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OM NAMO VENKATESAYA



07-05-2026
Total pilgrims: 70,001
Tonsures: 30,085
Hundi kankals: 877 CR
Waiting Compartments: 25

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam
(with out SSD Tokens) - 8 H

GOLD, SILVER FUTURES CONTINUE UPWARD TREND ON MCX

GOLD FUTURES (JUNE 5)	
OPENED AT (JUNE 5)	₹1,52,672 Per 10 Grams
By F&O from previous close (15.55:30)	
AT ANCHOR (12:20 PM)	₹1,52,853 Per 10 Grams
Up ₹332 or 0.28%	
INTRADAY HIGH	₹1,53,103 Per 10 Grams
Up ₹442 or 0.35%	
SILVER FUTURES (JULY 3)	
OPENED AT (JUNE 5)	₹2,59,999 Per 100gms
By F&O from previous close (12:20 PM)	
AT ANCHOR (12:20 PM)	₹1,459 Per 100gms
Up ₹0.56%	

India rejects Canada report alleging foreign interference claims

New Delhi, May 7: The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Thursday firmly dismissed recent allegations made by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), which suggested India's involvement in foreign interference activities in Canada, calling the claims "baseless imputations." Addressing the weekly media briefing, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal reiterated that India categorically rejects such assertions and maintains a consistent position on the matter. He stated that India is a democratic nation committed to international norms and respects the sovereignty of all countries. He further emphasized that it is not India's policy to interfere in the internal affairs of other nations, adding that concerns of this nature should be addressed through established diplomatic and institutional channels rather than through public commentary or politicised narratives. But the conditions.



Kodangal to emerge as education, industrial hub: CM Revanth

Hyderabad
TSIT Bureau:

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday said Kodangal would soon emerge as a major hub for education and industries in Telangana, adding that the State government was committed to transforming the constituency into a model region for the entire country. Addressing a massive public meeting after laying foundation stones for the development of the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple and several infrastructure projects, the Chief Minister said he was working nearly 18 hours a day for the development of Telangana and the welfare of its people. Revanth Reddy stated that Telangana was progressing with the support of all sections of society and that the government aimed to make the State one of the top performers in development and welfare. Highlighting the rapid transformation taking place in Kodangal, he announced that



major educational institutions, including a Medical College, Engineering College, Advanced Technology Centre (ATC), Nursing College, Polytechnic College and Sainik School, were being established in the constituency. He said the educational infrastructure would be completed within one-and-a-half years, attracting students from across Telangana. The Chief Minister also announced the establishment of a massive industrial park across 2,300 acres at Lagacharla, where several

leading national industries are expected to set up units. He added that improved road connectivity between Hyderabad Airport and Kodangal was also being planned. Revanth Reddy informed that nearly 90 per cent of the Vikarabad railway line works had been completed and that a cement factory would begin operations within six months, creating employment opportunities for local youth. On irrigation, the Chief Minister directed officials to complete the Narayanpet-Kodangal Lift Irrigation Scheme within 18 months to bring Krishna river water to the region. He assured full government support, including funds and speedy land acquisition, for timely completion of the project. The Chief Minister also highlighted welfare initiatives such as farm loan waivers, Rythu Bharosa, Indiramma housing, ration cards, fine rice distribution and fee reimbursement schemes.

Former Mamata aide Suvendu Adhikari to be Bengal CM, elected BJP legislature party leader

New Delhi (TSIT)

Suvendu Adhikari, once a close aide of Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee, is set to take her place in the West Bengal Chief Minister Office.

Adhikari was today elected leader of the BJP legislature party in Kolkata in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah who was party's central observer for the task. Shah promised Sonar Bangla after Adhikari was elected and said Bengal had placed



tremendous responsibility on the shoulders of the BJP, which must not falter. Adhikari will take oath as CM at a ceremony to be held at Brigade Parade Ground tomorrow. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and all top BJP and NDA leaders will

attend the oath-taking of the first-ever BJP government in West Bengal.

Adhikari sealed his claim on the top job after defeating Mamata twice — from Nandigram in 2021 and again Bhabanipur this time. Speaking today in Kolkata, Shah said, "On behalf of the party, I also want to say that the expectations the people of Bengal have placed on us, and the mandate they have given with hope and trust, we will make every effort to ensure that their faith is not broken in any way.

Congress demands Kargil-style review as questions persist over Operation Sindoor

New Delhi (TSIT)

The Congress on Thursday renewed its demand for greater accountability and strategic review over the events surrounding Operation Sindoor, with senior leader Jairam Ramesh asserting that several key questions linked to the military operation and its diplomatic aftermath remain unresolved even a year after its launch.

In a detailed state-



ment issued on the first anniversary of the operation, Ramesh said the nation must salute the courage and achievements of India's armed forces while also examining developments that followed the conflict. "As we celebrate the first anniversary of the

launch of Operation Sindoor and salute the achievements of our armed forces, it would be useful to recall" a number of subsequent events, he said. The Congress leader raised concerns over the circumstances in which the ceasefire was announced, noting that the "first announcement of the cease fire that halted Operation Sindoor unexpectedly" came on May 10, 2025, from US Secretary of State Marco Rubio.



Kavitha warns congress over Palamuru-Rangareddy project

Hyderabad TSIT:

K. Kavitha on Friday criticised both the Congress government and the previous BRS regime over delays in the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Project, alleging that Telangana was still facing injustice in Krishna river water allocation. Addressing the Palamuru-Rangareddy Project Sadhana Sabha at Chowdarigudem near Shadnagar, Kavitha said despite spending nearly Rs.33,000 crore on the project, water had not reached even 33 acres. She accused the previous BRS government of changing the project source point from Jurala to Srisaillam, leading to disputes with Andhra Pradesh and incomplete canal systems. Targeting Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, she alleged that the Congress government had failed to take up basic works despite winning 12 seats in Palamuru. Kavitha warned that Telangana Rakshana Sena would launch a padyatra if works at Lakshmidhevipalli were not started by Dasara and demanded national status for the project.

CM Revanth flags off Haj pilgrims, announces minority welfare initiatives

Hyderabad TSIT Bureau:

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday reaffirmed the Telangana Government's commitment to minority welfare, skill development and inclusive growth while flagging off buses carrying Haj pilgrims in Hyderabad.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said minorities were being given priority in welfare schemes, education and employment opportunities. Recalling last year's Haj bus accident in which 44 pilgrims from Telangana lost their lives, he said the State Government had provided Rs.5 lakh compensation to each affected family.

Revanth Reddy said the government was providing scholarships for minority students pursuing higher and overseas education and



upgrading ITIs into Advanced Technology Centres (ATCs) to prepare youth for global employment opportunities, especially in countries like Germany and Japan.

The Chief Minister also announced free retrofitting of autos operating within Hyderabad's Outer Ring Road limits into electric vehicles to reduce fuel expenses and improve the livelihoods of auto drivers. Later, during a review

meeting on Minority Welfare at the Secretariat, he directed officials to establish special degree colleges for minority students with a focus on skill development and Artificial Intelligence training. He also instructed officials to ensure timely payment of honorariums to Imams and Mouzams and proposed developing cultural and religious structures under the Musi Riverfront project to reflect Telangana's "Ganga-

CM Naidu announces Praja Darbar-style grievance platform

Vijayawada (TSIT):

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has announced that a dedicated platform similar to Praja Darbar will soon be introduced to strengthen the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS).

He directed the officials to ensure that public grievances were resolved immediately with accountability and compassion to win the confidence of the people. Public representatives and officials must jointly work towards resolving grievances. Drawing inspiration from Singapore's grievance redressal model, he emphasized the need for faster and more localised problem-solving, including at the mandal level.

Speaking on the second day of the seventh District Collectors' conference at



Secretariat on Friday, the Chief Minister reviewed key areas, including file clearance systems, public grievance redressal, data integration, AWARE, and WhatsApp Governance.

He expressed concern over the delay in redressal of public grievances and warned the officials against negligence in grievance redressal. The Chief Minister appreciated the significant improvement in e-file clearance time-lines across the state, noting that average clearance time

has reduced from nearly 10 days to about 2 days over the last three months.

Naidu congratulated Ministers, Chief Secretary Sai Prasad, Collectors, SPs, and Secretaries for accelerating administrative processes, with some files being disposed of within hours despite heavy workloads, and directed them to further increase the speed of file disposal and move towards a near-complete digital governance system with minimal manual files.

Mangaluru Airport gives hands-on aviation sector experience to district toppers



Mangaluru, May 8: Mangaluru International Airport welcomed second PUC toppers from science, arts and commerce streams across Dakshina Kannada district for an exclusive experiential visit, offering them a rare behind-the-scenes glimpse into airport operations on May 7. The visit was organised to mark the city's tryst with civil aviation 75 years ago, when the first aircraft carrying then prime minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru landed at then Bajpe aerodrome on December 25, 1951. The airport has

organized various programmes to mark the Platinum jubilee of this historical event throughout the year, culminating in the finale planned in December 2026.

