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OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

07-05-2026
Total pilgrims: 70,001
Tonnes: 30,085
Hundi kankals: 3.77 CR
Waiting Compartments: 25

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

GOLD, SILVER FUTURES CONTINUE UPWARD TREND ON MCX

COMMODITY	PRICE	CHANGE
GOLD FUTURES (JUNE 5)	₹1,52,672	Up ₹322 or 0.21%
SILVER FUTURES (JULY 3)	₹2,59,999	Up ₹147 or 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.

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 clear-

ance 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.

The Chief Minister declared that every Friday would be observed as "Field Grievance Day," during which officials would directly visit constituencies to receive and resolve complaints. He directed Collectors to visit each constituency four times every month and treat grievance redressal as a goodwill mission to strengthen citizen confidence in government.

The Chief Minister noted that nearly 90 percent of government services are already available through WhatsApp Governance platforms and directed officials to ensure all services are integrated by December. He also emphasized the need to improve disaster warning systems, regulate illegal constructions in urban areas, and strengthen data-driven governance through integrated dashboards and real-time monitoring systems.

TVK hits 120 seats; Vijay submits support letters, swearing-in today at 11 am

Vijay meets Governor Arlekar for 3rd time in three days, stakes claim to form govt; swearing-in as Chief Minister to be held today at 11 am

The IUML had also extended support to the TVK with its two seats, says Thanthi TV

Chennai (TSIT)

TVK chief Vijay, buoyed by the support from the Left parties, on Friday called on Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar at the Lok Bhavan in Chennai in connection with securing an invite from him to form the government. Vijay, who has already staked a claim to form the government, appears to have had a brief meeting with the Governor, sources said. Hours after the Left parties pledged unconditional support, Vijay reached the office of the governor in Guindy and TVK supporters expect that Arlekar would extend an invitation to form the government.

Vijay-led Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam, with 108 seats but 10 short of a majority initially, had earlier reached out to CPI, CPI (M) and the VCK - all DMK allies, seeking their support to form a government after winning its maiden Assembly election in Tamil Nadu, which was held on April 23. All three have two MLAs each in the 234-member House. The CPI and CPI



(M) have extended support to Vijay, while VCK will announce its decision on Saturday.

Vijay later visited the CPI state headquarters to thank the leaders for their support. In the April polls, TVK won 108 seats and emerged as the single largest party. TVK founder Vijay will have to resign from one of the two constituencies he has won, as per EC norms. The Congress party has extended the support of its five MLAs to Vijay. As per the calculations, the strength of TVK and its supporting MLAs now stands at 116, including the requirement of Vijay resigning from one of the two seats he contested from - Perambur in Chennai and Tiruchirappalli East.

Earlier in the day, in a major boost to its efforts to form a government in Tamil Nadu, Vijay-led TVK received the support of the two Left parties on Friday, bringing it closer to the magic number of 118 legislators required for a simple majority.

The Left parties, both part of the DMK-led alliance in Tamil Nadu, said that the decision was

taken in order to prevent the BJP's "backdoor entry" into the state. They will remain with the DMK vis-à-vis state rights. The Communist parties announced that they will not be a part of the TVK cabinet. While the CPI initially informed the Tamil Nadu Governor of their decision to support TVK, CPI (M) followed suit shortly, bringing Vijay closer to the simple majority mark. Both parties addressed letters to the governor informing him of their support for the TVK.

Addressing a joint press conference, CPI (M) State Secretary P Shanmugam and CPI State Secretary M Veerapandian declared unconditional support for the TVK. Shanmugam said the decision to support TVK was to prevent the BJP's "backdoor entry" into Tamil Nadu. It was to prevent its bid to rule the state through the Governor, though it has lost polls. "If no government is formed within 10 days, it may lead to imposition of governor's rule. As regards protection of the state's rights, the Left parties will continue to align with the DMK," Shanmugam said.

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 Srisailam, 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 padayatra if works at Lakshmidivipalli 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-

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.

Google explores AI infrastructure, server and drone manufacturing investments In India: Ashwini

New Delhi, May 8 : Alphabet-owned Google is exploring fresh investments in India focused on artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure and the local manufacturing of servers and drones, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Friday.

Sharing details of his meeting with Google executives on social media platform X, Vaishnaw said the company is evaluating opportunities across AI infrastructure development as well as electronics manufacturing in India.

"Google is exploring investments in India across AI infrastructure and the manufacturing of servers and drones," he said.

The development comes amid increasing global investments in AI capabilities and data centre expansion.

The minister's remarks also come shortly after Google CEO Sundar Pichai announced that the company would raise its total capital expenditure to \$185 billion this year, largely driven by aggressive



investments in AI infrastructure.

Speaking at the Google Cloud Next 2026 summit last month, Pichai said more than half of Google's machine learning computing resources would now be allocated to its cloud business.

Google has already unveiled a massive \$15 billion investment

plan in Andhra Pradesh to build what it described as a 'gigawatt-scale AI ecosystem' in Visakhapatnam.

As part of the initiative, the company in April began work on its India AI Hub project in partnership with AdaniConneX and Nxta by Airtel.

Google had termed the project its "largest investment in India's digital future to date." The initiative includes India's first gigawatt-scale AI hub spread across three data centre campuses and will also feature a 1 GW hyperscale AI data centre. The Andhra Pradesh government has allocated nearly 600 acres of land in Turluvada, Rambilli and Adavivaram for the ambitious AI infrastructure project. Speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony on April 28, Vaishnaw had said India is well positioned to become a trusted global partner in electronics manufacturing and supply chains, supported by strong policy initiatives and expanding technological capabilities. The minister also urged global technology companies, including Google, to scale up local production of servers, graphics processing units (GPUs) and semiconductor chips in India, underlining the government's push to strengthen domestic electronics manufacturing.

Intel flags ISI bid to exploit West Bengal's political volatility through fake narratives

New Delhi, May 8 : Indian intelligence agencies have flagged attempts by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) to exploit the prevailing political volatility in West Bengal by running coordinated disinformation campaigns, officials said.

The alert comes amid heightened tensions in the state following the killing of Chandranath Rath, a close aide of BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari. The situation remains sensitive in the aftermath of a bitterly contested Assembly election between the BJP and the Trinamool Congress, which the BJP won decisively. Intelligence agencies continue to monitor the situation closely. The chatter they picked up suggests that ISI-backed elements within the state and across the border would seek to exploit the situation. These elements



thrive in such situations and seek to add fire so that the entire state remains volatile.

