37/12015-16, Dated. 23.03.2016), Situated Balajigalga Village, Hosahudya Gram Panchayathi, Nandi Hobli, Chikballapur Taluk Along With All Easement And Other Rights Appearance Thero And Thereupon And Bounded On The East By : 9 Meters Road, West By : 9 Meters Road, North By : Site No. 10, South By : Site No. 8. |                                         |                           |                                         |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                               |                    |
| 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Yes Bank Ltd./ JCF ARC (ACRE 166 TRUST) | 14.02.2025                | 1) Shivalinge Gowda S T 2) Pavithra H V | 31.12.2025                                                  | Rs. 7,07,687/- (Rupees Seven Lacs Seven Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Seven and Three Paise Only) against Loan Account No. AFH002200261106 as on 26-12-2025 and interest thereon                | 22.05.2026         |
| <b>Description of Immovable Property:</b> All That Piece And Parcel Of The Residential Site Bearing No. 25, Formed in Residentially Converted Land Bearing Sy.No.853 Measuring 36 1/2 Gunta, And Sy.No.86 Measuring 2 Acre 29 Gunta, Situated At Saganahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Chowdihalli Gram Panchayathi, Converted By The Deputy Commissioner, Chikballapur Taluk, Hosahudya Gram Panchayathi, Nandi Hobli, Chikballapur Taluk Along With All Easement And Other Rights Appearance Thero And Thereupon And Bounded On The East By : 9 Meters Road, West By : 9 Meters Road, North By : Site No. 22, South By : Site No. 24                                                                                                                                                                             |                                         |                           |                                         |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                               |                    |
| 5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Yes Bank Ltd./ JCF ARC (ACRE 166 TRUST) | 14.02.2025                | 1) Savitha P 2) Prakash                 | 31.12.2025                                                  | Rs. 17,13,599/- (Rupees Seventeen Lacs Thirteen Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Nine and Paise Two Seven Only) against Loan Account No. AFH00220044094 as on 26-12-2025 and interest thereon.    | 22.05.2026         |
| <b>Description of Immovable Property:</b> All That Piece And Parcel Of Property called "Lucky Homes" Of Land Mark Realities, House List/Site No. 207/23 (Site No. 23), E-Khata Form No. 9 & 11A Bearing No. 152800201701320207, Measuring East To West 9.14 Meters, North To South 7.617 Meters, In All Measuring 69.62 Square Meters, (Said Site Carved in Sy.No. 121, Measuring 3-00 Acres Converted Agricultural To Non-Agricultural Residential Purpose Vide Order No. Aln.Sr(C), Sakala 37/12015-16, Dated 23.03.2016), Situated Balajigalga Village, Hosahudya Gram Panchayathi, Nandi Hobli, Chikballapur Taluk Along With All Easement And Other Rights Appearance Thero And Thereupon And Bounded On The East By : 9 Meters Road, West By : Site No. 22, South By : Site No. 24                        |                                         |                           |                                         |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                               |                    |
| 6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | IDFC First Bank (ASR TRUST)             | 23.09.2025                | 1) Venkatesh M S 2) Prema N             | 06.02.2026                                                  | Rs. 26,48,555.69/- (Rupees Twenty-eight lakh forty-eight thousand five hundred fifty-five paise nine only) against Loan Account No. 27959810 as on 23-Jan-25 and interest thereon             | 22.05.2026         |
| <b>Description of Immovable Property:</b> All that piece and parcel of the Immovable Residential Property Bearing Site No. 3, Khatha No. 131/31/83, Formed in Assessment No. 13/15, New Bmp Property No. 131/31/83, Situated at Palanahalli Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, now comes under the Limits of BBMP, Bangalore, Measuring East To West: 33-00 Feet and North To South: 30-00 Feet, in all 990 Sq.ft, Along With Four Squares of A.C. Sheet Roofed House, with all types of Civic Amenities Thereon And Bounded On East By : 12 Feet Road And Chinappa's Land, West By : Chikkaraju's Property North By : Vijaya's Property South By : Vacant Land                                                                                                                                        |                                         |                           |                                         |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                               |                    |
| The Original Lenders as mentioned above has assigned all its rights, title and interest of the above loan accounts in favor of Assets Care & Reconstruction Enterprise Limited acting in its capacity as trustee of TRUSTS ("ACRE") by way of an Assignment Agreement as mentioned above. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-section (4) of the Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 6 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the dates as mentioned above.                                                                                                                    |                                         |                           |                                         |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                               |                    |
| The Borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Assets Care & Reconstruction Enterprise Ltd., acting as trustee of Trusts for total outstanding amounts and interest thereon as mentioned above.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                         |                           |                                         |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                               |                    |
| The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act in respect of time available, to redeem the Secured Assets.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                         |                           |                                         |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                               |                    |
| Date: 26.05.2026<br>Place: Karnataka                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                         |                           |                                         |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                               |                    |
| Sd/- Authorized officer<br>Assets Care & Reconstruction Enterprise Ltd.<br>Acting in its capacity as trustee of TRUSTS as mentioned                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                         |                           |                                         |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                               |                    |

EDITORIAL

Why Are Some Of India's Sharpest Pakistan Critics Calling For 'Talks'?

To talk or not to talk, that is the question. At least, that would be it for most of those misquoting Hamlet. But for the general populace, talking to Pakistan is a disaster, and even the supposedly learned see little point in it. All that was till the unexpected happened. In a recent interview, Dattareya Hosabale, General Secretary of the RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh), unexpectedly said that people-to-people contact was key to breaking the deadlock with Pakistan. This was after a visit to the United States. The point is that the main organisation that is the backbone of the ruling party has given the green signal to talk.

The Urge To 'Talk'

Most were too astonished to say much. But the support by former Army Chief Gen MM Naravane, where he said that "the path to peace was and is, through negotiations to arrive at a just settlement that meets the aspirations of the people", raised heckles, since the language was straight out of the Pakistani playbook. Scribes described the 'Track-2 process as a 'dangerous illusion', leading to complacency, till the next terrorist attack brought some reality back literally with a bang. True, also, that all governments - much to the exasperation of security experts - usually opened their innings with friendly reach-outs, from former Prime Minister AB Vajpayee's trip to Lahore to Manmohan Singh's restarting of the Composite Dialogue, and an invite to the then Pakistani Prime Minister, Yousaf Raza Gillani, to India for a cricket match. Most recently, PM Modi dropped by to greet Sharif on his birthday. Each and every one of these initiatives was met with a return to a terror attack. In fact, the more successful the reach-out, the worse the terrorist retaliation. For instance, Modi's visit was on December 25, 2015. The Pathankot attack was barely a week later, on January 2, 2016.

Civilian Leadership

Consider, however, that Pakistani Prime Ministers have also reached out - and suffered for it. In this instance, Sharif asked his commanders why violence occurred immediately after an outreach to India. There was no answer. In 1999, the Kargil War was launched after the Lahore bus journey, and prior to this, Prime Minister Zardari's suggestion to ISI Chief Ahmed Shuja Pasha to go to India and provide full cooperation on the Mumbai attacks led to his removal. The Benazir Bhutto-Rajiv Gandhi meetings led to the former proposing oil pipelines and an opening of trade. Imran Khan came to power promising peace with India, but was soon removed before anything could come of this.

All were civilian leaders. True, General Musharraf came to India waving a peace flag, but in reality, his famed peace plan involved ceding a large slice of territory to Pakistan in the so-called 'Chenab Formula' and division along communal lines, with the additional advantage that it would also have given Pakistan control over its waters. True, also, that army Chiefs like Gen. Bajwa did advocate an entirely new 'doctrine' of making the country an economic and strategic corridor, and leaving the past