The initiative aimed to inspire young achievers by providing a ring-side view of the dynamic aviation ecosystem — from terminal operations to critical airside functions. During the visit, students were introduced to key passenger journey touchpoints, including security procedures, airline and terminal operations, and the role of

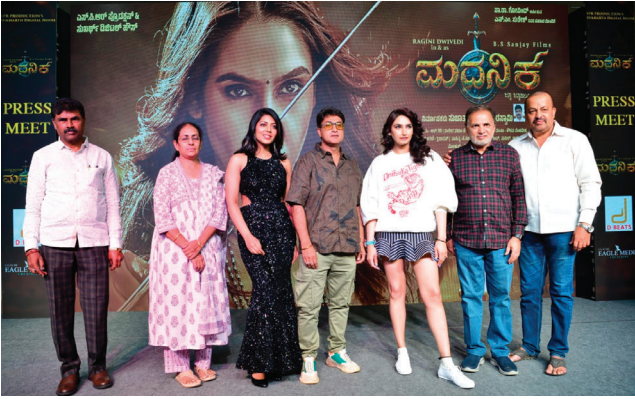
the Aviation Security Group unit of Central Industrial Security Force in ensuring safety and security.

The students also gained insights into the airport's focus on passenger experience, learning how terminal operations are designed to ensure comfort, efficiency and satisfaction. A key highlight was their interaction with vital operational units such as aircraft rescue and fire fighting and air traffic control, which play a crucial role in maintaining safe and seamless airside operations — ensuring calm skies and efficient management on ground.

Senior leadership of Mangaluru Airport shared valuable insights into the growth of the aviation sector, enhancing passenger expectations and the diverse career opportunities, these expectations bring forth. The student interaction served as an eye-opener, encouraging them to explore careers in aviation and related fields.

Mangaluru Airport will shortly host the 10th Standard (SSLC) toppers of Dakshina Kannada district for a similar experiential visit. Mangaluru Airport remains committed to engaging with the community and nurturing future talent by creating meaningful opportunities that inspire and inform the next generation.

Madanika' Blooms at the Confluence of Old Kannada and New Kannada



Bengaluru: Actress Ragini Dwivedi, who has so far captured the attention of Kannada movie lovers through her glamorous and action roles, is now preparing to come before the audience with a period role called 'Madanika'. 'Madanika' is a type of sculpture found in temples, and the film team has chosen this name for their film because it is apt for the story of the film. Most of the work on 'Madanika' has already been quietly completed, and now the film team has released the teaser and audio of the film 'Madanika'.

'Madanika' is produced by Sujatha Lakshmi and Kumaraswamy under the banner 'S.P.R Productions'

and 'Sakharth Digital House' and is directed by B. S. Sanjay. At a recent event, the members of the film crew were present and released the teaser and song of the film 'Madanika' and spoke about the film.

First, speaking about 'Madanika', the film's director B. S. Sanjay said, 'This is a fictional story. It is a story that takes place about four hundred years ago. The story unfolds in the backdrop of two time periods in the film. We have used both old Kannada and new Kannada styles in the dialogues of this film according to the context. We have taken time for about two years for the post-production work of the film.'

Nolte Küchen Elevates Its Presence in Bengaluru with a New Showroom Experience



Bengaluru : Nolte Küchen, one of Germany's most renowned kitchen brands, elevates its presence in Bengaluru with the launch of a flagship showroom in Indiranagar. Marking a strategic direction in the brand's journey in the city, the space introduces a refined retail experience that seamlessly blends global design excellence with localized expertise. The standalone 3,500 sq. ft. showroom showcases Nolte Küchen's latest collections including Nolte Neo, Nolte, and Express. Visitors can explore a wide selection of styles, materials, and configurations tailored to various needs and budgets while benefiting from exceptional design quality, warranty, and service.

Speaking about the expansion, Mr. Selva Kumar Rajulu, Managing Director & Senior Vice President, Middle East, Africa and Asia, Nolte FZE, said: "Our new Bengaluru showroom reflects Nolte Küchen's long-term commitment to the Indian market and our vision of bringing world-class German kitchens closer to Indian consumers. With a planned investment of nearly INR 50 crore and an ambitious expansion strategy across key cities, we see India as one of the most important growth markets for the brand globally. Currently, 13 Nolte Küchen stores are operational across India, and we are planning to open seven more stores by the end of this year as part of our continued expansion journey."

Designed as an immersive experience center, it features a curated selection of contemporary kitchen concepts and intelligent layouts, offering customers, architects,

and designers' solutions that seamlessly combine smart functionality and contemporary design.

A key highlight of the showroom is Nolte's advanced material palette. Designs such as Pearl and Manhattan feature anti-fingerprint acrylic glass fronts in contemporary tones like taupe, paired with elegant glass elements that add depth and lightness to the space. The result is a clean, sophisticated finish that enhances durability while maintaining a refined aesthetic.

With this launch, Nolte Küchen continues to strengthen its presence in India, offering Bengaluru a new benchmark in kitchen design. nolteenoo collection Pure & Lodge kitchen is designed using Neo Lodge - an exclusive door front crafted with wood veneer and fluted or grooved detailing - paired with Neo Pure in a metallic gold finish. The design incorporates the Neo Matrix system with a top profile and push-to-open doors, resulting in a clean, seamless look. Nolte Küchen collection - Porto, the only classic kitchen in the showroom, features integrated seating created using cabinetry, glass wall units and illuminated drawer interiors. Elegant mouldings and brass handles add a touch of classic opulence to the otherwise understated design. Nolte Küchen collection - Artline and Perfect Plus kitchen features Artline's grooved-look shutters at a more accessible price point than Neo Exclusive Lodge, along with Nolte's newly introduced Perfect Plus surfaces. These surfaces resist fingerprint marks, making them highly practical and easy to maintain.

MSD India launches nation-wide cervical cancer awareness initiative with Madhuri Dixit

Bangalore : MSD (known as Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, N.J., USA in the United States and Canada) today announced the launch of its cervical cancer awareness campaign in India, in collaboration with acclaimed actor, public figure and Mother, Madhuri Dixit Nene. The campaign initiative aims to bring conversations around women's preventive health to the forefront and encourage women and parents across India to speak to their doctors about cervical cancer and appropriate preventive healthcare options.

Cervical cancer remains one of the most common cancers affecting women in India. Despite being largely preventable through timely medical consultation and preventive measures, nearly one woman in India dies every seven minutes, amounting to approximately 200 deaths every day (Data as per Globocan HPV India Report 2023). The campaign seeks to address

EVERY SEVEN MINUTES, NEARLY ONE WOMAN IN INDIA LOSES HER LIFE TO CERVICAL CANCER, DESPITE IT BEING LARGELY PREVENTABLE



critical gaps in awareness and the tendency to delay preventive healthcare, particularly among women.

As part of the initiative, a series of short digital films featuring Madhuri Dixit was released across digital platforms. Through relatable, factual and informative messaging, the films highlight key facts about cervical cancer, its link to the human papillomavirus (HPV), and seeking guidance from healthcare professionals. The films urge women and parents to prioritize conversations with gynecologists and pediatricians about cervical cancer prevention, reinforcing the importance of awareness and informed discussions with healthcare professionals.

It encourages individuals and families to reflect on how health decisions are frequently delayed until symptoms appear despite the availability of effective preventive options. The campaign underscores that cervical cancer should not become another disease detected at a later stage.

Speaking on the initiative, Brecht Vanneste, Managing Director, MSD India region, said, "Cervical cancer awareness and early consultation are a critical public health priority. Raising awareness about HPV and preventive healthcare can significantly improve long-term health outcomes for women. At MSD, we are committed to supporting initiatives that encourage informed conversations and empower women to take proactive steps to protect their health."

ZENO 200 launched on Amazon with military-grade durability under Rs.10,000

Bengaluru: ZENO has launched its latest smartphone, the ZENO 200, exclusively on Amazon, positioning it as a stylish yet rugged device priced under Rs.10,000. The smartphone comes with an IP65 rating and MIL-STD-810H military-grade durability, features rarely seen in the budget smartphone segment.

Priced at a special launch offer of Rs.9,999, the ZENO 200 is available in a 4GB+8GB expandable RAM variant with 128GB storage. The device is designed for users seeking both style and performance while ensuring durability for everyday use. Speaking on the launch, Arijet Talapatra said the ZENO series represents a blend of trendy design and toughness aimed at Gen Z



consumers. He added that despite rising global memory prices, the company has kept the smartphone affordable while offering premium features. The smartphone sports a 6.75-inch HD+ display with a 120Hz refresh rate and DTS-powered sound technology for an immersive viewing experience. It also features Sola, itel's AI assistant, which supports smart summariza-

tion, writing assistance, grammar correction, document management, and AI-generated wallpapers. Among its standout features is Ultralink connectivity, which enables communication support even in remote areas with weak or no network coverage. The phone also includes an IR blaster and several AI-powered productivity tools.

BWSSB Blue Force Crackdown Across Bengaluru: 54,625 Buildings Inspected, 11,217 Illegal Connections Disconnected; Rs. 55 Crore Revenue Generated!

Bengaluru : Declaring a war against water misuse, illegal connections, and chronic defaulters, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has continued its rigorous city-wide inspections through its special operations squad, the 'Blue Force'. Over the last five months, a staggering 54,625 buildings have been inspected, and 11,217 illegal connections violating the rules have been ruthlessly disconnected. This significant operation has resulted in the saving of 1,000 Million Liters of drinking water and has brought in an additional revenue of Rs. 55 Crore to the Board, including prorata charges and the value of the saved water.