An Intelligence Bureau official said that West Bengal and the northeastern states have always been on the ISI's playbook. While illegal immigration is one weapon that the ISI uses to create demographic changes and incite communal disharmony, it has also got a brigade that seeks to take advantage of a politically volatile situation. The official added that while some of the incidents of violence

are politically motivated, many are fuelled by external elements. The ISI is looking to run a disinformation campaign in West Bengal so that the state remains on the boil. Political violence that even includes bomb hurling is nothing new in West Bengal. This is something that the ISI-backed elements would look to cash in on. Another official said that the disinformation campaign would largely focus on fake news relating to the decisions that the new government would take.

BJP LEADERS DEMAND ACTION AGAINST KAUSHIK REDDY



The South India Times Husnabad may 08 BJP leaders staged a protest at Akkannapeta mandal headquarters in Husnabad on Thursday, condemning the alleged remarks made by Padi Kaushik Reddy against Union Minister of State for Home Affairs and Karimnagar MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar. The protest programme was organised under the leadership of Mandal President Ramancha Mahender Reddy, where BJP leaders burnt an effigy as a mark of protest.

SUMA KANAKALA INAUGURATES VAYYAARIE SAREES SHOWROOM IN NIZAMPET



The grand opening of Vayyaarie Sarees at Nizampet in Hyderabad received a tremendous response from customers, fashion enthusiasts, and saree lovers. The launch event turned into a vibrant celebration of fashion, elegance, and tradition, witnessing heavy footfall during the inaugural days.

Popular television personality Suma Kanakala inaugurated the showroom, adding glamour and excitement to the occasion. Customers welcomed the brand's concept of offering stylish and premium-quality sarees at affordable prices. The showroom was launched by entrepreneurs Manideep Yechuri and Spandana Maddula following the success of their premium venture Vaarahi Silks and Silver Jewellery. The founders said their vision is to make elegant sarees accessible to women while maintaining quality, design, and affordability.

The inaugural offers, including a special Rs.1 saree offer, received an overwhelming response from shoppers. The showroom features a curated collection blending traditional craftsmanship with contemporary trends, catering to everyday wear, festive collections, and special occasions. Speaking on the success of the launch, the founders thanked customers for their support and announced plans to expand Vayyaarie Sarees with more than 25 stores across South India in the coming years. The successful launch marks the beginning of a new journey in affordable ethnic fashion and saree retail in Hyderabad.

BRS TO LAUNCH PADAYATRA ON FARMERS' ISSUES: SRINIVAS GOUD

Mahbubnagar, May 8 : Former minister Srinivas Goud spoke to the farmers who were waiting for the sale of paddy at the Ramreddy Goodem mill in Mahbubnagar mandal with bags of grain in their vehicles. He announced that a padayatra will be organized soon to reassure the farmers. Meeting with key party leaders he said that the complete plan will be released soon. He said that every farmer will be brought together through the padayatra to explain the frauds done by the Congress government to the farmers. They demanded that the farmers should be given affordable price, timely supply of urea and quality electricity, release of the farmer's bond, the government should buy the harvested crop and give support price. In case of farmer's death, farmer's insurance should be implemented, Palamuru-Ranga Reddy He wanted to complete the project. It is stated that the government has the responsibility to buy every grain grown by the farmer. He warned that he will fight with the people against the government that does not care about



farmers' problems. He criticized that the government is trying to buy sarpanchs, corporators and other leaders with money, leaving public problems behind. Farmers should not get discouraged and fight till they make purchases with the government. Srinivas Goud said that they will continue. He said that immediately after the announcement of the BRS Warangal Sabha, the government started procurement of crops under the old system. It was explained that due to the ill-conceived decisions of the government, the millers are taking high rates from the farmers and the farmers are saying that they are taking two to three kilos of rates.

TRADERS AND CONSUMERS SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE MARKET COMPLEX: WANAPARTHY MLA THUDI MEGHA REDDY



Wanaparthi (TSIT): Thudi Megha Reddy asked the local legislators to take advantage of the integrated market complex designed with all the facilities. State Sports Authority Chairman Kottakapu Shivsena Reddy, District Collector Adarsh Surabhi, Market Committee Chairman Srinivas Goud, Municipal Chairman Madhavi inaugurated the registration assurance office on

the first floor of the newly built integrated market complex with all facilities in the old market yard area of Wanaparthi town on Friday. On this occasion, the legislators said that although it has been almost a year since the completion of the integrated market complex, the businessmen have not come forward to take the shops due to the high rent of the shops.

WE BUY EVERY LAST GRAIN OF GRAIN: MLA MEGHA REDDY

Wanaparthi (TSIT): Wanaparthi MLA Thudi Megha Reddy said that there is no need for the farmers to get impatient as they will buy the crop till the last grain. On Friday, he inaugurated the rice grain purchase center set up under the auspices of FPO (Farmer Producers Association) in Veerayapalli village of Peddamandadi Mandal. On this occasion, the MLA said that with the intention of encouraging women's association, PACS, Mepma, and FPOs as well, the MLA stated that a rice grain purchase center has been set up in Veerayapally under their auspices.



TWO BAGS CONTAINING CASH THROWN FROM NINTH FLOOR OF MOHALI FLAT IN ED RAID

Chandigarh, May 7 : The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday carried out raids at a flat near Kharar in Punjab's Mohali district where two bags allegedly containing cash were reportedly thrown from a ninth floor of the house during the operation, officials said. The ED officials added that the raid was carried out in the flat of an IT professional, Nitin Gohal, in Western Towers and during the search operation two bags allegedly containing cash bundles were thrown within the building premises. He is considered close to an aide of Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann. Morning walkers reportedly found currency notes scattered around the complex and notified the authorities. ED officials later confiscated the bags and continued with the search operation. They said 12 locations in Mohali and Chandigarh were raided, including premises of builders and housing projects as well as that of Gohal.