THE DELHI COURT AND THE ILLUSION OF DEMOCRACY



PRIYANKA SAURABH

Delhi is not only the capital of India, but also the ancient chessboard of power, where the pieces change, but the game remains the same. Here, history doesn't reside solely in books, but breathes within the walls of buildings, behind closed doors, and in gleaming corridors. In this city, some paths are for the public, while others are for those who need no introduction. Parallel to the bustling streets of democracy, lie the quiet courts of power, where entry is granted only to those with the invisible passport of influence, lineage, connections, and social standing. The Delhi Gymkhana Club is a shining symbol of this enduring power. In recent days, as discussions about eviction and the termination of the club's lease intensified, it felt like the first time someone had pointed a finger at a world that had hitherto been considered impossible to even touch. This isn't just about a building; it's about the mindset that has created elitist empires even within a democracy. It's about a system in which some remain the owners, while others are mere spectators. The Delhi Gymkhana Club was founded by the British in 1913 as the "Imperial Delhi Gymkhana Club." That era was not only one of political subjugation but also one of social humiliation. The British used clubs more as a tool of social segregation than a place of entertainment. Only those who closely resembled the English way of life were considered "civilized." The doors of such clubs were either closed to Indians or were so narrow that even entering them made them feel inferior. Social status was determined by language, clothing, food habits, and even color. Independence came, the tricolor was raised, and the British departed, but the social structures they had built



remained unbroken. Viceroy's House became Rashtrapati Bhavan, the ICS was renamed the IAS, but the spirit of power remained largely unchanged. The chairs once occupied by white gentlemen were later occupied by brown gentlemen. Democracy arrived, but the elite culture remained intact. The Delhi Gymkhana gradually became the haven for a class that, even in a democracy, never needed to prove itself to the public. Gaining membership was considered more difficult than passing any exam. Years of waiting, fees running into lakhs, and influential connections—all this combined to transform it into a citadel of power accessible only to those with the keys to privilege. The club became more a testament to social status than sport. Ironically, democracy promises equality, yet in the heart of the capital, islands exist where equality dies at the very entrance. The average citizen pays taxes, yet he or she doesn't even have easy access to the land where these clubs stand. Bulldozers can be used to demolish the slums of the poor, and street vendors can be removed from the sidewalks, but few dare to question these permanent empires, spread across government land worth thousands of crores. The cruelest truth about Delhi is that

the poor are always temporary, while the rich are always permanent. Rickshaw pullers are asked, "When will you move?", but no one asks the elite clubs, built on government land for decades, when their rights will end. This isn't just economic inequality, but psychological inequality. Society has normalized it by labeling it prestige and dignity. But the story isn't limited to the Gymkhana. Whether it's the Delhi Golf Club, the India International Centre, or the India Habitat Centre—these are not just institutions, but parallel worlds of power. The Delhi Golf Club isn't just about sports; it's where a silent dialogue between power and capital takes place. From the outside, the India International Centre appears to be a cultural platform, but inside, it becomes a rebirth place for retired power. People whose positions have ended, yet their influence still lives on, meet there. At the India Habitat Centre, discussions on poverty and social justice take place in air-conditioned auditoriums, while the ordinary citizen standing outside those very discussions is unable to even become a part of the world being talked about in their name. This is the true power of permanent power. Governments change, ministers change, political slogans change, but this network

remains secure under every regime. This is a class that does not fear electoral defeat, because its power derives not just from politics but from social influence and institutional influence. This is why Delhi can be called not only the political capital but also the capital of permanent power. History bears witness that even those at the top of power have often failed to challenge this structure. During Rajiv Gandhi's tenure, there was discussion of eliminating this club for security reasons, but it was not possible. This was not merely an administrative failure; it was a sign of the profound influence such institutions have held. Over the years, relationships within these clubs were formed, policies were influenced, and informal power alliances were formed. This was a social power parallel to democracy, unchecked by elections. Today, when questions are being raised about the legitimacy, leases, and social appropriateness of these institutions, the debate is no longer merely legal. It becomes a question of the mindset that allowed the British-created sense of superiority to remain a symbol of respect even in independent India. Unfortunately, we bid farewell to the British, but not to Anglicism. We have made the English language, foreign clothing,

club culture, and proximity to power synonymous with modernity and prestige. It was this culture that divided democracy into two parts—one India that stood in line, the other India for whom doors opened automatically. One India that voted, the other India that made the decisions. It's also true that challenging just one club doesn't change the system. The true meaning of democracy isn't simply a change in power, but a change in the power structure itself. If only symbolic action is taken, and other institutions remain unchanged, this debate will remain incomplete. But if the question is raised more broadly about the social and moral justification of private elite clubs built on government land, then this discussion will acquire historical significance. In fact, the struggle is not just about land, but also about self-respect. The question is whether India will truly embrace its democratic spirit, or will it continue to perpetuate the colonial superiority complex with new faces. Democracy doesn't reside solely in the recesses of Parliament; it is also tested the moment an ordinary citizen stands before the door of power. If that door is closed simply because they lack lineage, connections, or a special class identity, then democracy is incomplete.

All Roads Lead To China? Why Xi Hosted Trump And Putin Back-To-Back

Xi Jinping's carefully choreographed hosting of Donald Trump (May 13-15) and Vladimir Putin (May 19-20) within the span of a single week was no coincidence. It was a calculated assertion of China's arrival as the indispensable pivot in global politics - a power sufficiently confident to engage both its principal strategic rival and its closest geopolitical partner with equal grandeur. Beijing wanted the world to absorb one central message: all roads now lead to China. The optics were meticulously crafted. At the Great Hall of the People, both leaders received near-identical state pageantry: military honour guards, gun salutes, marching bands, troop inspections, national anthems, and carefully staged interactions with cheering children waving national flags. Banquets featuring Chinese cultural symbolism, personal interactions with Xi Jinping, and highly choreographed public moments reinforced the image of Beijing as the epicentre of contemporary diplomacy. Chinese state media predictably amplified this narrative, portraying China as the stabilising fulcrum of an increasingly fractured international order. Putin's visit, however, carried unmistakably greater intimacy. The Russian leader was welcomed by a senior Politburo figure, a symbolic gesture underscoring strategic trust. The choreography was less rigidly formal and more personal-tea ceremonies, poetic exchanges, and repeated invocations of



"old friendship". Public messaging from both sides appeared far more synchronised, reflecting the political comfort that now defines the Sino-Russian relationship. Beijing may have projected parity externally, but the diplomatic nuances revealed where its strategic comfort truly lies. The contrast became even sharper in terms of outcomes. Trump's three-day visit was heavy on symbolism but comparatively thin on substance. Discussions covered trade, technology restrictions, Iran, strategic stability, and Taiwan, while both sides hinted at possible economic arrangements involving agriculture, energy, and aviation. Yet, the structural tensions underpinning the relationship remained unresolved. There were no meaningful breakthroughs on tariffs, semiconductor restrictions, or broader strategic competition. The exercise was essentially

about stabilisation, preventing escalation while preserving room for manoeuvre. Putin's shorter visit, by contrast, yielded far more tangible outcomes. Multiple agreements were concluded across trade, energy, transport, technology, and cultural cooperation. Joint statements emphasised multipolarity, opposition to Western "hegemony", and the consolidation of a strategic partnership that both sides described as being at a "historic high". While major sticking points, such as the Power of Siberia 2 pipeline, remain unresolved, the overall trajectory of the relationship remains unmistakably upward. Unlike the transactional and fragile US-China engagement, the China-Russia partnership continues to deepen because it is anchored in converging geopolitical interests. For Xi Jinping, the larger strategic objective extended beyond either bilateral relationship. By hosting Trump

and Putin in rapid succession, Beijing sought to demonstrate diplomatic centrality in an era of systemic flux. China was projecting itself not merely as another great power, but as the indispensable balancing force in an emerging multipolar order - capable of engaging adversaries and partners alike without being constrained by either. The visit by Donald Trump served an important tactical purpose for China and for Xi Jinping personally. Beijing's immediate priority is not confrontation for its own sake, but the creation of strategic breathing space during a period of mounting internal and external pressure. China is navigating slowing economic growth, persistent weaknesses in the property sector, demographic decline, and growing restrictions imposed by the United States and its allies on advanced technology transfer.

Sergio Gor And The Night American Diplomacy Went Full 'Disco'

Sergio Gor is not your everyday diplomat. In fact, he shouldn't be considered a diplomat at all, despite being designated the US Ambassador to New Delhi. His style of functioning is entirely his own. He drives the relationship with India, maintains a direct link to the Prime Minister's office, and yes, he is regularly on the phone with his President, Donald Trump. This access and the vigour he brings to the Indo-US equation were on full display last night as the United States began celebrations marking 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence - festivities that will peak on July 4, 2026. On Sunday evening in New Delhi, Gor and his team staged a massive show at Bharat Mandapam, India's premier international convention centre. The evening's special guest of honour was his boss, the visiting Secretary of State, Marco Rubio. On May 28, he turns 55. For Gor, who played host and master of ceremonies at the America 250 event, the precise date was merely a detail. A few days here or there would not be a showstopper. And so the birthday celebrations were on. "Alright, so as everybody knows, we also have a birthday," announced Gor from the giant stage at the Mandapam - moments after AR Rahman had belted out his greatest hits, including the iconic Oscar-winning Jai Ho from the 2008 film Slumdog Millionaire. "Can we get the Secretary up



here?" roared Gor to thunderous applause from an audience that included dozens of staff from US missions across India. He then launched into a chant: "Marco! Marco! Marco!" - his clenched fist punching the air. This was the US Ambassador - supposedly a bureaucrat - shouting out to his boss, the powerful US Secretary of State, by his first name. The crowd instantly joined in, the chant building to a crescendo. "He's finally 21," joked Gor as Marco Rubio - Donald Trump's right-hand man - jogged up to the stage. India's Foreign Minister, Dr S Jaishankar, seated quietly in the VIP enclosure, looked on as Rubio approached a gigantic four-tier birthday cake topped with a single candle. It was over-the-top and in-your-face, but it was a riot - the most unusual celebration of American diplomacy in what is being seen as a major outreach to India after a year of strained ties