Key Highlights of the Operation: Massive Inspection Drive: A total of 54,625 buildings have been physically inspected across all four zones (North, East, West, and South) of the city.

Disconnections: A total of 11,217 connections have been disconnected. This includes 9,751 drinking water connections and 1,466 sewerage connections.

Highest Disconnections in East Zone: The East Zone leads in cases of illegal connections and pending dues, with a maximum of 3,151 connections disconnected here. Highest Inspections in South Zone: The maximum number of physical inspections were carried out in the South Zone, where BWSSB officials personally visited and checked 13,908 buildings. Rs. 50 Crore Revenue to BWSSB Coffers via Prorata Charges: This continuous and strict operation by the BWSSB has successfully put a brake on massive revenue leakage. The ruthless actions taken against buildings with illegal connections have expedited the process of disconnecting and subsequently regularizing these connections officially. As a direct result of this, a massive revenue of Rs. 50 Crore has been collected in the form of prorata charges into



the BWSSB coffers. 1,000 Million Liters of Water Brought Under BWSSB Billing Net: Due to the strict measures taken by the BWSSB Blue Force team against the removal of illegal water connections and water misuse, massive water leakage in the city has been successfully prevented. As a result of this operation, a staggering 210 million liters of pure drinking water is being saved every month. Overall, the 1,000 million liters of water that was being used illegally so far has now been brought under the official BWSSB billing net, thereby generating an additional revenue of about Rs. 5 Crore every month. "Under the guidance of the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Sri D. K. Shivakumar, our first priority is to provide adequate water and an excellent sewerage system to everyone in the city.

Cabinet clears 2D 4K digital planetarium project in Dharwad

Bengaluru: The Karnataka Cabinet has approved the construction of a state-of-the-art 2D 4K Digital Planetarium at the Dharwad Regional Science Centre, reviving a long-pending project aimed at promoting scientific curiosity and astronomy education



among students in North Karnataka. Announcing the decision, Karnataka Minister for Minor Irrigation, Science and Technology N. S. Bosaraju said the Cabinet granted revised administrative approval for the project at a total cost of Rs. 22 crore.

ICIICI Home Finance

Corporate Office: ICIICI ICIICI Home Finance Company Limited ICIICI HFC Tower, Andheri - Kurla Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400059, India
Branch Office: Ground floor, Shop No. V/1165-351C, SM Towers, Madannada JN, Vadakkavila PO, Pallimukku, Kollam- 691010

[See proviso to rule 8(6)] Notice for sale of immovable assets

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 ICIICI 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.	Sindhu A (Borrower) Suresh (Co-Borrower) Loan No. LHKOL00001320788	Re Sy No. 162/3-4 Block No. 20 Vettikavala Village Kottarakkara Taluk Kollam Kerala- 691538	Rs. 8,03,430/- May 07, 2026	Rs. 11,75,310/- May 07, 2026	18.05.2026 11:00 AM To 03:00 PM	26.05.2026 02:00 PM Before 05:00 PM	May 25, 2026 05:00 PM	Symbolic Possession

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link- <https://BidDeal.in>) of our auction agency ValueTrust Capital Services Private Limited. The Mortgagors/notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till May 25, 2026 before 05:00 PM else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.
The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) RTGS/ Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICIICI Home Finance Company Limited Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article on or before May 25, 2026 before 04:00 PM. The Prospective Bidder(s) must also submit signed copy of Registration Form & Bid Terms and Conditions form at ICIICI Home Finance Company Limited Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article on or before May 25, 2026 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit Demand Draft (DD) should be from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in favor of "ICIICI Home Finance Company Ltd. - Auction" payable at the branch office address mentioned on top of the article.
For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICIICI Home Finance Company Limited on 9920807300.
The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit <https://www.icicifhc.com/>
Date: May 09, 2026
Place: Kollam
Authorized Officer, "ICIICI Home Finance Company Limited",
CIN Number:- U65922MH1999PLC120106

ICIICI Home Finance

Corporate Office: ICIICI ICIICI Home Finance Company Limited ICIICI HFC Tower, Andheri - Kurla Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400059, India
Branch Office: City Mall, 2nd Floor, Office No.62/1521, YMCA, Kannur Road, Kozhikode(Calicut)-673001
[See proviso to rule 8(6)] Notice for sale of immovable assets

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(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)
1.	Chandrika (Borrower) Bindhu N P (Co-Borrower) Loan No. LHCLT00001369966	Re Sy No. 78/6 7 78/36 37 Koduvadukundu Chelapparam Baithur Kakkodi Calicut Kerala- 673611	Rs. 3,06,560/- May 07, 2026	Rs. 10,62,027/- May 07, 2026	18.05.2026 11:00 AM To 03:00 PM	26.05.2026 02:00 PM Before 05:00 PM	May 25, 2026 05:00 PM	Symbolic Possession

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The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit <https://www.icicifhc.com/>
Date: May 09, 2026
Place: Calicut
Authorized Officer, "ICIICI Home Finance Company Limited",
CIN Number:- U65922MH1999PLC120106

EDITORIAL

Suvendu Adhikari: The Man Who Waited For 15 Years - And Won

The year was 1993. On July 21, in the heart of Kolkata, police opened fire on a crowd of demonstrators. Thirteen people were killed. The march had been led by Mamata Banerjee, then a Young Congress leader, towards the Writers' Building as part of the "Writers' Chalo" movement. The incident shook Bengal politics to its core and would go on to become one of the most enduring emotional symbols of Mamata Banerjee's political movement. Since then, every year, Mamata has observed July 21 as Shahid Dibas - Martyrs' Day. Even after the formation of the Trinamool Congress, the event continued to grow in scale and significance. Over the years, it became one of the biggest annual political gatherings in Bengal.

18 Years Later

The story of Suvendu Adhikari - one of Bengal's most consequential political figures of recent times - begins 18 years later, in 2011. That year, a huge event was organised at Brigade Parade Ground and Dharmatala under Mamata Banerjee's leadership. The crowd was enormous. The atmosphere was charged. By then, Mamata had already emerged as the undisputed force against the Left Front government, and the momentum for change in Bengal was building to a fever pitch. Suvendu Adhikari was, at that time, the Youth Trinamool Congress president - an important organisational figure who had played a major role in strengthening the party at the grassroots level, especially in East Midnapore and adjoining regions. He was on stage that day. But something felt wrong. The event management, stage announcements, and overall coordination were almost entirely in the hands of Kunal Ghosh, who was then extraordinarily prominent within the party and closely aligned with Mamata Banerjee. Kunal was making the announcements, directing the flow of the event, energising the crowd, and effectively conducting the entire gathering. Suvendu, despite his organisational stature, remained largely silent and inactive on stage - present, but peripheral. To many observers, it appeared as though he had been placed there simply to be seen, not heard.

The First Slight

For someone as politically ambitious and organisationally driven as Suvendu Adhikari, that was not a trivial insult. Outwardly, nothing happened. But the first seeds of distance had been planted. Suvendu reportedly felt that Kunal Ghosh had displaced him in the leadership hierarchy, and that Mamata Banerjee herself had quietly approved this arrangement. From that moment, a slow-burning sense of wounded pride began to take root. The answer to why he felt so isolated - despite being surrounded by Mamata, the party leadership, and the very movement he had helped build - lies partly in the nature of Mamata Banerjee's politics itself. Mamata had emerged from street movements, agitation politics, and direct mass mobilisation. She valued absolute loyalty and exercised tight central control over the movement's emotional narrative. In such a political universe, space around the leader is carefully rationed. Younger leaders with strong independent mass bases inevitably began competing - consciously or unconsciously - for visibility and influence. Suvendu was among such young leaders then. But, stubborn and self-respecting, he was also not the type to let things go. That incident at Brigade and Dharmatala stayed with him. Soon came another blow. Rajib Banerjee had reportedly been assured the post of Youth Trinamool Congress president, and was even asked to postpone a planned trip to Australia in anticipation. But at the last minute, Soumitra Khan was brought in instead, and Suvendu was effectively edged out of that organisational space entirely. For Suvendu, this was yet another betrayal.

The Mukul Roy Era

Around the same period, Mukul Roy's star was rapidly rising as one of the most powerful figures inside the Trinamool Congress. He and his son, Subhranshu Roy, grew increasingly influential in youth and organisational politics. In fact, people would openly say that though Mamata Banerjee was the Chief Ministerial face, Mukul Roy was the TMC's organisational backbone. Abhishek Banerjee had not yet emerged as a dominant force in the party in those days. Yet, he was slowly rising through the youth leadership structure. Inside the party, a quiet but unmistakable conversation had begun taking shape about who would eventually emerge as Mamata Banerjee's political heir, Roy or Banerjee. A silent power struggle was already on its way. Suvendu, watching all of this patiently, began to understand his own position more clearly. The number-two role he had perhaps aspired to get, was already slipping away from him. Roy or Banerjee, Adhikari found himself slowly sidelined - close to Mamata, and yet far from power. Eventually, though, Mukul Roy left for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). That would further clear the way for Abhishek Banerjee. The trajectory was becoming clear. And its implication wasn't lost on Suvendu. As these developments unfolded, Suvendu slowly began to reckon with the possibility that he, too, might eventually have to leave the Trinamool. BJP leaders had already begun establishing contact with him. But it wasn't that straightforward. His father, Sisir Adhikari, an old Congressman and seasoned politician, was firmly opposed to the idea. Mamata Banerjee herself reportedly made repeated efforts to stop Suvendu from leaving. She even sought Sisir Adhikari's help to bridge the growing distance. Sisir tried to defuse the tensions. But by then, the real conflict perhaps was no longer between Suvendu and Mamata directly - it was Abhishek Banerjee's growing influence over the party machinery that didn't sit right with Suvendu.