Apollo Hospitals Opens Sports Injuries Centre in Hyderabad



Hyderabad, May 8: Apollo Hospitals has launched a Centre of Excellence for Sports Injuries & Orthopaedics at its Financial District facility in Hyderabad, aiming to provide advanced treatment and rehabilitation services for athletes and fitness enthusiasts. The newly inaugurated centre offers comprehensive care for sports-related injuries with advanced diagnostic, surgical and rehabilitation facilities under one roof. The launch event was attended by KEI Group founder Anil Kamineni and Telangana Special Chief Secretary (Sports) Jayesh Ranjan. Members of IPL franchise, including Australian captain Pat Cummins, Praful Hinge

and Sakib Hussain, visited the facility and reviewed its treatment infrastructure and recovery programmes. Dr Deepthi Nandan Reddy, head of orthopaedics at Apollo Hospitals Financial District, said sports injuries require accurate diagnosis and timely treatment to avoid long-term complications. He said the centre is equipped to handle ligament injuries and complex joint conditions using advanced surgical procedures and evidence-based rehabilitation methods. Apollo Hospitals Telugu States CEO Tejesvi Rao Veerapalli said the centre was launched in response to the growing demand for specialised sports injury treatment amid increasing participation in sports and

fitness activities. Harkaran Singh, chief operating officer of Apollo Hospitals Financial District, said the facility brings together orthopaedic specialists, sports medicine experts and physiotherapists to ensure faster recovery and personalised care for patients. The medical team at the centre includes senior consultant orthopaedic surgeon Dr Raviteja Rudraraju and senior consultant physiotherapist Dr Raminder Kaur. Hospital officials said the initiative is expected to strengthen specialised sports medicine and orthopaedic care in the region with focused rehabilitation programmes and faster recovery pathways for patients.

SEVERE STOMACH PAIN REVEALS FOOTBALL-SIZED OVARIAN TUMOR; MEDICOVER DOCTORS SAVE YOUNG WOMAN



Chandanagar, 8th May, 2026: A young woman suffering from severe abdominal pain and rapidly increasing stomach swelling was successfully treated at Medicover Hospitals after doctors discovered and removed a massive football-sized ovarian tumor measuring more than 20 cm.

T. Sandhya 35 years from Bodapatla Village, Douthabada, Sangareddy Dist had been struggling with severe intermittent abdominal pain, abdominal heaviness, and progressive swelling for nearly two weeks. Initially believing it to be a minor gastric or stomach-related issue, she underwent treatment at a nearby hospital, but her condition continued to worsen. As the swelling increased abnormally and the pain became unbearable, she consulted Dr G Bhavya - Senior Obstetrician & Gynecologist Laproscopic & Fertility Specialist at Medicover Hospitals, Chandanagar.

On clinical examination, doctors were shocked to find a huge cystic mass occupying almost the entire abdomen, making the abdomen appear similar to that of a 30-week pregnancy. Further investigations including Ultrasound and CECT Abdomen & Pelvis revealed a giant multiloculated ovarian cyst arising from the right ovary, measuring approximately 14.1 x 20.3 x 19.5 cm — nearly the size of

a football. Doctors explained that ovarian tumors of this size are extremely rare and can become life-threatening if not treated immediately. Such tumors carry the risk of sudden rupture, ovarian torsion, severe internal bleeding, compression of surrounding organs, breathing difficulty, and in some cases may even hide underlying cancer. Tumor marker tests including CEA and CA-125 were performed and were found to be within normal limits, suggesting that the tumor was likely benign. However, considering the massive size and complexity of the tumor, a multidisciplinary team involving gynecology, surgical oncology, cardiology, and anesthesia specialists was assembled to carefully plan the surgery.

After detailed counseling regarding the risks and possible complications, the patient and her family agreed to proceed with open surgery. The surgery was successfully performed under the leadership of Dr G Bhavya along with Dr Raghu Rami Reddy S - Surgical Oncologist and the multidisciplinary surgical team. During the complex procedure, doctors identified a giant ovarian cyst with extensive vascularity and a long pedicle attached to the ovary and fallopian tube. The tumor was carefully removed intact without rupture and immediately sent for frozen section biopsy.

CITIZEN WATCHES INDIA UNVEILS CITIZEN FLAGSHIP SHOP IN HYDERABAD

Hyderabad, May 8, 2026 — Citizen Watches India proudly announced the inauguration of its exclusive flagship shop at L-37, Lakeshore Mall, Kukatpally, Hyderabad. The store was inaugurated by renowned Indian badminton champion Kidambi Srikanth, in the presence of Mr. Kawato Ryota, Managing Director of Citizen Watches India Private Limited, and Mr. Venugopal Todla, Managing Director of valued business partner Kamal Watch Company Private Limited.

The launch marked a significant milestone for the brand, coinciding with the 50th anniversary of Citizen's pioneering Eco-Drive technology and the introduction of the legacy watch brand Bulova at the store, further strengthening Citizen's premium retail presence in India. Adding to this milestone, Citizen is introducing the Eco-Drive 50th Anniversary Limited Model - Eco-Drive PHOTON, a commemorative timepiece inspired by the science of light.

Powered by the new Cal.



E036 movement, the watch offers an exceptional 365-day power reserve on a single full charge. Featuring an intricate multi-layered dial with slit detailing and a structural colour film, the design creates dynamic light reflection, embodying the essence of Eco-Drive technology. Crafted in a lightweight and scratch-resistant Super Titanium™ case and bracelet, the limited-edition model reflects Citizen's legacy of innovation and refined craftsmanship. The newly unveiled flagship shop, developed in partnership with Kamal Watch Company, offers an immersive and elevated retail experience,

showcasing Citizen's global legacy of innovation, precision, and craftsmanship. Customers can explore an extensive range of collections, including the iconic Eco-Drive series, sophisticated automatic timepieces, and contemporary designs, as well as a curated selection from the brand Bulova. The inauguration event witnessed an enthusiastic response from customers, partners, watch collectors, and media, making it a memorable occasion. The presence of Mr. Kidambi Srikanth added to the significance of the celebration, with a brief acknowledgement of his recent participation in the Thomas Cup 2026.

South Coast Railway Zone to boost Andhra Pradesh development: MP Sribharat



Visakhapatnam: M. Sribharat said the launch of the South Coast Railway Zone with Visakhapatnam as its headquarters would open

a new chapter in the development of Andhra Pradesh.

Addressing a media conference at Lawsons Bay Colony along with alliance party representatives, the MP welcomed the Central Government's Gazette notification regarding the railway zone and announced that official operations would commence from June 1.