linked to US sanctions over Russian oil imports and differences over Trump's claim that he had ended last May's 88-hour war between India and Pakistan during Operation Sindoor. Rubio was greeted not only by his Ambassador but also by The Village People, the legendary US disco group formed in New York's Greenwich Village in 1977. Known for their flamboyant on-stage costumes and global hits like "Macho Man," "In the Navy," and "Y.M.C.A." - Donald Trump's personal go-to rally anthem - the band turned the evening electric. "Y.M.C.A." is the song that routinely plays at the end of Trump's campaign rallies and fundraisers, where the President performs his now-iconic "Trump dance": rhythmic side-to-side hip sways alternating with fist pumps in the air, often ending with a playful mock golf swing. Trump may not have been in Delhi, but you could bet your

bottom dollar that "Y.M.C.A." was going to be the evening's showstopper. First, though, the group sang "Happy Birthday" as Rubio blew out the candle. Then they rocked the hall. If Gor's personal connection with the Secretary of State was evident before the final act, it was his live on-stage phone call with Donald Trump - broadcast from his smartphone - that delivered the ultimate display of personal power. "I love the Prime Minister. Modi is my friend. I just wanted to say that India can count on me 100 per cent," Trump told Gor. "They know who to call - they can call right here. Anything India wants, India gets. I am a big, big fan of Prime Minister Modi." Sergio Gor's unconventional approach to building the India relationship is unlike anything his Embassy staffers have ever seen. Everything is kept fluid, decisions are taken on the fly.

# OIL PRICES SLIDE ON HOPES OF US-IRAN PEACE DEAL

Oil prices have fallen sharply on hopes of a deal that could bring an end to the US-Israel war with Iran. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said negotiators had a "pretty solid thing on the table" and an agreement to end the conflict might be reached on Monday. On Monday morning, global oil benchmark Brent fell 5.5% to \$97.90 a barrel, and remained around \$97.70 a barrel in the afternoon. US President Donald Trump said the negotiations were "proceeding nicely" but added it would either be "a great deal for all or no deal at all". While Iran says progress has been made, a government spokesman added that a deal was "not imminent". Trump had previously said the deal would include the reopening of the key Strait of Hormuz shipping route, without giving further details. The Strait of Hormuz, through which around a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) usually passes, has been effectively closed since the conflict started on 28 February. Earlier on Monday, Rubio said the talks were "still a work in progress." "As I said, you know, we thought we might



have some news last night," Rubio said in the Indian capital, Delhi. His comments came after Trump said he had instructed negotiators "not to rush into a deal", after earlier suggesting one was close. Speaking after Rubio's comments, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman, Esmail Baqai, said agreement has been reached on a "large portion of the issues under discussion". "But to say that this means the signing of an agreement is imminent - no one can make such a claim," he added. On Saturday, Trump said that he had had a "very good call" with the

leaders of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and others about a "Memorandum of Understanding pertaining to PEACE". "An agreement has been largely negotiated, subject to finalisation between the United States of America, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the various other Countries, as listed," Trump said on social media. "Final aspects and details of the deal are currently being discussed, and will be announced shortly." He also said he had had a call on Saturday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, which had gone

"very well". On Monday, Trump said in his discussions with the Gulf leaders and others, including the presidents of Turkey and Egypt, he pushed them to sign the Abraham Accords which are aimed at normalising relations with Israel. Global energy markets have seen big price swings since early March after Iran threatened to attack ships trying to use the Strait of Hormuz in retaliation for US and Israeli attacks on the country. While crude oil prices have fallen sharply, they remain significantly higher than before the war. In the lead-up to the conflict

Brent was trading at around \$70 a barrel. A ceasefire was agreed in early April, and since then Washington and Tehran have engaged in talks over a long-term peace deal. "There is now some light at the end of the tunnel, which will bring some near term oil price relief," Saul Kavonic, head of energy research at MST Financial. "But even in the most optimistic scenario from here, oil markets will remain tight through 2027 given the time required to normalise oil flows through the Strait, repair damaged oil facilities, and rebuild global oil stocks that have seen record depletion since the war began," he added. Lars Jensen, chief executive of Vespucci Maritime and former Maersk director, said that even if a deal was announced on Monday the shipping industry would remain "very cautious and hesitant". "You are likely going to see shipping lines that have vessels stuck in the Persian Gulf try to get them out, but they will be a lot more hesitant to put ships back into the Persian Gulf in case the thing turns south again," he told BBC Radio 4's Today programme.

# SEBI BANS 7 INDIVIDUALS IN RS 20-CR STOCK MANIPULATION CASE

**New Delhi:** Capital markets regulator Sebi has barred seven individuals from securities markets for allegedly running a coordinated pump-and-dump scheme across social media platforms and making unlawful gains of over Rs 20.25 crore. Apart from the debarment, the regulator has also directed finfluencer Hemant Gupta and his sons, Rohan Gupta and Aniket Gupta, to immediately cease and desist from offering unregistered research analyst services or from portraying themselves as research analysts. In a 234-page interim order passed on May 22, Sebi alleged that Hemant, Rohan and Aniket acted as "Operators" who first accumulated positions in thinly traded SME stocks and later circulated bullish stock recommendations on social media platforms to inflate prices, before selling their holdings at a profit. Four other family members – Sharon, Leana, Rajani and Purvangi Gupta – allegedly facilitated the operation by allowing the use of their trading accounts or by executing



trades on the operators' instructions, the order said. "The on-going investigation has prima facie highlighted the scheme and device orchestrated intricately by noticees whereby the operators by posting stock recommendations on various scrips on their X Accounts and social media platforms induced the general public to deal in the securities purely based on misleading and unsolicited stock tips, and thus enabling the beneficiaries to liquidate their holdings at an inflated price," Sebi's Whole Time Member Kamlesh C Varshney said in the order. According to Sebi, the scheme involved 82 scrips during the exam-

ination period from December 1, 2023, to January 20, 2026. Sebi said Rohan and Aniket posted bullish updates on their X handles, 'WealthSolitaire' and '@desiwallstreet'. On the other hand, Hemant amplified these recommendations across several WhatsApp and Telegram groups, often adding explicit target prices and deliberately keeping such communications off X, to avoid regulatory scrutiny. The regulator noted that the combined gross traded value of the seven individuals rose 86 per cent from Rs 548 crore in the pre-examination period to Rs 1,023 crore during the examination period.

# Probe ordered into excessive charges by online flight ticket booking platforms

**Hubballi:** Union Minister for Consumer Affairs Pralhad Joshi has directed officials of the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to investigate complaints that online flight ticket booking platforms are allegedly charging passengers excessively during ticket booking and cancellation processes. The minister's intervention came after a consumer reportedly exposed instances where online ticketing platforms were collecting charges significantly higher than the fees imposed directly by airlines. Taking serious note of the issue, Pralhad Joshi instructed the Department of Consumer Affairs and the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to conduct an immediate inquiry and initiate action against unfair trade practices if violations are confirmed. According to the complaint highlighted before the minister, several online booking platforms were allegedly collecting cancellation and service charges far beyond the actual fees charged by airline companies. In some cases, the



platforms were reportedly imposing charges up to 15 times higher than the fees levied by airlines themselves. Officials said the minister has specifically asked authorities to examine whether online travel aggregators are violating consumer rights by imposing unreasonable and hidden charges during booking, modification or cancellation of flight tickets. "Investigate whether excessive and unjustified charges are being collected from passengers during ticket booking and cancellation. If such practices are found to be widespread, necessary action should be initiated under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019," the minister reportedly instructed officials. The issue has sparked concern among frequent flyers

and consumer rights activists, many of whom have long complained about hidden convenience fees, platform charges and cancellation deductions imposed by online travel portals. Consumer groups have argued that passengers are often unaware of the actual airline cancellation charges because the platforms combine multiple service fees under unclear categories, making it difficult for users to identify the genuine breakup of costs. The move by the Union Consumer Affairs Ministry is expected to bring greater scrutiny on digital travel booking platforms operating across the country. Officials said the investigation would

focus on transparency in pricing, disclosure of cancellation policies and whether customers are being misled during transactions. The CCPA, established under the Consumer Protection Act, has powers to investigate unfair trade practices, misleading advertisements and violations affecting consumer interests. Industry experts believe the inquiry could result in stricter regulations for online travel aggregators and force companies to clearly disclose service charges and cancellation deductions to customers before ticket confirmation. The development comes amid growing dependence on digital booking platforms for domestic and international air travel, especially after the rapid expansion of online travel services in recent years. The minister's intervention came after a consumer reportedly exposed instances where online ticketing platforms were collecting charges significantly higher than the fees imposed directly by airlines.