Suvendu Was No Mukul Roy

Mukul Roy's drift towards the BJP had been driven by some sticky factors. For one, he faced multiple allegations as a Rajya Sabha MP. By the time he had made the move, his significance within the Trinamool was also fading. His flight to the BJP, thus, was only natural. Suvendu's case was different - and the BJP knew it. He was seen not merely as another defector but as a potential alternative for anti-Mamata politics in Bengal.

Education increased... but why did skills not increase?



PRIYANKA SAURABH

Today's society is experiencing a strange paradox. On the one hand, the level of education seems higher than ever—children in every household are studying, attending coaching classes, online classes, and preparing for competitive exams, and as a result, their grades are steadily improving. But on the other hand, a question constantly arises—are we truly learning, or are we just collecting marks? This irony isn't limited to the individual level, but rather questions the direction of the entire education system. From school to college, children are drawn into a race where the goal is simply to score good marks, achieve high rankings, and accumulate as many certificates as possible. In this process, "learning" is left behind. Children begin to believe that success means writing correct answers on exams, not applying that knowledge to life. This is why today we see young people who are highly successful on paper, but struggle with real-life challenges. They can solve complex problems, but stumble over practical solutions to simple ones. Lack of confidence, hesitation in decision-making, and a lack of ability to adapt to new situations—all these are the results of



an education that relies more on "memorization" and less on "understanding." Our education system has long relied on a culture of rote learning. Children are taught what questions will be asked and how to write their answers. In this process, their curiosity gradually fades. They become reluctant to ask questions, fearing they might be proven "wrong." Creativity and independent thinking, essential for the development of any society, are stifled under this pressure. When these same children complete higher education and enter the working world, reality sets in. Companies don't just want

degrees, but skills—the ability to understand problems, work in teams, communicate, and adapt to changing circumstances. But the education system hasn't prepared them for these. This is why, despite increasing degrees, young people lag behind in taking advantage of employment opportunities. This isn't just a crisis of unemployment, but a "skills gap." Another serious aspect of this process is mental pressure. Today's students are burdened with immense expectations. Family, society, and competition all exert constant pressure on them to perform well at all costs.

But when the purpose of their studies is unclear, this pressure gradually turns into stress and confusion. Children are unable to understand how what they are studying is relevant to their lives. In fact, the purpose of education was never merely to pass exams. Education is meant to prepare a person for life—to give them the ability to think, understand, and make decisions. It teaches them not just information, but how to use that information. But when education is reduced to just marks, it loses sight of its original purpose. The solution to the problem lies in this understanding. As long as we

view education solely as an "outcome," the problem will persist. We need to focus on the process—how children are learning, whether they truly understand, and whether they are able to apply their knowledge. Curricula must be designed to inspire children to think and experiment. The examination system must be changed to assess understanding and application, not just memorization. The role of teachers is also crucial in this transformation. They must become not just teachers but guides, encouraging children to ask questions, make mistakes, and learn from them. Parents must also change their mindset. Children's success must be measured not just by their grades, but by their skills, confidence, and understanding. The digital age has opened up new avenues for learning, but their true use is only possible if we have the right vision for learning. Simply having access to information isn't enough; understanding and using it is what truly matters. Ultimately, the most important thing is that grades reflect how much you've memorized, but knowledge and skills reflect what you can do. If our education system succeeds in understanding this difference, not only will students' futures be better, but society will also become more capable and aware. Today, we need to seriously ask this question—are we truly becoming educated, or are we just trying to appear educated? Because until we find an honest answer to this question, education will continue to grow, but skills will not.

(Dr. Satyawan Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker.)

What Are Vijay's 5 Big Options Right Now? Look At Maharashtra, Bihar, And Karnataka

The political situation in Tamil Nadu remains fluid, with the Governor asking the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) to demonstrate the actual numbers it has on its side to cross the halfway mark in the assembly. These are situations where the Governor's discretion plays an important role in the ensuing elections. Likely Scenarios In Tamil Nadu President's Rule and one more election before the year-end: President's Rule can be extended six months at a time. So, if it is imposed with no suitable coalition forming the government, fresh elections have to be held, mostly before the year-end, to elect another assembly. The DMK and the AIADMK try to cobble up a government. The two parties together have 106 seats. They will have to show the Governor the support of every single MLA to cross the 118 mark. However, the Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) and the Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) cannot cohabit in an alliance - just like, say, the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Which means that the minimum possible strength of the alliance is 121, but for that, it will have to include all parties: the Congress's five MLAs, the VCK, the MUL, the CPI, and the CPM's two each, and one each of the DMDK and the AMMK. But for this, every single party leader, such as Premalatha of the DMDK and Dhinakaran of the AMMK, will have to be appeased. Such a formation will thus be a nine-party alliance. TVK aligns with a break-away AIADMK group. The AIADMK splits, with two-thirds of its MLAs claiming to be a new party. For this, at least 34 MLAs of the AIADMK will have to walk

out of the parent party and claim to be the original AIADMK. But for this, the leaders will need time to muster the numbers. The key question still would be, will the Governor wait before imposing President's Rule and calling for a fresh election? TVK makes way for multiple Deputy Chief Ministers. They will come from parties like the Congress, the PMK, and others, with the TVK heading a full coalition government. If the PMK does come over, this would mean doing business at least with two regional satraps: the DMDK and the AMMK, leading to a tally of 119. Or, the TVK would need to do business with the Left and the Muslim League, taking the tally to 123. Currently, the Left, Muslim League, and the VCK have pledged to be with the DMK, leaving the TVK with the option of banking on only the PMK (which has already demanded the Deputy Chief Minister post) and the DMDK and the AMMK. All TVK MLAs resign. This would reduce the legitimacy of the mandate. But there are past precedents. In 1972, all 14 CPM MLAs elected to the Bengal assembly refused to participate in the functioning of the assembly, as they called the election illegitimate. Such a step would exert the most pressure, but it remains to be seen whether things will come to this. The next 48-72 hours shall be the most interesting ever in Tamil Nadu politics. In the recent past, India has seen three instances of assemblies throwing up hung verdicts and Governors exercising their discretion. The outcomes have varied widely. Here's a recap Bihar, 2005: A Year Of Two Assembly Elections This was the year when two assembly elections were held in Bihar.

No Permanent Rivals In Politics As Vijay Turns Tamil Nadu Into 3-Way Battle

Ahead of C Joseph Vijay's possible oath as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and forming the state's first coalition government since 1952, the saga of cobbling together the numbers and staking his claim was filled with conniving conspiracies, desperate manoeuvres to keep the actor-turned-politician out, gubernatorial delays in the swearing-in, and a level of political uncertainty the state has never witnessed. It exposed the two Dravidian parties, the way the Vijay verdict has shaken up Tamil Nadu politics, the opportunism that drives politics, and TVK's inexperience in handling such situations. Back in 2006, when former Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa formed an alliance with MDMK chief Vaiko, she told waiting reporters that "there are no permanent friends or allies in politics." Surely, she would not have expected her party's future leadership to take her words so literally as to explore an alliance with the DMK. Over the last 48 hours, Chennai was abuzz with reports that the DMK and AIADMK were in talks to work out an arrangement to keep Vijay out of power, with the BJP allegedly facilitating it by delaying his swearing-in. DMK and AIADMK sources confirmed that back-channel proposals were seriously considered. One proposal was to install an Edappadi Palaniswami government, offering cabinet berths to the DMK's allies such as the Left and VCK, with DMK support from outside. This idea was reportedly pushed by younger leaders and those close to Udhayanidhi Stalin. However, senior DMK leader and parliamentary party chief Kanimozhi Karunanidhi led the charge to thwart any such effort and even threatened to leave the party if it proceeded with the experiment, claim



sources. Fortunately, what would have been a travesty of the people's mandate for Vijay and an indelible blot on the state's polity was not carried out. In fact, the TVK's firm warning that all its MLAs would resign if any effort was made to keep it out of power also showed it was not buckling under pressure and forced the other parties to fall in line. Finally, the Left and VCK stuck with the TVK after the DMK decided not to force their hand. The mere fact that the AIADMK and DMK could even explore an alliance is flabbergasting and perhaps foretells the times to come in a state that has only seen two-party decisive mandates in its history. Yes, the DMK and AIADMK share ideological roots, but it is hard for any observer of Tamil politics to have imagined a day when the Two Leaves and the Rising Sun could ally with each other. The reason for this tectonic shift is that Tamil Nadu has moved from a two-way fight to a genuine three-party verdict. This may be the new reality for a state unaccustomed to such political uncertainty. The TVK, DMK, and AIADMK are now the three poles. Until the TVK decimates either the AIADMK or the DMK -- or the other two finish off the TVK -- Tamil Nadu may