Sribharat said the establishment of the South Coast Railway Zone was one of the key promises made during the 2024 elections and expressed satisfaction over fulfilling the commitment

given to the people. He stated that protecting the Waltair Division was also treated as a matter of prestige and successfully safeguarded.

Criticising the previous YSR Congress Party government, he alleged that it lacked sincerity in pursuing the railway zone issue and failed to respond to repeated requests from the Centre regarding land allocation. He said that after the NDA government came to power, suitable sites for railway zone offices were identified and construction works are progressing rapidly.

The MP stated that railway and infrastructure projects worth nearly Rs.1 lakh crore had been sanctioned to Andhra Pradesh during the past 12 years. He highlighted projects including railway track doubling and tripling, electrification, Amrit Bharat stations, new railway lines, port connectivity projects, and Vande Bharat train services.

Parliamentary panel reviews urban development projects in Tirupati



Tirupati (TSIT) A high-level meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Housing and Urban Affairs was held at Taj Hotel in Tirupati on Thursday as part of the committee's study tour. Representatives from Central and State governments, public representatives, and officials from various departments participated in the meeting.

including AMRUT, Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, PM SVANidhi, Urban Challenge Fund, NUDM, and PM e-Bus Sewa programmes. The performance of Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCCs) and the role of organizations such as CPWD, NBCC, and HUDCO in urban infrastructure development were also discussed. Special focus was laid on sustainable urban development in heritage and spiritual cities like Tirupati, slum

redevelopment, urban governance, and infrastructure expansion. Later, under the aegis of MEPMA, financial assistance of Rs.15.69 crore was sanctioned to 3,752 street vendors under various phases of the PM SVANidhi scheme. The meeting was attended by Magunta Srinivas Reddy, Arani Srinivasulu, Dollars Divakar Reddy, Ravichandra and senior officials from various departments and organizations.

District Collectors' meeting held under CM Chandrababu Naidu



Tirupati (TSIT): The second day of the 7th District Collectors' Meeting was held at the Secretariat under the chairmanship of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. S. Venkateswar, Collector of Tirupati district, and Sumith Kumar, Collector of Chittoor district, participated in the review meeting. The meeting focused on administrative issues, development programmes, and implementation of government schemes across districts.

BEFORE THE HON'BLE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, MINISTRY OF FINANCE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, 1ST FLOOR AT TRIVENI COMPLEX, ABIDS, HYDERABAD

O.A.NO.226 OF 2026

Summons under sub-section (4) of Section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule 2(A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993

State Bank of India

Verases

Kolli Ranga Swamy

To

Kolli Ranga Swamy

S/o K. Ranganna, Railway Quarters No.1095-B, 1st Line, Guntakal, Anantapur - 515 801

SUMMONS/SUBSTITUTED SERVICE BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

Whereas the O.A.No.226 of 2026 was listed before the Registrar on 28-04-2026. Whereas, this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue Summons / Notice on the said Application under Section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs.23,01,388/-.

In accordance with sub-section (4) of Section 19 of the Act, you, the defendant are directed as under:-

(i) To show cause within 30 days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;

(ii) To disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;

(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;

(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of your business any of the assets over which security interest is created and / or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;

(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realized by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the Bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before the Registrar, on 10-06-2026 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Hon'ble Tribunal.

(BY ORDER OF HON'BLE REGISTRAR, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, HYDERABAD)

THE REGISTRAR, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II 1ST FLOOR, TRIVENI COMPLEX, ABIDS, HYDERABAD-500001

MP Sribharat Felicitated for Efforts in Securing South Coast Railway Zone



The South India Times, Visakhapatnam : Senior railway trade union leader and Railway Zone Sadhana Samithi Convener Chalasani Gandhi felicitated Visakhapatnam Member of Parliament Matukumilli Sribharat for his significant role in the establishment of the

South Coast Railway Zone. During a programme held at the MP's office, Chalasani Gandhi honoured Sribharat with a shawl and presented him with a bouquet in recognition of his efforts in making the long-pending railway zone demand a reality. He also extended congratulations to

coalition representatives from BJP and Jana Sena Party, including Parashurama Raju and South Constituency In-charge Shiva Prasad Reddy. Speaking on the occasion, Chalasani Gandhi said that MP Sribharat had repeatedly brought to the attention of Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw the aspirations of the people of Andhra Pradesh regarding the formation of the South Coast Railway Zone. He appreciated the MP's persistent efforts and commitment towards achieving the milestone. He expressed confidence that the newly established railway zone would accelerate industrial growth,

infrastructure development, and economic progress in Andhra Pradesh. Addressing the gathering, MP Matukumilli Sribharat described the formation of the South Coast Railway Zone as a historic victory for the people of the state. He said it was a matter of pride and satisfaction to successfully place the people's aspirations before the Central Government and secure approval for the long-pending demand.

Utkarsh Small Finance Bank

Zonal Office: Rupa Sappire, 21st Floor, Sector 18, Opp Sanpada Rly Station, Vashi, Navi Mumbai (MH) - 400705

Registered Office: Utkarsh Tower, NH - 31 (Airport Road), Sehalpur, Kazi Sarai, Harhu, Varanasi, UP - 221 105.

POSSESSION NOTICE FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given under the securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under 13(12) read with rule 3 of Security Interest (enforcement) Rules, 2002, the authorised officer issued a Demand Notice on the dates noted against each account as mentioned hereinafter, calling them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the under noted borrowers having failed to repay the amount that the undersigned has taken Possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned against each account. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealing with the properties will be subject to the charge of UTKARSH SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED for the amounts and interests thereon mentioned against each account herein below.