# AI is changing the internet forever

There's a simple reason Google is making sweeping changes to its iconic, decades-old search engine: users are making complicated requests. "People are asking much longer and harder questions that no longer have a clear response anywhere on the internet," said Robby Stein, vice president of product for Google Search. Stein spoke to CNN about a new feature that lets Google generate custom visuals, interactive graphics and even mini-apps running on Google's search page in response to queries by piecing together sources from across the web. It's one of many updates the internet giant announced at its annual conference this week. The most valuable real estate on the internet is evolving to reflect the new ways people find information online, the latest example of how artificial intelligence is changing the internet across search, social media, online shopping and more. People are starting to use longer, more specific search terms instead of succinct generic keywords, according to Google, and are increasingly beginning their searches in apps like ChatGPT, experts



say. Fake, AI-generated influencers are causing a stir on social media. And people are increasingly using AI to compare and buy products. It's getting impossible to avoid using the internet without somehow encountering AI, despite growing anxiety about the tech and its impact on jobs, safety and the environment. "After a while, it just becomes part of the way you live," said Joseph Turow, a University of Pennsylvania media professor who will soon be releasing a book about AI's impact on internet advertising. ChatGPT 'trained' people to search differently Google says its search box is getting its biggest upgrade in 25 years. The new search field expands

to fit more text and makes it easier to add other media to a search — like photos, files and Chrome browser tabs. The goal is to shrink the number of steps for a user to complete a search, according to Stein. That includes tasks like performing a search based on a photo or switching to Google's AI Mode before asking a follow-up question. Searches that involve questions based on snapping a photo or circling something on a phone screen are growing 60%, year-over-year, he said. Searches in AI Mode, or the version of Google tailored for back-and-forth interactions, have more than doubled every quarter since they launched a year ago, and AI

Mode queries are triple the length of a regular search on average. Data from SEO and marketing firm Semrush indicates some people are starting to search Google the way they type to ChatGPT. Searches containing 11 words or more increased from 3.27% to 5.37%, and conversational queries jumped from 5% to 20%, while keyword-style searches decreased. Yet the median query still contains just three words, suggesting that most people still search the old-fashioned way. Robert Langenback, president of SEO marketing agency Eight Oh Two Marketing, said he's observed people typing in more searches that range from three to five or five to 10 words instead of two to three words. That started before ChatGPT's arrival in late 2022, although it's ramped up significantly since then. "AI has) really almost trained people how to search differently," he said. People generally use a mix of AI apps like ChatGPT and Google. More than 20% of ChatGPT referral traffic goes to Google, Semrush found after analyzing 1 billion lines of US clickstream data, or "trails" of user activity across the web.

# Indian billionaires buy foreign companies as growth slows at home

In late April, India's Sun Pharmaceuticals agreed to pay \$11.75bn (£8.59bn) to acquire New York-listed women's health and biosimilars firm Organon & Co. It marked the biggest overseas acquisition by an Indian company in nearly two decades and followed a string of high-profile international deals by Indian firms in recent months. These include Tata Motors' \$4.4bn acquisition of Turin-based vehicle maker Iveco, IT company Coforge's \$2.35bn purchase of Silicon Valley-based AI firm Encora and the Bajaj Group buying a 23% stake in global insurance giant Allianz SE earlier in 2025. Data from consultancy Grant Thornton shows that 162 Indian companies spent more than \$18bn on outbound acquisitions in 2025 - a 34% increase from the previous year. "We could cross \$15bn in deal value in just the first half of this year," Sumet Abrol, partner and national leader at Grant Thornton, told the BBC. For many, this new wave of over-



seas acquisitions by India Inc evokes memories of the global buying spree led by companies such as the Tata Group two decades ago, when it made audacious bets for global trophy assets like Jaguar Land Rover and Corus Steel. But several analysts told the BBC that the motivations this time are somewhat different. Indian companies are pursuing Western assets not simply as symbols of global ambition, but increasingly for strategic and operational reasons. The broader economic backdrop has also changed sharply since the early 2000s. During the previous acquisition boom, India

was in the midst of a roaring bull market. Today, the country is grappling with a rapid exodus of foreign portfolio investors, a sharp slowdown in net foreign direct investment (FDI) and stubbornly weak private sector investment despite tax cuts and production-linked subsidies offered by the government. "Corporate profits [of India's top 500 companies post-Covid] grew at 30.8% per annum. But still, our overall capital formation rates from the private sector have been disappointing," India's chief economic advisor V Anantha Nageswaran recently said at a policy conference.

# String Metaverse reports record-breaking FY26 Financial Results; Revenue Surges to 1,069 Crore with PAT Crossing Rs. 102 Crore

**Hyderabad, May 25, 2026:** String Metaverse Limited, a rapidly emerging leader in digital and AI financial infrastructure company, today announced its audited financial results for the fiscal year ending 2025-26 (FY26). Driven by accelerated momentum across its core business verticals, the company delivered blockbuster performance, setting new financial benchmarks in its growth journey across AI infrastructure, gaming ecosystems and high-frequency trading operations. The audited consolidated financial results were officially approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on May 25, 2026.

**Exceptional FY26 Financial Performance**  
For the full fiscal year, String Metaverse recorded a massive surge in Revenue from Operations, reaching 1,069.11 crore, up from 407.36 crore in the previous fiscal year. This exponential top-line growth translated



ed into a highly profitable bottom line, with the Profit Before Tax (PBT) standing at 103.51 crore and the Profit After Tax (PAT) crossing the milestone mark to reach 102.52 crore. Operational efficiency saw significant improvement, with the company's EBITD skyrocketing by 190% year-on-year to 121.88 crore. Consequently, Earnings Per Share (EPS) also witnessed a stellar 170% YoY growth, closing at 0.89.

**Strong Q4 FY26 Momentum**  
The company maintained a vigorous growth trajectory

through the final quarter of the fiscal year. In Q4 FY26 alone, String Metaverse generated a robust revenue of 359.40 crore. The quarter's EBDIT grew by an impressive 167% quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) to 41.98 crore, while the PAT for the quarter stood at a solid 34.71 crore.

**Strategic Global Expansion and Future Outlook**  
As global markets undergo a paradigm shift toward AI Economies, Agentic Infrastructure, Digital Assets, Web3 Tokenization, and next-generation financial systems, String

Metaverse is strategically positioning itself at the convergence of these transformational sectors. The company is rapidly scaling its status as a high-growth Indian digital infrastructure platform. To support this vision, String Metaverse has aggressively expanded its global footprint, successfully scaling its AI, gaming, digital assets, and algorithmic finance infrastructure operations across key international markets, including India, the UAE, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Canada. Commenting on the record-breaking financial results,

Mr. Ganesh Meenavalli, Managing Director of String Metaverse Limited, said: "FY26 marks a transformational year for String Metaverse as we accelerated our expansion into AI-driven financial infrastructure, gaming ecosystems, and high-frequency trading technologies."

**Audit Update**  
The statutory auditors of the company have reviewed the financial statements and issued an unmodified audit opinion, underscoring the company's strong financial health and transparent reporting standards.

**Forward-Looking Statements Disclaimer**  
This release contains forward-looking statements involving risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected. String Metaverse Limited undertakes no obligation to publicly update such statements except as required under applicable law.

# Deal with US not imminent, Iran says

Iran says some progress has been reached in talks with the US, but a deal "is not imminent". Foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqai's remarks came after US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said an agreement could possibly be reached on Monday. "It is correct to say that we have reached a conclusion on a large portion of the issues under discussion," Baqai said in Tehran on Monday. "But to say that this means the signing of an agreement is imminent - no one can make such a claim." The memorandum of understanding reportedly involves a 60-day ceasefire extension, reopening the Strait of Hormuz and a plan for further negotiations over Iran's nuclear programme. At the weekend, President Donald Trump suggested the sides were closing a deal, even though he later said he had instructed negotiators "not to rush into" one. On Monday, Rubio told reporters in the Indian capital, Delhi: "We thought we might have some news last night. Maybe today."