have to get used to such uncertainty. To reiterate the numbers: The TVK has 108 seats (effectively 107, as Vijay has won two). The Congress has 5 MLAs, the two Left parties have 4 each, and the VCK has 2. This takes the alliance to 118 - an absolute majority. On the other hand, the DMK has 59 and the AIADMK has 47. If all the smaller pre-poll allies, including the Left and VCK, stay where they are, then the DMK-AIADMK alliance can also show an absolute majority of 120 without the Congress and the BJP. All parties were taken aback by this verdict in Tamil Nadu, as a three-way fight resulted in a hung verdict. The speed and manner in which the TVK formed an alliance with the Congress also startled the BJP, which had preferred the TVK to align with the AIADMK. Its sole objective is to keep the Congress out of power. Vijay has also been cold toward the AIADMK and showed no interest in an alliance with the Two Leaves. This was because he felt it would be easier to manage smaller parties than a large ally - and also because the AIADMK is now a BJP ally. Similarly, the PMK, with its four MLAs, was an option, but it refused to break ties with the BJP, a precondition for any alliance with Vijay, who

is aligned with the Congress. Vijay's immediate decision to ally with the Congress, and the manner in which the Congress abandoned the DMK, ruffled many feathers. This move sparked talks between the two Dravidian parties. The situation was further accelerated by the delay in the swearing-in ceremony, which is widely seen as orchestrated by the BJP. Each side had its own reasons. For Edappadi Palaniswami, it is a matter of political survival and perhaps his last shot at power - he has the most at stake. The DMK fears that a Vijay-led government could become like MGR's - a chief ministership for life - and believes now is the only time to stop him. For the BJP, the goal remains simple: keeping the Congress out of power. What this means is that Tamil Nadu's polity will remain in a state of flux in the short term. It is a fractured mandate, but, ironically, one with a clear winner in Vijay. The fact that he struggled to cobble together the 118 seats needed shows both his difficulty in building a coalition and the determination of every established force to keep him out. The road ahead will be uncertain, as the DMK retains a strong hold over parties like the VCK, the Left, and even the Congress at the local level.



RUPEE FALLS 45 paise to 94.67 against US dollar in early trade

AGENCY
Mumbai:“The rupee depreciated 45 paise to 94.67 against the US dollar in early trade on Friday, as Brent crude prices rose back to USD 101.00 per barrel after US and Iranian forces exchanged fire near the Strait of Hormuz. Iran-US tensions affect Forex traders said investor sentiments were affected after Iran accused the US of violating the ceasefire as the US carried out retaliatory strikes with new attacks, which took place in the Strait of Hormuz and civilian areas, while President Donald Trump said the ceasefire was still in effect. Brent oil prices, which had fallen to USD 98 per barrel amid the US-Iran peace deal, edged higher to USD 101 per barrel as investors weighed the prospects for a Middle East peace deal. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 94.58 against the US dollar, then lost momentum and touched 94.67 against the American currency, registering a fall of 45 paise over its previous close. On Thursday, the rupee pared initial losses and settled the day on a positive note, up 27 paise at



94.22 against the greenback. “Brent oil prices moved higher by more than 2 per cent in Asian trade on Friday after US and Iranian forces exchanged fire near the Strait of Hormuz despite President Trump insisting that the month-old ceasefire remained in effect,” said Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP. Bhansali further added that the rise in oil prices took USD/INR higher towards 94.43 this morning in Asian trading, and the dollar index also moved higher towards 98.22 while

Asian currencies were a tad weaker. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback’s strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 98.20, up 0.14 per cent. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading higher by 1.08 per cent at USD 101.14 per barrel in futures trade. Sensex, Nifty drop On the domestic equity market front, Sensex declined 353.50 points to 77,491.02 in early trade, while the Nifty dropped 109.25 points to 24,225.20. Foreign Institutional Investors offloaded equities worth Rs 340.89 crore on

Thursday, according to exchange data. Rupee drops 45 paise to 94.67/\$ as Iran-US tensions near Strait of Hormuz lift Brent crude above \$101 per barrel; Sensex and Nifty trade lower in early session. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 94.58 against the US dollar, then lost momentum and touched 94.67 against the American currency, registering a fall of 45 paise over its previous close. On Thursday, the rupee pared initial losses and settled the day on a positive note, up 27 paise at 94.22 against the greenback.

“Brent oil prices moved higher by more than 2% in Asian trade on Friday after US and Iranian forces exchanged fire near the Strait of Hormuz despite President Trump insisting that the month-old ceasefire remained in effect,” said Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP. Bhansali further added that the rise in oil prices took USD/INR higher towards 94.43 this morning in Asian trading, and the dollar index also moved higher towards 98.22 while Asian currencies were a tad weaker. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback’s strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 98.20, up 0.14%. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading higher by 1.08% at \$101.14 per barrel in futures trade. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex declined 353.50 points to 77,491.02 in early trade, while the Nifty dropped 109.25 points to 24,225.20. Foreign Institutional Investors offloaded equities worth ₹340.89 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data.

BANK OF BARODA ANNOUNCES FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED

Bank Sustains Strong Growth Momentum with Healthy Asset Quality and Robust

Profitability Highlights

Bank’s Board has recommended a dividend of INR 8.5 per equity share (425% of face value of INR 2 per equity share) for FY26, subject to requisite approvals.

Bank’s Global Business has crossed a milestone of INR 30 lakh crore as of 31 st March 2026.

Bank has delivered highest ever quarterly Net Profit of INR 5,616 crore (+11.2% YoY). Net Profit for the financial year also crossed a milestone of INR 20,000 crore and stands at INR 20,021 crore.

Operating Profit for the quarter rises by 11.5% YoY and stands at INR 9,069 crore. Operating Profit for FY26 stands at INR 32,259 crore.

Net Interest Income for the quarter expanded by 8.7% on a YoY basis and stands at INR 12,494 crore. It stands at INR 47,682 crore (+2.5% YoY) for FY26.

Operating expenses for the quarter stands at INR 7,391 crore (-8.7% YoY) and at INR 31,180 crore for

FY26 (+4.4% YoY). Return on Assets (ROA) remains consistently above 1% and it stands at 1.15% for Q4FY26 (+6 bps QoQ) and 1.06% for FY26.

Return on Equity (ROE) stands at 17.27% for Q4FY26, up by 168 bps QoQ. It stands at 15.39% for FY26.

Cost of deposits for the quarter stands at 4.78%, a reduction of 34 bps YoY. It declined by 23 bps YoY to 4.87% for FY26.

Global Net Interest Margin (NIM) for Q4FY26 increased by 10 bps sequentially and stands at 2.89%. It stands at 2.89% for FY26.

Domestic Net Interest Margin (NIM) stands at 3.08% for the quarter. It stands at 3.04% for FY26.

Bank continues to maintain strong Asset quality with reduction in GNPA by 37 bps YoY to 1.89% in Q4FY26. Bank’s NNPA also reduced by 13 bps YoY and stands at 0.45% in Q4FY26.

Bank’s balance sheet remains robust with healthy Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR) of 93.94% with TWO at 76.66% without TWO. Slippage ratio for Q4FY26 declined by 11 bps YoY to 0.89%. It stands at 0.72%

for FY26, a reduction of 6 bps YoY.

Credit cost stands at 0.76% for Q4FY26 and 0.46% for FY26.

Bank’s Global Advances registered a growth of 16.2% YoY and Domestic advances grew by 14.5% as of 31 st March 2026.

Bank’s organic Retail Advances grew by 17.9%, driven by strong growth across segments such as Auto Loan (20.6%), Mortgage Loan (19.3%), Home Loan (14.6%) and Education Loan (10.9%).

Share of Retail, Agri Loans and MSME loans (RAM) in advances improved by 120 bps YoY to 61%.

RAM portfolio grew by 16.7% as of 31 st March 2026.

Profitability

Net Profit for Q4FY26 stands at INR 5,616 crore (+11.2% YoY) and it stands at INR 20,021 crore (+2.2% YoY) for FY26.

Net Interest Income for Q4FY26 stands at INR 12,494 crore (+8.7% YoY) and at INR 47,682 crore (+2.5% YoY) for FY26.

Non-Interest Income for Q4FY26 stands at INR 3,967 crore and it stands at INR 15,757 crore.

Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace becomes India’s first space-tech unicorn

AGENCY

New Delhi: Hyderabad-based private space launch startup Skyroot Aerospace on Thursday, May 7, said it has raised \$60 million in a fresh funding round led by existing investors Sherpalo Ventures and Singapore’s sovereign wealth fund GIC, becoming India’s first space-tech unicorn. The latest investment round also saw participation from BlackRock, the founders of Greenko Group, Arkam Ventures, Playbook Partners, Shangkhi Family Office and several other investors. While Playbook Partners and Shangkhi Family Office joined the company as new investors, Sherpalo Ventures, GIC, BlackRock, Greenko Group and Arkam Ventures were existing backers of the space-tech startup. Following the fresh capital infusion, Skyroot Aerospace’s valuation has climbed to \$1.1 billion, more than doubling from its previous valuation of nearly \$519 million in 2023. Lt. Gen. A.K. Bhatt (Retd.), Director General of the Indian Space



Association (ISPA), described the development as a landmark moment for India’s private space ecosystem. He said Skyroot’s unicorn status reflects the growing technological and commercial capabilities of Indian space startups and signals rising global investor confidence in the country’s space sector. According to him, the milestone could further strengthen India’s ambitions of increasing its share in the global space economy by 2033. Meanwhile, Skyroot co-founder and CEO Pawan Kumar Chandana said the company is preparing for

the launch of Vikram-1, India’s first privately developed orbital rocket, in the coming weeks. He added that the latest funding round reflects strong investor confidence in the company’s long-term vision and launch capabilities. The company said the fresh capital will be used to increase launch frequency for Vikram-1, expand manufacturing capabilities and support the development of Vikram-2, a next-generation launch vehicle with a one-tonne payload capacity and an advanced cryogenic upper stage. Skyroot noted that its 2022 Vikram-S mission suc-

cessfully demonstrated the company’s launch technology, while Vikram-1 is designed to carry payloads into orbit. Sherpalo Ventures Founder and Managing Partner Ram Shriram said he has backed Skyroot since its early days and expressed confidence in the startup’s progress towards the Vikram-1 mission. The latest round has taken Skyroot Aerospace’s total funding to more than \$160 million, or around Rs 1,500 crore. Following the fresh capital infusion, Skyroot Aerospace’s valuation has climbed to \$1.1 billion.

TikTok scales back AI-generated video descriptions after absurd errors

AGENCY

Washington: TikTok has rowed back on an AI feature which incorrectly summarised some videos on the platform, including claiming a celebrity was fruit. The company’s ‘AI overviews’ recently began appearing beneath content on the platform to describe what a video was showing, or provide more context. While only rolled out to some users in the US and the Philippines, the feature’s incorrect and bizarre AI-generated summaries of TikTok content - seen beneath videos of celebrities like platform star Charli D’Amelio - have been shared widely. According to TikTok, its experimental summaries have been tweaked to only suggest products similar to those shown in videos. The changes were first reported by news outlet Business Insider. Much like the AI Overviews at the top of most Google search results, TikTok’s AI-generated overviews would attempt to sum up the contents of videos for some users when



they clicked to see more of a video’s caption. Some examples screenshots by users and seen by the BBC showed videos on the platform being accurately described, but Business Insider also identified a number of “wildly inaccurate” AI overviews. This included one which saw a video of dancer Charli D’Amelio described as a “collection of various blueberries with different toppings,” the publication said. It saw similarly vague, inaccurate and strange AI-generated summaries on other TikTok videos of

celebrities and artists, including Shakira and Olivia Rodrigo. The feature will now only be used to surface information about items in videos, according to TikTok. It comes as tech firms look to deploy more AI products on their platforms to boost user engagement. However, some such efforts have been met with user backlash, or mockery, when these tools go awry. ‘Cutting through water’ Posts reacting to TikTok’s testing of AI overviews on its videos first began appearing in January. But it appears the summaries

were made more widely available, with several users and creators highlighting AI-generated descriptions containing absurd mistakes in late April. A recent example shared on Reddit saw a performance by ballroom dancers Reagan and Juli T described in an AI overview on TikTok as “a person repeatedly striking their head with a rubber chicken”. Other examples shared by TikTok users contained similarly strange descriptions. For instance, AI overviews for two separate videos, neither of which featured violence or tools, said they featured “a person repeatedly striking their head with a hammer”. According to TikTok, users were able to report and provide feedback about AI overviews. But this did not stop some from speculating as to whether the platform was “trolling” its users. “The new AI Overview is so bad it feels like it has to be a joke,” wrote TikTok user and creator Brett Vanderbrook alongside his video.

Shell latest oil giant to see profits surge due to Iran war impact

AGENCY

Washington: Shell has become the latest energy giant to report a jump in profits following the sharp increase in oil prices since the beginning of the Iran war. It reported profits of \$6.92bn (£5.1bn) for the first three months of the year, which was higher than analysts had expected and up from \$5.58bn in the same period a year earlier. The price of oil has soared since the start of the US-Israel war with Iran as the key Strait of Hormuz, which usually carries about 20% of the global supplies of oil and liquid natural gas (LNG), has been effectively closed. Last week, rival oil giant BP said its profits for the first three months of the year had more than doubled. Other oil firms have also reported bumper results. On Wednesday, Norway’s Equinor said profits in the first three months of the year had hit \$9.77bn, its highest quarterly profit for



three years.

Traders profit

Shell chief executive Wael Sawan said: “Shell delivered strong results enabled by our relentless focus on operational performance in a quarter marked by unprecedented disruption in global energy markets. “The safety of our people remains our priority as we work closely with governments and customers to address their energy needs.” Like BP, one of the factors behind Shell’s profits rise was better results

from its oil trading business. Before the conflict began, the price of Brent crude, the global benchmark for oil prices, was around \$73 a barrel. Since then, oil has seen sharp swings - peaking above \$120 at one point, but also falling below \$100 on other occasions as speculation has swirled over when the Strait of Hormuz will reopen. The big movements in the oil price that have been seen since the Iran war began can widen the gap between buying and selling prices.

Upgrade Your Sound with Sennheiser at the Amazon Great Summer Sale 2026

TSIT

New Delhi, 8th May 2026:

Sennheiser, a global leader in audio innovation, has announced special offers on its premium audio products as part of the Amazon Great Summer Sale 2026, starting 8 May. Customers can enjoy discounts of up to 42% on selected Sennheiser products, including the MOMENTUM 4 Wireless, Profile Wireless 1-Channel Set and 2-Channel Set, MOMENTUM True Wireless 4, HDB 630, AMBEO Soundbar Mini, HD 490 PRO Plus, Profile USB Microphone, and more. Additionally, shoppers can benefit from no cost EMI options for up to 24 months and select bank offers, making it the perfect time to experience Sennheiser’s signature sound.

MOMENTUM 4 Wireless

Upgrade your audio game with Sennheiser’s flagship MOMENTUM 4 Wireless. Engineered with precision 42mm transducers, these premium headphones deliver the brand’s signature sound with rich detail. Enjoy Adaptive Noise Cancellation, Transparency Mode, and up to 60 hours of battery life in a



lightweight, ergonomic design with ultra-soft ear cushions for all-day comfort. The Smart Control App lets you personalize your sound, while intuitive features like Smart Pause and Auto On/Off make every moment seamless. Available at ₹21,990, with additional discounts on select bank cards during the Amazon Great Summer Sale.

Profile Wireless Series

Take your content to the next level with the Sennheiser Profile

Wireless series, a versatile wireless microphone solution designed for content creators and videographers on the move. The Profile Wireless 2-Channel Set is an all-in-one creator audio toolkit featuring a compact 2.4 GHz receiver, two clip-on microphones, and a portable charging bar that also functions as a handheld interview microphone. Designed for flexibility, it supports cameras, smartphones, and computers, offering a versatile solution for a wide range of

content creation workflows. The Profile Wireless 1-Channel Mic offers a streamlined single-microphone solution tailored for solo creators who require a lighter, more compact setup while maintaining the same professional-grade wireless audio performance.

Each clip-on microphone delivers up to 7 hours of runtime and features 16 GB of memory for up to 30 hours of internal recording. Combined with 32-bit float recording, built-in backup recording, and reliable wireless transmission, the Profile Wireless series delivers clear, distortion-free audio with minimal setup.

The Profile Wireless 1-Channel and 2-Channel Sets are available at ₹12,990, and ₹19,990 respectively, with additional discounts on select bank cards during the Amazon Great Summer Sale.

MOMENTUM True Wireless 4 (Black Copper)

Experience next-gen audio with Sennheiser’s MOMENTUM True Wireless 4 (Black Copper), combining signature sound, lossless audio, and future-ready tech.

IPL 2026: DELHI CAPITALS SETS A TARGET OF 142/8 FOR KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS



MAX VERSTAPPEN TAKES ON SUPER GT CHALLENGE AT FUJI AHEAD OF 24H NURBURGRING

AGENCY
France: Max Verstappen delivered an exceptional performance at a rain-soaked Fuji Speedway in Japan, driving a GT500 car for the first time and beating the lap time of experienced Japanese Super GT driver Atsushi Miyake in only two laps. The performance comes ahead of his debut at the ADAC RAVENOL 24h Nurburgring - widely regarded as the world's toughest endurance race - taking place from May 14-17. The action was captured in a Red Bull Motorsports YouTube video hosted by Jeremiah Burton of BigTime. It is now available to watch. Here is all you need to know: - Four-time F1 world champion Verstappen has enjoyed racing in different cars throughout his career and built a reputation for versatility, quickly adapting to unfamiliar machinery and delivering strong



performances across multiple disciplines and conditions. - This time, he took on a new challenge - braving the wet and unpredictable conditions at the iconic Fuji Speedway in a GT500 car he had never driven, to beat the lap time of professional Super GT driver Miyake. GT300 cars compete in the lower-tier class of Japan's premier Super GT series, but instead the two drivers

took to the elite GT500 machine, producing around 650 horsepower and significantly higher aerodynamic downforce around the famous circuit. - Miyake, a former Fuji winner, who made his professional debut in 2020 and stepped up to Japan's top SUPER GT category in 2024, finishing third in the GT500 standings, was the first to head out onto the slick circuit.