The attention of the borrowers detailed hereunder is invited to the provisions of subsection (8) of section 13 of the act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sr. No.	Name of the Branch	No. of the Account	Name of the Borrower/Guarantor (Owner of the Property)	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession Notice	Amount Outstanding as on the Date of Demand Notice
1	Hyderabad	15421000/0007133	Mr. Pulugu Sheshu Reddy S/o. Prasad Reddy Pulugu (Borrower & Mortgagor) and Mrs. Pulugu Siva Kumari W/o. Pulugu Sheshu Reddy (Co-Borrower)	14/10/2025	05/05/2026	₹ 6,77,412.13/-
Description of Property/ies (all the part & parcel of the property consisting of): All that part and parcel of property bearing Survey D. No. 54477, House Tax Door No. 5-37, Assessment No. 449, Situated at Ganapavaram Village & Grampanchayat, Karlapalem Mandal, Narsaropet R. D. & Sub-District, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh - 522111. Admeasuring Area - 193-6 Sq. Yards. Property bounded by - East - Panchayathi Road, West - Pulugu Ankinde Reddy Site, North - Pulugu Chandra Shekar Reddy Site, South - Panchayathi Road.						
2	Hyderabad	15421000/007084	Mr. Uppirella Punna Rao S/o. Radhakrishnamurthy Uppirella, (Borrower & Mortgagor) and Mrs. Uppirella Gopi Lakshmi S/o. Uppirella Punna Rao (Co-Borrower)	14/10/2025	05/05/2026	₹ 7,09,166.62/-
Description of Property/ies (all the part & parcel of the property consisting of): All that part and parcel of property bearing Door No. 14-62, Assessment No. 102, Survey D. No. 384, Ganapavaram Village, Peddagolapalem Grampanchayat, Karlapalem Mandal, Bapatla Sub-District, Bapatla District, Andhra Pradesh - 344.88 Sq. Yards. Property bounded by - East - Some extent of house and site of Chinata Sivaiah Etc. 80 Ft., West - House and site of Maddasani Venkateswarlu 78 Ft., North - Panchayath Road 42 Ft., South - Bazar 36 Ft. 7 Ft.						
3	Hyderabad	15421000/006967	Mr. Jampani Ramesh Babu S/o. Rangarao (Borrower & Mortgagor) and Mr. Jampani Vijaya Lakshmi (Co-Borrower)	11/06/2025	06/05/2026	₹ 7,88,935.51/-
Description of Property/ies (all the part & parcel of the property consisting of): All that part and parcel of Door No. 1-113 & 1-114, (As House Tax Door No. 1-113 & 1-113A), Survey D. No. 620/2, situated at Pagoluvaripalem Village, within Alavariapalem Gram Panchayat, Cherukupalli Mandal, Bhattaprolu Sub. District, Bapatla District (Andhra Pradesh) - 522259. Property bounded by - East - Compound wall of Pagolu Sri Krishnarao - 85 Ft. West - Vacant site of Pagolu Subba Rao - 28 Ft., North - 3 Yards Width Joint Bala - 48.6 Ft., South - Vacant site of Jampani Raghunatha Rao - 28.3 Ft.						

Date: 09/05/2026
Place: Hyderabad

Sd/-
(Authorized Officer)
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Ltd.

NIWAS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

(Formerly, Niwas Housing Finance Private Limited)

Regd. Office: - Unit No. 305, 3rd Floor, Wing 2/E, Corporate Avenue, Antheri- Ghatkopar Link Road, Chakala, Antheri (East), Mumbai - 400093

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

Whereas, The Authorized Officer of the Secured Creditor mentioned herein, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Act), 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with (Rule 3) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

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

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

Loan Account Number	Borrower(s) & Property Details	Amount & Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Possession Status
LNKUR0HL-08240046531	1.ALL KNOWN LEGAL HEIRS NAMELY LAKSHMIDEVI PALLE AND UNKNOWN LEGAL HEIRS OF DECEASED MADDILETI CHAINNA PALLE (BORROWER) 2.LAKSHMIDEVI PALLE(CO-BORROWER)	Rs. 6,15,896/- (Rupees Six Lakh Fifteen Thousand Eight Hundred NinetySix Only) DATE: 24-Dec-2025	06-May-2026	SYMBOLIC POSSESSION
PROPERTY BEARING:- ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE PROPERTY BEARING ALLTHATTHE SY NO.269/2, WARD NO.2 RUDRARAM, YAMBALI, BETHAMCHERA, KURNOOL, AP-5185599, ADMEASURING 290.4 SQUARE YARDS OR 2614 SFT THE FOLLOWING BOUNDARIES ARE NORTH-SITE OF SOMANNA GARI YELLAPPA, SOUTH-ROAD, EAST-SITE OF MY EXISTING, WEST-SITE OF BOYALAKSHMI				
LNKUR0HL-10240048983	1.BASHA SYED (BORROWER) 2.PARVEEN (S/CO BORROWER)	Rs. 14,78,986/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakh SeventyEight Thousand Nine Hundred EightySix Only) DATE: 18-Jul-2025	06-May-2026	PHYSICAL POSSESSION
PROPERTY BEARING:- ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE PROPERTY BEARING S.NO 7/B2A/2B, D.NO 69/526, ASSISMENT NO.1016031249, WARD NO.69, JOHARAPURAM VILLAGE, KURNOOL CITY, KURNOOL AP 518002 ADMEASURING 62.5 SQ.YARDS OR 562.5 SFT THE FOLLOWING BOUNDARIES ARE EAST-HOUSE OF RAMUDU, WEST-HOUSE OF PEDDA SUNKANNA, NORTH-ROAD, SOUTH-HOUSE OF BHEEMARAJU				

Date: 09-05-2026
Place: Andhra Pradesh

Sd/- Authorized Officer
NIWAS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

13.09 LAKH HOUSES COMPLETED UNDER VARIOUS HOUSING SCHEMES. SPL. CS AJAY JAIN

Vijayawada : The construction of 13.09 lakh houses has been completed in Andhra Pradesh under various housing schemes including PMAY-Urban, PMAY-Rural, and PM Janman since 2015-16, with 5.81 lakh of these built after the current government took office. Special Principal Secretary to the Housing Department Ajay Jain revealed at a review meeting on Friday. Of the total 17.97 lakh houses sanctioned across all housing programmes, 4.88 lakh houses are currently under construction. Since June 1, 2024, housing expenditure has reached Rs.19,708.86 crore, Jain informed. Chittoor district leads the state with 89% of houses completed, followed by Anakapalli (84%) and Srikakapalli (83%). Paschim Godavari and Dr. B.R. Ambedkaronaseema also showed excellent progress.

Vridhi Finserv Home Finance Ltd

Registered & corporate office address - 1st floor, No. 38, GKR Saphthagiri Vaishtadhama, 12th cross, Office CBI Road, Ganganagar, Bangalore 560032

DEMAND NOTICE

Notice u/s 13(2) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (Hereinafter called 'Act')

'Subject: Financial assistance sanctioned to you by Vridhi Finserv Home Finance Ltd., Defaults committed by you in payment of installments of Principal, interest etc.