Cautioning "I wouldn't read too much into it", Rubio said: "It takes a little while to hear back from Iran." CBS News, the BBC's US partner, has reported that US intelligence believes Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei - who was injured in an Israeli strike on the first day of the war which killed his father and predecessor - is holed up in an undisclosed location, making communication with his envoys difficult and there-

fore delaying pace of talks with the US. According to US media, the mooted deal is not a final settlement - instead it leaves some of the thorniest issues to be negotiated later, including the scope and timing of Iranian sanctions relief, the release of frozen Iranian funds, and Washington's demands for Iran to curb its nuclear ambitions. "So we have, what I think is a pretty solid thing on the table in terms of their ability to open up the

Straits," he said referring to the Strait of Hormuz - the crucial waterway where 20% of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas passes and which Iran has been blocking. Oil prices fell sharply and Asian stock markets rose on Monday on hopes of an agreement. The reported deal has split Trump's Republicans, with some publicly arguing it is too lenient on Iran. Senator Ted Cruz said it would be "a disastrous mistake", while

Roger Wicker, who chairs the Senate Armed Services Committee, said a 60-day ceasefire would mean "everything accomplished by Operation Epic Fury would be for naught!" Senator Lindsey Graham, who is a close Trump ally, also criticised any deal that would leave Iran perceived as being a dominant force in the region. "It makes one wonder why the war started to begin with," he said. Trump responded by dismissing his critics as "losers" and saying "the deal with Iran will either be a great and meaningful one, or there will be no deal". Even in a best case scenario, the effects of a deal are unlikely to be seen right away. It could be months before the shipping industry will be able to go back to supply chains that are "physically in the same shape as they were before the crisis", Lars Jensen, chief executive of Vespucci Maritime and former director of shipping company Maersk, told BBC Radio 4's Today programme. Should a deal between Iran

and the US be announced in the coming days, the industry would still remain "cautious and hesitant" to make any "major operational changes", Jensen explained. The US and Israel launched wide-ranging strikes on Iran on 28 February, sparking conflict across the Middle East. Iran responded by attacking Israel and US-allied states in the Gulf, and effectively closed the Strait of Hormuz. The move sent oil prices soaring globally. Shortly after a ceasefire was agreed in early April, the US established a blockade of Iranian ports, which Trump says will remain "in full force and effect until an agreement is reached, certified, and signed". In Sunday's post on Truth Social, Trump reiterated that Iran "must understand" it cannot develop a nuclear weapon. Tehran has repeatedly said its nuclear programme is solely for peaceful purposes. Some reports in US media suggest the deal could see Iran agree to eventually hand over its highly enriched uranium.

## FIRST HONG KONG ASTRONAUT LAUNCHES INTO SPACE ONBOARD CHINESE MISSION

A Hong Kong astronaut has been launched into space for the first time, aboard China's Shenzhou-23 spacecraft. Li Jiaying, a 43-year-old police officer and mother of three, serves as the payload scientist in the three-member crew who made their way to China's Tiangong space station on Sunday night. At least one member of the crew will spend a full year in orbit as part of a key experiment. Authorities will determine who that will be at a later date. The mission is the latest in China's ambitious space program to send humans to the moon by 2030. It comes amid an accelerating race with the US, which is looking to achieve a crewed lunar landing by 2028. The Shenzhou-23 is tasked with studying the effects of microgravity on the human body, among many experiments. Apart from Li, the two other astronauts on the mission are Zhu Yangzhu, a 39-year-old space engineer and Zhang Zhiyuan, a 39-year-old former air force pilot. Large crowds waved Chinese flags as the rocket launched from



the north-west Gobi desert on the Long March 2-F rocket at 23:08 local (15:08 GMT) Sunday. A few hours later, it docked on the Tiangong space station. Hong Kong Chief Executive John Lee said Li's inclusion in the mission was a "historic" moment. Li said she was inspired by Yang Liwei, the first person sent to space by China's space programme. "This is a rare chance. Why not try?" Li said, according to Xinhua news agency. As she made her way to the launch on Sunday, Li said, according to state broadcaster CCTV: "How high our Chinese spacecraft flies, that's how high we can hold our heads high".

## Clashes as Venezuelan prisoners protest over alleged mistreatment



Violent clashes have erupted between inmates and security personnel at a prison in the Venezuelan state of Barinas. Extra security forces were deployed to the jail after prisoners climbed the roof and burned mattresses in protest at their alleged mistreatment. Witnesses reported hearing explosions and inmates said they had been shot at. Organisations lobbying for prisoners' rights have long denounced the poor conditions at many of Venezuela's penitentiaries. Non-governmental organisation Venezuelan Prison Observatory (OVP) said that the inmates at the jail, known as Injuba, had been complaining for more than a week about their treatment under the prison's new director. They allege they were violently searched, kept in solitary confinement and mistreated. The prison director has so far not publicly commented, nor has the government of interim President Delcy Rodriguez. In footage published by OVP, groups of inmates can be seen protesting on the roof, with some burn-

ing mattresses. In one video, a man can be seen showing wounds on his torso and his arm, with another man shouting "they're shooting at us". Others can be heard joining into chants of "we want justice". In another recording shared by OVP, a woman wearing dark glasses and a face mask addresses Rodriguez directly and demands that the minister of prisons and Injuba's director resign. She insists that their protest is peaceful before stating their demands, which include medicine for prisoners who have tuberculosis. OVP has long drawn attention to the poor conditions in Venezuelan jails, with the organisation warning that many do not meet the "minimum standards" which should be guaranteed by law. Since the United States seized Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro in a military operation in the capital, Caracas, on 3 January, US pressure has led to the release of hundreds of political prisoners. However, more than 400 are still behind bars, according to pressure group Foro Penal.

## ANGER GROWS AFTER CHINA'S DEADLIEST COAL MINING DISASTER IN YEARS



Anger is growing over alleged safety violations in the wake of China's worst mining disaster in more than 15 years. At least 82 people were killed and more than 120 injured after an explosion on Friday at the Liushenyu coal mine in Shanxi province, the heart of China's huge mining industry. For many in China, the tragedy harks

back to the 2000s, a period of regular, deadly coal mining disasters, which is widely thought to have been left in the past. Those concerns are now reignited and playing out on China's tightly-controlled internet, with people calling for justice and questioning how this happened: "It's so heartbreaking, so many precious lives lost."

## TALIBAN BAN PUSHES AFGHAN GIRLS TOWARDS FORCED MARRIAGES

Alia - whose name we have changed for her safety - travelled hundreds of miles from her village to Kabul to escape marriage. The journey by taxi last year with her female cousin - covered from head to toe, only their eyes visible, as the rules decree - was an exceptional thing to do, and risky in Afghanistan, where at any moment they might be caught by the Taliban inspectors enforcing rules banning women travelling long distances without a male relative escorting them. But Alia, who is 19, and her cousin weren't stopped at any Taliban checkpoints, and made it to the capital. "I made up an excuse to my family saying I was coming here to meet my friends and former classmates. But that's not true.



They are not here. The actual reason is that if I stayed in Daykundi, I would be forced to get married." Instead, she arrived in Kabul with a plan: she enrolled in an English language course. These short-term, narrowly-focused private courses - available only to those who can afford them - are, along with madrasas which focus on religious education, the only options for girls to

learn past primary school in Afghanistan. But neither are close to being a substitute for formal schooling. It has now been almost five years since the Taliban stopped girls over 12 going to school, with various reasons given to explain why the ban is still in place. Years in which girls like Alia have grown up without the education they wanted and needed. Years in which the path to a

career has been effectively shut off, narrowing their options until millions of girls in Afghanistan have been left with just one choice: marriage. Alia's story is unusual, not just for her bravery. But she also comes from a family which has the funds to pursue the few opportunities available to young women - a rarity in a country where three in four people cannot meet their basic needs, according to the United Nations. It's not that Alia's family do not want her to study - they accepted she wanted to stay in Kabul, and are funding her English course even now - but even they are constrained by the realities of life in Afghanistan. "Before the ban, my parents passionately encouraged me to go to school.

## Large-scale Russian attack on Ukraine leaves four dead and dozens injured

Russia carried out a deadly large-scale wave of strikes against Ukraine, firing hundreds of drones and dozens of missiles on Saturday night. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Kyiv was the main target, but other areas were also hit, with about 100 people injured. Four people were killed in the capital and wider region, with explosions heard throughout the night. Dozens of residential buildings, a school, an opera house and a museum were damaged. Russia's defence ministry said the Oreshnik hypersonic missile was used in the strikes, which it described as coming in response to Ukraine's "attacks on civilian infrastructure".



Ukraine's military denies targeting civilians. Early on Monday, energy infrastructure was damaged in a missile attack on Russia's Belgorod region bordering Ukraine, including the city of Belgorod, the Interfax news agency reported, citing local authorities. There were no casualties

but power and water supply were interrupted, Interfax said. It did not provide further details. Russia's Yaroslavl region, northeast of Moscow, also came under a drone attack, the Governor Mikhail Yevrayev said on Telegram. Russian President Vladimir Putin launched a

full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. He accused Kyiv of hitting a student dormitory in the town of Starobilsk on Friday, in which Russian officials said 21 people were killed. Ukraine's military said its forces did carry out an attack in Starobilsk in Russian-occupied eastern Ukraine overnight on Friday, but maintained that it struck an elite Russian drone military unit. European leaders have condemned the Russian strikes early on Sunday, which came after warnings from Zelensky that Russia was planning an attack, and that it may have been preparing to use the Oreshnik missile.