LUKA DONCIC INJURY UPDATE:

"Frustrated" Lakers Star Admits Grade 2 Hamstring Strain Could Delay Playoff Return

AGENCY
Texas: The mood around the Los Angeles Lakers is starting to change as Luka Doncic's injury recovery becomes a bigger concern with every passing game. What initially looked like a short playoff setback is now threatening to seriously damage the Lakers' postseason hopes against the Oklahoma City Thunder. As pressure builds in the Western Conference semi-finals, Los Angeles may now have to prepare for the possibility of spending most, if not all, of the series without one of the NBA's most important players. That concern grew stronger after Doncic shared the clearest update yet on his hamstring injury. The



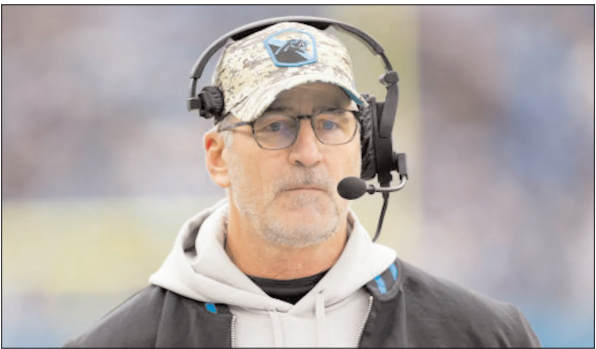
Slovenian guard revealed doctors originally told him the recovery process could take around eight weeks after scans confirmed the Grade 2 strain. Doncic spoke publicly for the first time since suffering the injury and admitted the original medical timeline was never short-

term. "The moment the day I did the MRI on the hamstring, the doctor told me eight weeks at the beginning," Doncic said. "I'm doing everything I can in the process, and I think we're on a good way. But at the beginning, he told me eight weeks." That timeline creates a huge

challenge for the Lakers. Even if the series reaches Game 7, it would still arrive before the full recovery window is complete. Doncic said he has returned to running and on-court workouts, but he still has not been cleared for contact drills. Los Angeles Lakers trying to survive long enough for Luka Doncic return The Lakers star also travelled to Spain for specialised platelet-rich plasma treatment as part of his recovery process. Doncic explained why he trusted the medical work there. "Everybody knows that Spain, they are just one of the best countries to do that," said Doncic, who began his professional career with Real Madrid before entering the NBA.

Why Veteran NFL Coach Frank Reich Believes He Can Finally Fix New York Jets' Broken Offense

AGENCY
Mumbai: For the third straight year, the New York Jets have tried their luck in a desperate bid to find a winning formula for their struggling offense. And while it may seem like the same story year after year, this time around, they chose an offensive mind with one of the most extensive resumes in the game, veteran head coach Frank Reich. Frank Reich, 64, had all the reasons in the world to avoid yet another NFL reconstruction project. But instead, he admitted his desire to face a new challenge head-on was the very reason he decided to take on the New York Jets' problematic offense as its new coordinator. Coming off multiple seasons of instability,



underperforming quarterbacks, and frequent changes to the coaching staff, the Jets hope Reich is finally the man to fix it. Frank Reich Takes On Big Challenge Of Building New York Jets' Offense Frank Reich's hiring follows a disappointing offensive campaign from the Jets, once again ranking among the lowest-scoring teams in the

NFL. In the past 16 years, the organization has had 12 different coordinators in charge of the offense, giving them a well-deserved reputation for being one of the most challenging franchises to work with as an offensive coach or quarterback. Yet Reich seems excited rather than intimidated by the challenge. Geno Smith and Frank Reich May Be New

York Jets' Most Crucial Pairing In NFL History The New York Jets now welcome veteran quarterback Geno Smith to the starting roster following an eventful stint with the Las Vegas Raiders. As a former coach of the Indianapolis Colts and Carolina Panthers, Reich mentioned recently how difficult circumstances have motivated him ever since his playing days in football. "It just reminded me of my love for the game, for the sport, for the purity of just coaching, being out on the field with the guys," he shared. This was proven in his career too, as he led two significant comebacks during his time as the quarterback of the Maryland Terrapins and the Buffalo Bills in the NFL playoffs.

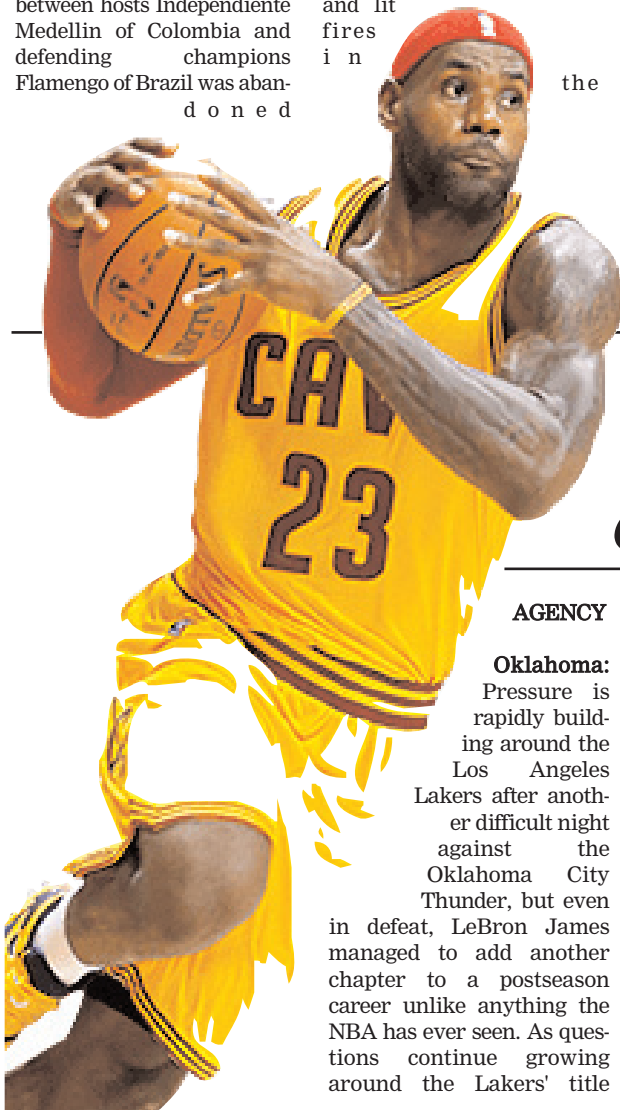
Copa Libertadores Match In Colombia Abandoned After Fans Set Fire In Stands



AGENCY
A Copa Libertadores match between hosts Independiente Medellin of Colombia and defending champions Flamengo of Brazil was abandoned

Thursday after home fans set off flares and lit fires in the stands.

stands. In just the latest instance of serious crowd trouble in South American football, the referee ordered the players off the field at Atanasio Girardot stadium in Medellin shortly after kick-off. After about 50 minutes, authorities ordered the evacuation of spectators, and regional body CONMEBOL subsequently announced that the Group A encounter had been called off.



AGENCY

Oklahoma: Pressure is rapidly building around the Los Angeles Lakers after another difficult night against the Oklahoma City Thunder, but even in defeat, LeBron James managed to add another chapter to a postseason career unlike anything the NBA has ever seen. As questions continue growing around the Lakers' title

hopes and ability to keep pace with Oklahoma City's speed and depth, James quietly crossed a milestone that may never be matched again. The 41-year-old officially became the first player in league history to appear in 300 NBA playoff games. The achievement arrived during Los Angeles' 125-107 loss in Game 2 of the Western Conference semi-finals, a result that pushed the Lakers into a worrying 0-2 hole before the series heads back to California. LeBron James reaches historic NBA playoff milestone in Lakers loss What makes the record even

more remarkable is the distance between James and the rest of basketball history. Former Lakers guard Derek Fisher remains second all-time with 259 playoff appearances, while legends such as Tim Duncan, Robert Horry and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar complete the top five. James reached the mark during his 23rd NBA season, continuing a level of longevity the league has rarely witnessed. Across more than two decades, he has carried three separate franchises deep into the postseason while missing the playoffs only four times in his career.

CZECH HOLAN NAMED AS RIDER KILLED AT NORTH WEST 200

AGENCY
Czech Republic: The rider killed in an accident at the North West 200 on Thursday has been named as Kamil Holan, from the Czech Republic. The crash occurred at Station Corner in the opening Superbike qualifying session on Thursday morning in Northern Ireland. Holan, 48, is the first fatality at the North West 200 since Malachi Mitchell-Thomas was killed in a Supertwins race in 2016, and he is the 20th to lose their life in the 97-year history of the event. Hefty74, Holan's team, led tributes to the Czech rider, saying "above all he was a wonderful friend and a man of great character". "Kamil, you were an inspiration, support and a partner in life and on the track. Your humility, passion



and smile will be missed every second," Hefty74 posted on Facebook. "Your legacy will live on in Hefty74 and in our hearts. We express our deepest and most sincere condolences to his entire family and all his loved ones". One of a number of international riders competing at the road race in Northern Ireland, Holan, who lived in Prague, first raced at the North West

200 in 2022. His most notable victory came at the Manx Grand Prix in 2012, when he won the Newcomers 'A' race to become the first rider from the Czech Republic to win at the event. Holan also raced at the Isle of Man TT and had a best finish of 20th in the 2018 Superbike race, was a regular in European road racing and a multiple race winner in his native Czech Republic.