We, Vridhi Finserv Home Finance Ltd., had issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 by Registered Post with Acknowledgement Due (RPAD) to the addresses furnished to the Bank as mentioned below. Since the notice has been returned due to non-availability of addresses at the said addresses / due to evading of service of the notices sent by RPAD, notice could not be served. Further, Bank had served the said demand notices by affixture at the addresses given. The contents of the said notices are mentioned herein below.

1. Name and Address of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower / Mortgagor / Guarantor : Applicant: 1.Mr. Banuvath Nagaraju Naik S/o Banuvath Pathre Naik, D. No. 3-39, Narasanyani Kunta, Ananthapuram, Kodimi, Ananthapur District, Andhr Pradesh - 515001. 2. Mrs. Banuvath Krishnaveni D/o Banuvath Nagaraju Naik D. No. 3-39, Narasanyani Kunta, Ananthapuram, Kodimi, Ananthapur District, Andhr Pradesh - 515001.

Sl.No.	A/c No	Amount (Rs)	Amount outstanding as on 22.04.2026 repayable by you
1	VHF1000000/24275	5,50,000/-	Rs.3,85,000/- together with further interest thereon with effect from 23.04.2026 at the contractual rates together with costs, charges, other monies until payment or realization.

Amount Outstanding Rs.3,85,000/- (Rupees Three Lakh Eighty Five Thousand Only) as on 22.04.2026 together with further interest thereon with effect from 23.04.2026 at the contractual rates together with costs, charges, other monies until payment or realization.

NPA Date: 05.04.2026 Demand Notice Dated: 24.04.2026 Branch: Ananthapur

(Details of Hypothecated assets and details of mortgaged properties of the Borrower)

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Ananthapuram Registration District-Ananthapuram Rural Sub District, Kodimi Village, Polem-NarasanyaniKunta Panchayathi area Babu Sarkaru Kushiki Sy Nos. 33-2 an extent of Ac. 0.05 cents or 0.020 hectares out of Ac. 1.27 cents- plot No.30, admeasuring an extent of 243.98 sq yards of site and bounded by the following boundaries: Bounded on: East by: Plot No.29, West by: Plot No.31 & 32, North by: 20 feet Road, South by: 30 feet Road. Measurement East to West 71 links or 46.86 ft or 12.76 mts, North to South 71 links or 46.86 ft or 12.76 mts.

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

Date : 07.05.2026
Place : Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorized Officer
Vridhi Finserv Home Finance Ltd.,

HDFC BANK LIMITED

Branch: # 3-6-310, Hyderguda Road, Basheer Bagh, Hyderabad - 500 029, Tel: 18002100018 / 040-66588491, CIN L65920MH1994PLC080618, Website: www.hdfcbank.com

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

The Authorised Officer of HDFC Bank Limited (erstwhile HDFC Bank Limited) having amalgamated with HDFC Bank Limited by virtue of a Scheme of Amalgamation approved by Hon'ble NCLT-Mumbai vide order dated 17th March 2023) (HDFC) issues E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & 9 (1) 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) indicated in Column (A) that the below described immovable property(ies) described in Column (C) mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive / physical possession of which has been taken as described in column (D) by the Authorised Officer of HDFC Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as per the details mentioned below:

Notice is hereby given to Borrower/ Legal Heirs and Legal Representatives (whether known or unknown), executor(s), administrator(s), successor(s) and assign(s) of the respective Borrower(s) / Mortgagor(s) (since deceased), indicated in Column (A) under Rule 9(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Secured Creditor's website i.e www.hdfcbank.com

Sl. No.	Name of Borrower/s	Outstanding dues to be recovered (Secured Debt) (Rs.)*	Description of the Immovable Property / Secured Asset (1 Sq. mtr. is equivalent to 10.76 Sq. ft)	Type of Possession	Reserve Price (Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.)	Date of Auction and time	Inspection Date & Time
1	Mr. Sreenivasulu Veluru (Borrower) Mrs. Pothala Sunanda Kumari (Co-Borrower)	Rs. 3,04,45,698/- (Rupees Three Crores Four Laks Forty Five Thousand Six Hundred and Ninety Eight Only) Dues as on 31-May-2024*	All that part and parcel of the Villa bearing No.74 with a Super built up area of 4254 Square Feet or 395.21 Square Meters, in Residential Project Known as 'PRESTON AMARI', together with land admeasuring 350 Square Yards out of Total Land admeasuring Ac 22-17 Guntas situated in Sy. Nos. 91, 216, 217, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227 and 228 of Kollur Village, Ramachandrapuram Mandal, and Sangareddy District, Telangana and the said Independent Villa is bounded as follows :- North: Villa No.75, South: Villa No.73, East: Villa No.66, West: Road. Contact Person: Mr. A.Arun Kumar, Contact No. 9426794593	Physical	Rs. 4,22,00,000/-	Rs. 42,20,000/-	11-JUN-2026 at 12.30 PM to 01.30 PM (With Unlimited Extensions of 5 Minutes till sale is concluded)	23-MAY-2026 between 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM

*together with further interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. incurred up to the date of payment and / or realisation thereof.

1. Minimum bid increment amount: Rs. 10,000/-

2. Last date of Bid submission along with EMD Amount: 10-JUN-2026 (before 05:00 PM)

To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorized Officer of HDFC, there are no encumbrances in respect of the above immovable properties / Secured Assets.

Date: 09-MAY-2026
Place: Hyderabad

Regd. Office: HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400 013

For HDFC Bank Ltd.
Sd/-
Authorized Officer

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 DMKD and the AMMK. But for this, every single party leader, such as Premalatha of the DMKD 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

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 Jayalalitha 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 minister-ship 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.

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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 31st 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 31st 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 31st 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 Sherpal 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, Shingvi Family Office and several other investors. While Playbook Partners and Shingvi Family Office joined the company as new investors, Sherpal 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. 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 To 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.