## Turkish riot police storm opposition offices after leaders ousted



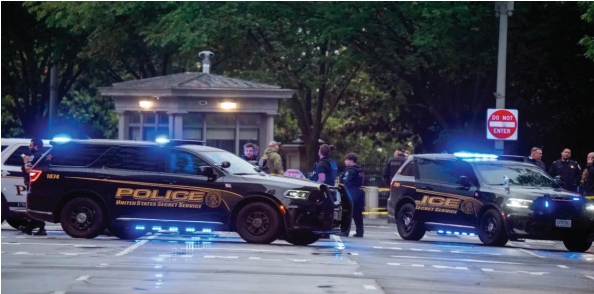
Turkish riot police forced their way into the headquarters of the country's main opposition party on Sunday, days after a court dismissed its leadership. Clouds of tear gas billowed outside the Republican People's Party (CHP) building in Ankara, where party members had blocked the entrances with a makeshift barricade. Footage from the scene showed those inside shouting and throwing objects towards the entrance, and police being sprayed with hoses. Party leader Özgür Özel had vowed to defy an appeal court decision on Thursday which declared his election null and void, in a move further cementing President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's grip on power. The court decided that Özel should be replaced by Kemal Kilicdaroglu, a 77-year-old party veteran who was defeated by Erdogan in the 2023 presidential election. Turkish media reported that Kilicdaroglu's representatives had requested the police carry out "necessary procedures" to hand over the headquarters to

the new leadership, claiming they had so far been barred entry. The city's governor then instructed the police to "implement the court decision", according to a statement from his office. "We are under attack," Özel said in a video message shared on X as the security forces sought entry to the building, where clashes were also reported between his supporters and those of Kilicdaroglu. Özel later emerged from the premises, telling crowds gathered outside: "They tried to uproot and throw us out - to where?" He said the party would "from now be on the streets or in the squares, marching towards power". He then set off towards the Turkish parliament, leading hundreds of supporters through the streets of Ankara. The court's decision overturned a 2025 ruling by a lower court that threw out allegations of vote buying in the party election which made Özel leader. It also means the party's entire executive is replaced, and it is thought its decisions are no longer recognised.



At least 19 people taken to hospital after 'strong smell' reported at Tokyo mall

## SUSPECT KILLED AFTER OPENING FIRE ON SECRET SERVICE NEAR WHITE HOUSE



A gunman who shot at a White House security checkpoint was killed in an exchange of fire with Secret Service agents on Saturday evening, officials have confirmed. The suspect was Nasire Best, a 21-year-old man, the Metropolitan Police Department told the BBC. He reportedly was known to police and had a documented history of mental health conditions. Gunfire

rang out just after 18:00 local time (23:00 GMT) - reporters filming outside ducked and ran for cover inside the White House. US President Donald Trump was at the White House but was unharmed. He thanked officers for their "swift and professional action". The shooting comes a month after a gunman opened fire at the White House Correspondents' Dinner.

## IPL 2026: DELHI CAPITALS DEFEATS KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS BY 40 RUNS



## Who Is Nishesh Basavareddy? The Indian-Origin Star Who Went Viral After Beating World No. 9 Taylor Fritz At French Open

Indian-origin tennis star Nishesh Basavareddy made headlines at the French Open after he beat world No. 9 Taylor Fritz of the United States. The 21-year-old Basavareddy, currently ranked No. 148 in the world, beat his compatriot 7-6, 7-6, 6-7, 6-1. After Taylor Fritz suffered a first-round exit at Roland Garros following a shocking defeat at the hands of countryman Nishesh Basavareddy, he stayed upbeat despite the loss, saying his level was not that bad but the Indian-American "cooked him" with his drop shots. In his first appearance in the main draw of a clay-court major, the American wild card Basavareddy prevailed on his fourth match point after a titanic fight against his compatriot, securing his first victory at Roland-Garros and his first win against a Top 10 player, becoming the first American to achieve this "double" in Paris since 1996 and Chris Woodruff, who



had then beaten Andre Agassi. Who Is Nishesh Basavareddy? The Indian-origin Basavareddy was born in Newport Beach, California, in 2005. His parents had moved to the United States from Nellore, India, in 1999. His older brother, Nishanth, was also born in the United States. His father initially worked for Toyota. Basavareddy turned pro in 2024 and had earlier been among the top 100 in the world too. In the pair's first ATP head-to-head meeting, Basavareddy

often put the seventh seed on the back foot with pinpoint backhand accuracy and deft drop shots. "He just played incredibly well," Fritz said of Basavareddy. "The biggest thing was just the drop shots were crazy. Typically, when someone is drop-shotting me too much I kind of just tell myself, 'Okay, I need to hit the ball deeper'." "He was hitting insane drop shots, off balls that were landing on the baseline. He killed me with that, and there's not really much I can do about it."

## Pokemon YouTuber GameboyLuke Finally Responds to Cheating Allegations And Admits Hiding Things From RaidAway

Pokemon YouTuber Luke "GameboyLuke" has finally responded after days of backlash surrounding the cheating allegations involving fellow creator Rich "RaidAway" and Rich's ex-partner, Taylor. The drama originally started on May 21, 2026, when RaidAway posted on X claiming that Taylor cheated on him with GameboyLuke during New Year's. Rich also said he only discovered the situation months later, despite the breakup already happening back in January. His emotional posts quickly spread online, with many fans shocked seeing two well-known Pokemon creators suddenly caught in personal relationship drama. Now, after several days of online discussions, GameboyLuke



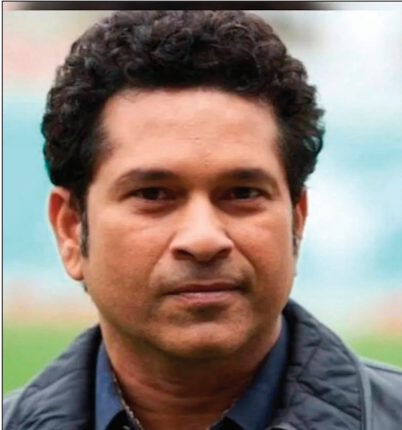
has shared his side of the story. In a detailed statement posted on X on May 24, Luke admitted he handled things badly, apologized directly to Rich, and confirmed there were still feelings between him and Taylor from their past relationship. What GameboyLuke said while

responding to the cheating allegations In his statement, GameboyLuke said he understood people were upset and admitted that he should have told Rich about the situation much earlier. He called his actions "incredibly wrong" and said he was not trying to make excuses

for what happened. Luke also clarified one of the biggest talking points online. According to him, he and Taylor "did not sleep together" before her breakup with RaidAway. However, he added that this did not erase the betrayal or emotional damage caused by the situation. The YouTuber explained that he had been trying to deal with much of the situation privately before finally deciding to speak publicly. He also acknowledged that many people would probably not be satisfied with just one post but felt remaining silent was making things worse. GameboyLuke says he and Taylor still had feelings for each other. Another major part of Luke's statement focused on his past relationship with Taylor.

## Sachin Tendulkar's Message To India's Fastest Man Gurindervir Singh: "Keep Sprinting Ahead"

Gurindervir Singh is making headlines. The athlete became the first Indian sprinter to clock a sub-10.10 timing in the 100m race. Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar lauded India's sprint sensation Gurindervir Singh after the Punjab athlete scripted history by becoming the fastest Indian ever in the men's 100m event. Gurindervir clocked a sensational 10.09 seconds at the 29th National Senior Athletics Federation Competition 2026 in Ranchi. The 25-year-old's remarkable effort rewrote the national record and secured qualification for both the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games. Reacting to the historic feat, Tendulkar shared a post on X, praising the sprinter for his landmark achievement. "Incredibly proud of Gurindervir Singh for becoming the fastest Indian ever. What a phenomenal achievement. Keep sprinting ahead, champion!" Tendulkar said in a post on X. Gurindervir's record-breaking run capped a dramatic day in Ranchi. He had



earlier clocked 10.17 seconds in the semifinals to briefly set a new national mark, only for fellow sprinter Animesh Kujur to surpass it moments later with a 10.15-second effort. In the final, however, Gurindervir reclaimed the record emphatically with his historic 10.09s finish, while both he and Animesh booked their spots for the Glasgow



Commonwealth Games. Earlier on Sunday, Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya congratulated the sprinter after he became the first Indian to clock below 10.10 seconds in the men's 100m event. In a post on X, Mandaviya wrote, "10.09 seconds! Gurindervir Singh, you have rewritten history. The entire nation is incredibly proud of you!" z