Aston Villa Rout Nottingham Forest To Reach Europa League Final Against Freiburg



AGENCY

London: John McGinn scored twice as Aston Villa routed Nottingham Forest 4-0 in the Europa League on Thursday to reach their first major European final in 44 years. McGinn's second-half goals were almost identical left-footed shots from the edge of the area to cap a dominant display at Villa Park in the second leg of the all-English semifinal to the delight of roaring fans, including Prince William, who joined in singing "Sweet Caroline" after the final whistle. Villa advanced 4-1 on aggregate and will face German club Freiburg in the May 20 final in Istanbul. Freiburg beat 10-man Braga 3-1 on Thursday to advance 4-3 on aggregate. It's Villa's first major

European final since it triumphed over Bayern Munich in the European Cup in 1982. Villa coach Unai Emery has won the Europa League title four times — three with Sevilla and one with Villarreal. Emiliano Buendia was involved in the opening two goals. The midfielder left behind several defenders on the left side of the area and sent a low cross for Ollie Watkins to tap in the opener in the 36th minute. Watkins scored just minutes after he got his head bandaged from a cut sustained in a clash with Forest defender Morato. Buendia added the second goal from the penalty spot in the 58th minute. McGinn made it 3-0 on the night in the 77th and doubled his tally three minutes later.

M4M MOVIE REVIEW
& RATING



THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES RATING: 3.5/5.

Story: Hyderabad is shaken by a series of brutal murders that leave the entire city in fear. What makes these killings more terrifying is that the murderer stages every crime scene to resemble famous paintings by legendary artists. ACP Krishna (Sambit Acharya) takes charge of the investigation, while journalist Radha (Jo Sharma) independently tries to uncover the truth. As mysterious clues and voice messages continue to challenge the police, shocking secrets connected to art and the controversial book “M4M” slowly come to light.

Analysis: M4M stands out because of its fresh and unusual concept. The idea of linking murders with famous paintings gives the film a unique identity and keeps the audience curious throughout. Director Mohan Vadlapatla maintains suspense effectively with a gripping screenplay and several unexpected twists. The investigation scenes are engaging and the climax reveals are handled well. Sambit Acharya delivers a sincere performance as ACP Krishna and fits perfectly into the role of a determined police officer. Jo Sharma is one of the major highlights of the film. She performs confidently as Radha and brings both glamour and emotional depth to her character. Her scenes add strength to the narrative and keep the audience invested. The background score and the song “Who is the Killer” further elevate the suspense-filled atmosphere. Overall, M4M works as an engaging murder mystery thriller that offers a fresh cinematic experience for suspense lovers.

Price of ‘Mango’ Isha Ambani flaunted at Met Gala will stun you



The Met Gala 2026 may be over, but it continues to dominate headlines, especially because of the grand fashion statements made by Indian celebrities. Among them, billionaire businesswoman Isha Ambani grabbed massive attention with her stunning appearance on one of the world’s biggest fashion nights. From her dazzling diamonds to the royal Nizam sarpech styled with her outfit, every detail of her look became a talking point online. However, one unique accessory from her look especially caught everyone’s attention was the “mango” she carried while walking the red carpet.

Isha Ambani’s viral ‘Mango’ purse
At the Met Gala 2026, Isha Ambani wore a custom ensemble by designer Gaurav Gupta inspired by Raja Ravi Varma’s iconic painting Padmini. While the outfit itself was breathtaking, it was her unusual mango-shaped accessory that left the internet curious. What many initially believed to be a real mango was actually a hyper-realistic steel sculpture created by renowned Indian artist Subodh Gupta from his famous Aam Aadmi series.

Ram Charan’s Peddi All-Time Record In North America With \$100K In Pre-Sales In Just 4 Hours

Even before arriving in theatres, Mega Power Star Ram Charan’s highly anticipated rural sports saga Peddi, directed by Buchi Babu Sana, has begun creating waves. Advance bookings in North America have erupted into a storm, with the film breaching the \$100K mark within just four hours of sales going live. This makes it an all-time record for an Indian film in terms of ticket sales within 24 hours. For a film that hasn’t even unveiled its trailer yet, this blistering start is nothing short of sensational. The pre-sales reflect both the massive trust in Ram Charan’s star power and the intrigue surrounding Buchi Babu Sana’s distinct storytelling.

North American distribution is being handled by Prathyangira Cinemas, and their release strategy is nothing short of ambitious. Along with North America, the movie will also be released in Sri Lanka, Australia, Singapore, and several other countries. Interestingly, Peddi has sparked extraordinary curiosity with its limited promotional material. Only two songs, two glimpses, and a handful of striking posters have been released so far, yet each drop has received an overwhelming response.



The aesthetic, the mood, the raw rural intensity, and Charan’s rugged makeover have together created a powerful wave of excitement among audiences. The upcoming theatrical trailer, which the team has already locked, is expected to take the hype to an entirely new level. Produced by Venkata Satish Kilaru under the Vriddhi Cinemas banner, in association with Mythri Movie Makers and Sukumar Writings, Peddi is set for a massive Pan-India release on June 4th, with premiere shows scheduled on June 3rd.

MASS NUMBER ‘LABBARU BOMMA’ FROM ANAKAPALLI FEATURING TARAK PONNAPPA AND NANDINI RAI RELEASED

The raw and rustic entertainer Anakapalli is being produced by Kandregula Naidu and Thrinadha Rao Nakkina under the banners of Bhavya Sri Movie Makers and Nakkina Narratives. Directed by Khagesh Tammineni, the film stars Vikram Sahidev and Sandhya Vasishta in the lead roles, while Kandregula Kumar Raja serves as the co-producer. Apart from providing the story and screenplay, Thrinadha Rao Nakkina also plays an important role in the film. The teaser and previously released songs have already raised strong expectations among audiences. The makers have now unveiled a sizzling mass song titled

“Labbaru Bomma.” The energetic item song is packed with vibrant visuals and catchy beats. Tarak Ponnappa impresses with his electrifying dance moves, while Nandini Rai captivates with her glamorous presence. The entertaining lyrics penned by Rambabu Gosala, combined with the addictive tune composed by Devzand, make the song instantly appealing. Vocals by Sri Krishna and Sahithi Chaganti add further charm to the track. Choreographed by Yash Master, the song stands out as a complete mass entertainer. Earlier, the song “Ammoru Diginadhi” became a trending hit on YouTube, and now “Labbaru Bomma” is also expected to emerge as a chartbuster.



MEGA GIRL BLOOMS IN SOFT LEHENGA



SHRADDHA DAS PROVED GLAM NEEDS NO MOVIE RELEASE



Shraddha Das may not have a big release on hand right now but she is absolutely refusing to slow down on the glamour front. The actress dropped these stunning new pictures and honestly they are doing all the talking. No film announcement needed when you are looking this good. The look is all about that gorgeous beige lace-up corset midi dress against a rich green velvet sofa backdrop. The contrast between the warm nude dress and the deep emerald green background is pure visual magic. The lace-up detailing at the front adds a bold, edgy touch to what could have been a simple outfit. Shraddha’s poses tell two completely different stories, one brooding and distant, one soft and sensual with eyes closed and hand through hair. Heavy eye makeup, glossy lips, and flowing highlights complete this effortlessly fierce look. Shraddha Das is clearly in her most confident era yet.



Robert Downey Jr. Says Declaring Influencers the “Stars of the Future” Is “Absolute Horsesh

As content creators and mainstream Hollywood continue to intersect in the age of social media, Robert Downey Jr. doesn’t think influencers should be declared the “stars of the future.” The Oscar winner recently sat down for an interview on the Conversations for our Daughters podcast, where he compared modern-day influencers with creatives who actually “want to build something” meaningful. “It was also a time when in the late ‘70s, early ‘80s, dangerous though it was, there was this sense that the competition wasn’t so stiff that you shouldn’t even bother trying,” Downey Jr. explained. “Whereas nowadays, people can create a celebrity without

ever doing much besides rolling a phone on themselves. I don’t look at that as a negative thing. I just look at it as more like the challenge for individuation is being upped.” The Avengers: Doomsday star continued, “Hopefully the grosser part of the youth of — let’s just call it America for locality’s sake — is gonna say, ‘Yeah, but that’s not my thing. I want to go do something, I’m going to make something. I want to educate myself and I want to have more inputs,’ so whatever my output is, it isn’t just a self-aggrandizing kind of influencer-type thing.” “When I hear people talk about, ‘Oh, the stars of the future are going to be influencers,’ I go, ‘I don’t know what world you’re living in, but I think that is

As content creators and mainstream Hollywood continue to intersect in the age of social media, Robert Downey Jr. doesn’t think influencers should be declared the “stars of the future.”

absolute horseshit,” he added. As someone who boasts more than 58 million followers on Instagram alone, Downey Jr.

was also asked for his perspective on when an influencer is about novelty, as well as what contribution influencers can make to the lives of their millions of followers. “My now 13-year-old son, he kinda got caught up in this whole influencer thing, and next thing you know, it’s like, ‘Hey, if you like the way I’m playing this video game, do you wanna send me a donation?’ And really, it becomes a religion,” the Iron Man actor said. “So there’s something about the influencers today that are almost like the Evangelical hucksters of the information age. At the same token, it’s different because we’re playing in this new territory and so it’s a little bit of a frontier and I don’t really have a judgment on it.