RUSSIA AND UKRAINE ACCUSE EACH OTHER OF BREACHING VICTORY DAY CEASEFIRE

AGENCY Kyiv: Russia and Ukraine have accused each other of violating separate ceasefires declared by each side to cover the celebrations of the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany. The Russian defence ministry reported more than 1,000 violations in the conflict zone, while Moscow's mayor said the city had been targeted by drones since the ceasefire began at midnight local time (21:00 GMT Thursday). Ukraine also said Russia had continued to strike its positions since that time. Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a ceasefire for 8-9 May ahead of Victory Day celebrations on Saturday. Kyiv had earlier called for an indefinite truce, starting 6 May. Russia has warned Ukraine not to try to attack the Victory Day parade in Red Square. Its defence ministry has threatened to launch a "retaliatory, massive missile strike" on the centre of Kyiv if Moscow is attacked. It has warned for-

eign diplomats to leave the Ukrainian capital ahead of 9 May. For the first time in nearly two decades there will be no military hardware at the parade, while the Russian capital is on high alert over the fears that Ukraine could try to disrupt the events. Residents of Moscow and St Petersburg have also been warned their mobile internet access will be limited for security reasons. The celebrations used to bring large numbers of foreign guests to Moscow, but this time only the leaders of Belarus, Malaysia and Laos, and a few other dignitaries, will attend. In a post on Telegram on Friday morning, the Russian defence ministry said there had been 1,365 violations of the ceasefire, including 153 artillery strikes and 887 drone strikes in the conflict zone. It said Ukraine was also continuing to strike civilian targets in border areas of the Kursk and Belgorod regions, close to the conflict zone. Russian armed forces provided a



"mirror response" to the violations, the ministry added. Meanwhile Moscow Mayor Sergey Sobyenin said some 20 drones had been downed near the city in just the first two hours of the ceasefire. Ukrainian strikes were also reported on industrial sites in the Perm and Yaroslavl regions, as well as sites in the Rostov region and the Chechen capital Grozny. Thirteen airports in south-

ern Russia also suspended operations after a drone attack. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky posted on Telegram that there had been more than 140 attacks on Ukrainian positions in the first few hours of the truce, and more than 850 drone strikes. "All of this clearly indicates that there was not even a simulated attempt from the Russian side to cease fire at the front,"

he said. "Just like in the results of the past day, Ukraine will act in kind today." On Thursday Ukraine accused Russia of breaching Kyiv's unilateral ceasefire, launching drone attacks, including on a kindergarten in Sumy region. Two people were killed in that attack, although no children were present at the time. The war of words over ceasefires came after European Council President Antonio Costa said he thought there was "potential" for the EU to negotiate with Russia over ending the war, and said they had Zelensky's backing to do so. "I'm talking with the [EU's] 27 national leaders to see the best way to organise ourselves and to identify what we need effectively to discuss with Russia when it comes to the right moment to do this," he said in an interview with the Financial Times on Thursday. "We cannot change the geography. We are in Europe, we are neighbours of Russia,

International cyber attack disrupts swathe of universities and schools



AGENCY Canada: A cyber attack hit several universities and schools in the US, Canada and Australia, causing chaos, confusion and major disruptions amid the high stakes end-of-year season. The hacking group ShinyHunters reportedly claimed responsibility for the attack, which caused the academic software Canvas used by thousands of schools and universities to go offline this week. By late Thursday, the company Instructure, which owns Canvas, posted an update on its website saying that Canvas was

"available for most users", but some universities were still reporting outages on Friday. The cyber attacks targeted universities and schools across the globe, affecting an estimated 9,000 institutions. The University of Sydney told students on Friday "Canvas was unavailable" and instructed students not to attempt to log in. "We are one of approximately 9000 institutions around the world that are impacted by this outage, and we are still waiting for advice from Instructure," the university wrote in an announcement on its website.

White House calls Mark Hamill 'sick' after actor's Trump grave post



AGENCY Washington: The White House has called Star Wars actor Mark Hamill "one sick individual" after he posted "an AI-generated image of US President Donald Trump in a 'shallow grave, alongside the caption "if only". The image, posted on Hamill's Bluesky account, showed Trump lying with his eyes shut, next to a headstone with the inscription "Donald J. Trump 1946-2024". Hamill, who played Luke Skywalker in the original Star Wars films from 1977 onwards, later deleted the post and apologised. "Actually, I was wishing him the opposite of dead, but apologize if you found the image inappropriate," he wrote. BBC News has asked the actor's representatives for a comment on the White House remarks about him. In the now-deleted X post, Hamill - who has also voiced the Joker character in various DC Comics projects - wrote that Trump "should live long enough to witness his inevitable devastating loss in the midterms, be held accountable for his unprecedented corruption,

impeached, convicted & humiliated for his countless crimes. Long enough to realize he'll be disgraced in the history books, forevermore." The White House press team responded on the same platform, calling Hamill "one sick individual". "These Radical Left lunatics just can't help themselves," they replied. "This kind of rhetoric is exactly what has inspired three assassination attempts in two years against our President." Last month, a man fired a shotgun outside the White House Correspondents' Dinner in Washington, in what the authorities have said was an attempt to assassinate Trump. Following the shooting, Melania Trump and other US officials demanded that comedian and TV chat show host Jimmy Kimmel be sacked by ABC after he joked on-air, in a parody sketch days before the shooting, that the first lady had a "glow like an expectant widow". Mrs Trump said Kimmel's "hateful and violent rhetoric" was intended to divide the US, adding: "It is time for ABC to take a stand.

Three dead after volcano erupts on Indonesian island



AGENCY Indonesia: Three people hiking on Indonesia's Mount Dukono have died after the volcano erupted on Friday morning. Videos and pictures of the eruption show the volcano, located on North Maluku island, spewing a column of ash stretching 10km (six miles) into the sky. The three victims were part of a group of 20 Singaporeans and Indonesians hiking on the mountain despite restric-

tions. The rest of the group was eventually located by rescuers and evacuated from the mountain. The volcano has erupted more than 200 times since last March. Officials had previously issued warnings against climbing the mountain due to safety concerns. The latest eruption took place at 07:41 local time (22:41 GMT Thursday), when there were several people on the mountain on early morning hikes.