MERCEDES-AMG PETRONAS  
ANTONELLI WINS CANADIAN GP  
FOR HIS 4TH STRAIGHT F1 VICTORY



## World Football Day: ZFA Empowers 1,400+ Young Footballers To Accelerate India's Football Growth

On the occasion of World Football Day, Zinc Football Academy (ZFA) reiterated its commitment to driving the growth and development of football in India. As it continues to celebrate the transformative power of football in shaping young lives, Zinc Football, in the past year alone, has positively impacted more than 1,400 young boys and girls in its bid to nurture grassroots talent and support India's footballing aspirations. This season has been a landmark chapter in ZFA's journey. The academy clinched its third Rajasthan State Men's League title, remarkably achieved with one of the youngest squads in the competition, underlining its strong development pathway. On the national stage, ZFA's Under-18 team finished runners-up in the



AIFF Under-18 Elite League, emerging as the second-best Under-18 team in India. Marking another significant milestone, the Zawar academy made its debut in the I-League 3, one of the top tiers of Indian football. The girls' team also delivered an exceptional season within just one year of its debut, securing titles at the Doon Cup, DAV Under-19 Nationals, and Asmita

Football League, while currently leading the points table in the ongoing Rajasthan Senior Women's League, highlighting the rapid rise of women's football at ZFA. Guided by its core philosophy, "Football Creates Dreams. Zinc Football Academy Builds Futures", Hindustan Zinc's ZFA has evolved from a grassroots initiative into a professionally driven foot-

ball ecosystem. With a strong focus on holistic development, the academy combines world-class infrastructure, structured coaching methodologies, and technology-led performance analysis to nurture the next generation of Indian footballers. Beyond the pitch, the academy promotes a true student-athlete model, ensuring every player's education is taken care of, all on a full scholarship basis. Since its inception in 2018, Zinc Football Academy-an AIFF 3-star rated academy-has consistently produced players for India's age-group teams, strengthening the nation's talent pool. Recently, the academy also launched India's first residential football academy for girls, with an inaugural batch of 20 players from rural backgrounds.

## WWE News: CM Punk Spotted During WWE Break Looking Absolutely Jacked In Viral Fan Gym Footage



CM Punk might be away from WWE television right now, but fans are still talking about him nonstop after a new gym video started making rounds online. The former World Heavyweight Champion recently appeared in fan-shot footage while training during his break from WWE programming, and honestly, people could barely recognize him at first. The reason? Punk looked seriously jacked. The viral clip quickly spread across wrestling social media after a fan shared that they randomly noticed Punk training at the same gym. According to the fan, they didn't even realize it was the WWE star initially because of how muscular and ripped he looked compared to his recent TV appearances. Soon after, an X user reposted the TikTok clip, and wrestling fans instantly started reacting to Punk's physique transformation during his current hiatus. CM Punk's new look during WWE break gets

internet attention The gym clip became a huge talking point mostly because fans were shocked at how different CM Punk looked physically. In the footage, The Second City Saint appeared noticeably more muscular while training during his time away from WWE TV. CM Punk has been absent from WWE ever since WrestleMania 42, where he faced Roman Reigns in a singles match for the World Heavyweight Championship. Even though Punk delivered a strong performance in the high-profile bout, he ultimately failed to win the title. Since that match, he hasn't appeared on WWE's weekly shows, which has left fans constantly wondering when he'll return. A lot of people online started speculating whether Punk could be preparing for another major run once he returns. Others simply joked that the former champion looked "built different" during his break from wrestling.

## Travis Head's Wife Abused After Virat Kohli Incident, Ugly Side Of IPL Fan Culture Exposed Again

The Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) contest might have been a dead-rubber form the IPL 2026 playoffs qualification standpoint, but it went on to enthrall fans in an unexpected way after a personal battle erupted between Virat Kohli and Travis Head. The match ended with SRH securing a victory, shortly after which, Kohli turned down Head's handshake, setting the internet ablaze. While fans could make out that the RCB star wasn't happy with Head's antics in the middle, Kohli's

fans decided to drag the SRH batter's wife Jessica into the matter. It isn't the first time that players' spouses have had to bear the consequences of what happened on the field. Travis Head's catch to dismiss Rohit Sharma during India and Australia's ODI World Cup final in 2023 produced a similar experience for Jessica. The aftermath of the Kohli-Head clash in the IPL 2026 match wasn't much different for her. "It feels like a repeat of the abuse that happened after the World Cup. I woke up to my socials blasting... we are fine but



they are attacking my friends and family," Jessica said while speaking to Australian media outlet The Advertiser. "I think across all sports at

the moment there's an important conversation around mental health, perspective and the way we speak to one another. Passion will always

be part of sport, but so is remembering there are real people and families behind the game. Hopefully this encourages more kindness and support for one another," she added. What Prompted Virat Koli To Snub Travis Head Handshake? Former India all-rounder Irfan Pathan, who was doing commentary during the SRH vs RCB match, revealed that a lot transpired between Kohli and Head while the former was batting. The on-field tussle then led to the snubbed handshake, which could've been avoided. "Yes, I was

commentating at that time. Look, Virat also likes to play cricket the way the Australians do. A little banter, a little aggression, a little talk of 'okay, come and bowl a few deliveries.' That's what he was saying: 'You are not an Impact Player.' Generally, he is an Impact Player, and he goes off the field. He asked him to bowl, something happened, and he was calling him out as well. Look at what happened after the game-I am not going to talk much about that. But what happened on the field is okay, it happens."

# Grand ‘Blast Zone’ Press Meet Held Successfully – Massive Theatrical Release on May 28!



Action King Arjun Sarja, Preeti Mukundan and Abhirami starrer much-awaited action entertainer ‘Blast Zone’ is all set for a grand theatrical release on May 28. The film is being prestigiously distributed across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana by Sithara Entertainments. Directed by Subhash K Raj and produced by AGS Entertainment, the film has music composed by ‘KGF’ fame Ravi Basur. Ahead of the release, the film’s team held a grand press meet on Monday at Park Hyatt Hyderabad. Speaking at the event, Arjun Sarja said, “Blast Zone is a very special film for me. The film carries a powerful message about standing against injustice in society and empowering women with courage and confidence. The

movie blends women empowerment with strong commercial elements. Preeti Mukundan and Abhirami have performed outstanding action sequences after undergoing martial arts training. Ravi Basur’s background score is exceptional, and every technical department has delivered brilliant work. This film will not feel like a dubbed movie; every character will connect emotionally with the audience. I am confident everyone will thoroughly enjoy Blast Zone in theatres on May 28.” Actress Abhirami said, “I am extremely happy to be part of such a powerful mass entertainer. I have never performed such an intense role or action sequences before. I worked very hard for this film and even underwent special training. The trailer has received a fantastic

response, and the film is packed with stunning visuals, music, and action. Blast Zone is definitely a theatrical experience.” Actress Preeti Mukundan said, “We are overwhelmed by the tremendous response to the Telugu trailer. I strongly believe Blast Zone will become a huge success in Telugu as well. I thank Sithara Entertainments for releasing our film on a grand scale.” Director Subhash K Raj said, “Audiences will witness vintage Arjun sir in this film. The movie will be a treat for his fans. Preeti Mukundan and Abhirami delivered exceptional performances. After seeing the response to the trailer, I understood the expectations are very high, and I assure audiences that the film will exceed those expectations.”

# PEDDI WILL STAY IN AUDIENCE HEARTS: SHIVARAJ KUMAR

It was a pleasure working with Ram Charan. The film Peddi will remain in the minds of the audience: Kannada superstar Shivaraj Kumar. Mega Power Star Ram Charan’s most awaited action drama ‘Peddi’ is creating huge buzz across the country. The film is already mesmerizing the audience with its amazing glimpses, two chartbuster songs and a powerful theatrical trailer. Directed by Buchi Babu Sana, the film is being produced by Venkata Satish Kilaru under the banner of Mythri Movie Makers, Sukumar Writings and Vriddhi Cinemas. Peddi is set to release globally on June 4. Special premieres will be held on June 3. In this backdrop, the film team organized a grand press meet in Bengaluru. Mega Power Star Ram Charan said at the Bengaluru press meet.. Greetings to all the Kannada audiences. Heartfelt thanks to all the fans. I feel lucky to receive so much love doing what I love and know. I bow to all of you and to God. I am coming before you again after almost two and a half years. We all worked very honestly and devoted our lives for this film. Write it down... This will be one of the best films. Shivanna is like a father, an uncle, and a brother to me. He is a legend in the Indian film industry and the king of Kannada cinema. I feel blessed to be working with such a great actor. I am very happy that



AR Rahman is a part of this film. Janhvi also worked very honestly for this film. This is the first film for our producer Satish. He did it with all his heart. Without Buchi Babu, this film would not exist. Also, thank you to Jagapathi Babu and DOP Ratnavelu. Special thanks to Sukumar garu who was the main reason for this film to happen. The most inspiring film I have done in my life is ‘Peddi’. I hope you all will definitely watch this film in theaters on June 4th. Kannada superstar Shivraj Kumar said.. Greetings to everyone. Ram Charan has worked very hard to reach this level. He has been working very honestly since his first film. He always has the blessings of his parents, Pawan Kalyan and fans. On

one occasion, Pawan Kalyan and Ram Charan sat side by side at an event. The affection between them touched me a lot. It is like the bond I have with Puneeth. I like Ram Charan a lot. It was a great pleasure to work with him. Producer Satish, director Buchibabu and Ratnavelu all showed me a lot of love and affection. I believe that Ram Charan will definitely get a National Award with the film ‘Peddhi’. We all love Chiranjeevi. I also participated in the blood donation camp organized on his birthday and donated blood. The audience loves Chiranjeevi’s family a lot. I have never seen such affection anywhere. There are no language differences between us. We always support good

artists with love. I told Charan that I would do it immediately when he told me that there is a role in this film. Buchibabu garu has crafted my role wonderfully. The bonding between us will definitely impress the audience. There is a strong emotion in this film. The story told by Buchibabu garu will definitely connect every audience. The character of ‘Peddi’ will remain in everyone’s heart. I am also eagerly waiting for June 4th. Heroine Janhvi Kapoor said.. Namaste Bengaluru. Our movie ‘Peddi’ is releasing on June 4th. It is a very special story. I hope everyone will definitely watch it in theaters and enjoy it. Director Buchi Babu has crafted a wonderful story. I am very happy to act with

Ram Charan garu in this movie. Also, I consider it a great honor in my life to get the opportunity to act in a scene with our Kannada superstar Shivanna garu. I hope you all will enjoy watching ‘Peddhi’ in theaters on June 4th. Producer Venkata Satish Kilaru said: Hello everyone. I feel lucky to have the opportunity to produce a prestigious film like ‘Peddi’. It is an excellent sports drama. It has all the elements that can be watched with the whole family. Ram Charan garu has worked tirelessly for this film. His dedication and hard work are visible on screen at every moment. We have made this film with a lot of love. I hope you all enjoy watching ‘Peddi’ in theaters on June 4th.

# Harshith Reddy’s “Deewana” Set for a Grand Worldwide Theatrical Release on June 19 Through Geetha Film Distributors

Young and talented actor Harshith Reddy, who recently scored a successful hit with “Subham,” is now coming up with his new film “Deewana.” The makers officially announced today that the movie will have a grand worldwide theatrical release on June 19 through Geetha Film



Young and talented actor Harshith Reddy, who recently scored a successful hit with “Subham,” is now coming up with his new film “Deewana.”

Distributors. The poster promises an intense one side love story full of madness. This youthful love story has already grabbed the audience’s attention with its promotional content, including the teaser and songs. The teaser of

“Deewana” received a superb response, while the song “Idi Prema... Idi Prema...” sung by Karthik has turned into a chartbuster. The film is generating a strong buzz among youth audiences. The movie is being pro-

duced by Vasudev Koppineni and Sridevi Karyampudi under the banners of ARHA Media and V Studios. Actress Smeha Manimegalai and director Srikanth Sangishetti are being introduced through this beautiful love story.

**Cast:**  
Harshith Reddy, Smeha Manimegalai  
**Technical Team:**  
Costumes – Manasa

**Production Designer** – Jhansi Gojala  
**Editor** – Hrushikesh Paspal  
**DOP** – Vamsi Pachipulusu  
**Music** – Eshwar Chand  
**Digital Marketing** – House Full  
**PRO** – GSK Media (Suresh – Sreenivas)  
**Producers** – Vasudev Koppineni, Sridevi Karyampudi  
**Story, Screenplay & Direction** – Srikanth Sangishetti

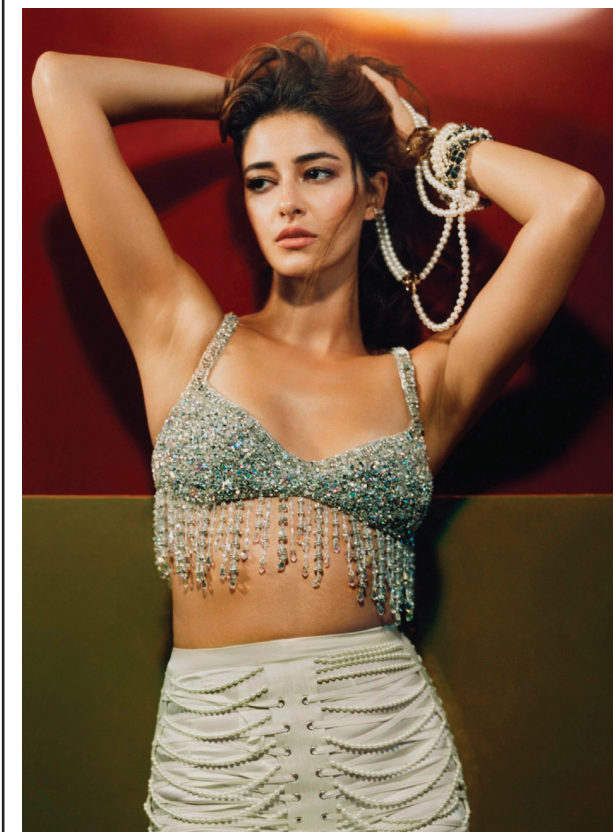
# Vihari OTT Global Vision Unveiled during Cannes Film Festival by 'Bigg Boss' Fame Sri Satya while filming Cannes as a Tourist destination

The Vihari OTT team released a special preview at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival, marking a new chapter in Telugu digital entertainment and travel storytelling. For the past 18 years, Vihari has entertained audiences with its travel programs. Now, it is transforming into a full-fledged global travel OTT platform. Known as one of the most popular travel brands in Telugu media, Vihari has showcased tourist destinations, cultures, traditions, food, and unique experiences from around the world. After successfully presenting many inspiring travel stories on television, Vihari is now set to reach audiences on a much larger scale through OTT.



Vihari OTT will be launched grandly in June as the first Telugu OTT platform dedicated entirely to travel content.

# Liger Beauty’s Bharatanatyam Triggers Huge Backlash



A liger fame Ananya Panday’s latest film Chand Mera Dil has found itself at the center of a major social media debate after a Bharatanatyam-inspired dance sequence from the movie went viral online. The clip, featuring Ananya performing a fusion version of the classical dance form, triggered strong reactions from viewers, with many accusing the film of failing to respect the traditional art form. Several social media users criticized the choreography, expressions, and execution of the sequence, arguing that Bharatanatyam requires years of discipline and training. Some netizens even compared Ananya’s performance to iconic classical dance moments by actresses like Sridevi and Sai

Pallavi, claiming those performances reflected the true grace of the art form. The controversy intensified after political spokesperson Dr. Shama Mohamed also reacted strongly online, stating that classical dance forms should not be insulted through poorly executed performances. Meanwhile, many memes and trolling posts flooded X and Reddit, with users mocking the dance sequence and questioning Bollywood’s approach towards classical art forms. However, not everyone agreed with the criticism. A section of viewers defended Ananya and pointed out that the sequence was designed as a cinematic fusion performance rather than a pure Bharatanatyam recital.

# DIRECTOR VENU UDUGULA LAUNCHES ‘SINGLE RAJU’ TITLE AND GLIMPSE

Another beautiful rural love story is all set to entertain Telugu audiences. Titled ‘Single Raju’, the film stars Vishwas, Mounika, and Divya in lead roles and is being directed by young filmmaker S.S. Varma. With its unique title already creating curiosity among movie lovers, the title poster and glimpse of the film were grandly launched at Prasad Labs, Hyderabad, in collaboration with ‘Maaa Events’. Director and producer Venu Udagula attended the event as the chief guest. He officially unveiled the title poster and released the glimpse

of ‘Single Raju’. Speaking on the occasion, Venu Udagula said, “I like both S.S. Varma and Vishwas very much. The moment I heard the story, I found it very interesting. They started this project with great determination and are making it wonderfully. The entire team is working very hard, and I wholeheartedly wish the film becomes a big success.” Director S.S. Varma said, “This film would not have been possible without the support of Venu Udagula anna. More than me, my parents worked hard for this movie. I strongly believe ‘Single Raju’ will



stand out as a complete entertainer that will surely impress the audience.” Hero Vishwas said,

“Director S.S. Varma and all of us are making this film with great passion. During the village sched-

ule, everyone there supported us wholeheartedly. We request audiences to encourage and support