IRAN ACCUSES US OF 'RECKLESS MILITARY ADVENTURE'



AGENCY Tehran: Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has accused the US of opting for a "reckless military adventure" every time a "diplomatic solution is on the table". Iranians would "never bow to pressure", Araghchi said in a post on X, a day after both sides accused each other of launching attacks in the Strait of Hormuz and as the US fired on more Iranian vessels. "Is it a crude pressure tactic?" asked Iranian counterpart asked. "Or the result of a spoiler once again duping POTUS [US President Donald Trump] into another quagmire?" Despite the clashes, Trump said the ceasefire was intact. It is meant to enable talks to end the war that the US and Israel launched in February. Iran is expected to respond to US proposals on Friday,

according to US Secretary of State Marco Rubio. "I hope it's a serious offer, I really do," Rubio said during a visit to Italy. Iran has been controlling the Strait of Hormuz as well as attacking US allies in the Gulf in retaliation for the US and Israeli attacks. Some 20% of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas uses the crucial waterway whose blockade has sent prices soaring. Early this week, Trump launched - and then paused - a US military operation to help free some 2,000 vessels which have been stranded in the area since February. The US is also maintaining a naval blockade of Iranian ports in order to exert pressure on Tehran to agree to the US terms - a move that has angered Tehran. On Friday, US Central Command (Centcom) said US forces had disabled two

Iranian-flagged unladen oil tankers attempting to pull into an Iranian port on the Gulf of Oman "in violation of the ongoing US blockade". US forces had fired "precision munitions into their smokestacks, preventing the non-compliant ships from entering Iran," the statement said. The new attack followed Thursday's exchanges in the Strait of Hormuz, which both sides blamed on each other. Centcom accused Iran of launching missiles, drones and small boats against three of its warships, in what it called an "unprovoked attack". Iran's top military command, meanwhile, alleged the US had targeted an Iranian oil tanker and another vessel approaching the Strait of Hormuz and carried out "aerial attacks" on several coastal areas.

Third British national has suspected hantavirus infection, government says

AGENCY London: A third British national has suspected hantavirus in connection with an outbreak on board the cruise ship MV Hondius, the government has said. The patient is currently on the remote Atlantic island of Tristan da Cunha, where the ship stopped in mid-April. Two other British men have confirmed cases - one remains in a stable condition in the Netherlands after being evacuated from the ship on Wednesday, while the other remains in intensive care after being flown to South Africa last month. Five cases of hantavirus have been confirmed, including one of the three passengers on the cruise who died. The MV Hondius is expected to dock



in the Canary Islands at the weekend, where the government has confirmed it will be met by a chartered plane to fly the remaining British passengers and crew on the cruise ship back to the UK. Although none of the remaining Britons are currently displaying symptoms, they will be asked to isolate upon their return home. British national

Martin Anstee, a 56-year-old retired police officer and an expedition guide on board the MV Hondius, was evacuated to the Netherlands on Wednesday alongside a 41-year-old Dutch crew member and a 65-year-old German. He remains in a stable condition and told the BBC that he was "fine". Another British passenger, 69, has a confirmed

case and was medically evacuated to South Africa at the end of April. He remains in intensive care and has been said by officials to be "doing better". Two other British nationals are already self-isolating at home in the UK after potential exposure. They are doing so voluntarily and do not have any symptoms. They were part of a group of 30 people from a dozen nations - including seven Britons - who disembarked from the ship at St Helena in the south Atlantic on 24 April, according to operator Oceanwide Expeditions. The operator said the first confirmed case of hantavirus was not reported until 4 May and that all guests who disembarked the ship had been contacted.

Rebel Wilson accused of 'complete revision of history' as defamation case closes

AGENCY Washington: Hollywood star Rebel Wilson has been accused of making a "complete revision of history" in a defamation case brought against her by a young Australian actress. Charlotte MacInnes, who stars in Wilson's film The Deb, is suing the Bridesmaids actress for harming her reputation in Instagram posts in 2024 and 2025. Wilson accused MacInnes of retracting a complaint of sexual harassment by a film producer in exchange for professional favours. MacInnes denies making the complaint. Over three weeks, the court has heard claims that Wilson ordered a smear website to



target the producer, something she denies, and of MacInnes scoring a major record deal months after sharing a bath with the producer. The incident at the centre of the case happened in September 2023, when MacInnes - who graduated from the Western Australian

Academy of Performing Arts (Waapa) in 2021 - went for a swim at Bondi Beach with Amanda Ghost, a producer on Wilson's film. Ghost had an allergic reaction to the cold water, breaking out in red welts and shaking uncontrollably, the court heard, so the pair went back to Ghost's lux-

ury beachside apartment rental to warm up. Ghost jumped into a shower while MacInnes ran a bath for her. MacInnes got into the bath to warm up, and Ghost joined her shortly after, with both wearing swimsuits. Ghost's assistant brought hot drinks for the two women while they were in the bath and sat with them briefly. According to Wilson's affidavit, MacInnes the next day told her that "Amanda asked me to have a bath and shower with her and it made me feel uncomfortable". "I was shocked by this," Wilson's statement detailed. In it she said she was "very troubled by the idea that something untoward or sexual had happened".

Worldwide race to trace passengers from hantavirus-hit cruise ship



AGENCY Washington: Health authorities across the globe are racing to trace dozens of people who disembarked from a cruise ship before an outbreak of hantavirus was detected, and anyone who has come into close contact with them since. Five cases have now been confirmed, including three deaths, following an outbreak on the Dutch vessel MV Hondius, the World Health Organization has said. The UN health agency also said the outbreak is not the start of pandemic like Covid six years ago, because this hantavirus strain spreads through "close, intimate contact". But given the incubation period of this disease - which can be up to six weeks - it is possible more cases may be reported, the WHO said. About 150 passengers and crew from 28 countries are reported to have initially been aboard the vessel, but dozens got off on the island of St Helena on 24 April. The luxury cruise, operated by Oceanwide Expeditions, began its journey on 1 April in Ushuaia, Argentina, and is expected to arrive in Spain's Canary Islands on

10 May. Hantavirus typically spreads from rodents, with people infected by breathing in air contaminated with virus particles from rodent urine, droppings, or saliva. Rare instances of human transmission have been documented with the Andes strain, which is behind this outbreak. It is the first known transmission of the virus on a boat, the WHO said on Thursday. The WHO is in touch with officials in at least 12 countries who are monitoring citizens that returned home. Those countries include Canada, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States. One expert told the BBC the outbreak response has been "highly chaotic and uncoordinated" but there was little general risk to the public. Here is what we know about the countries affected so far: Seven Brits disembarked the MV Hondius in St Helena on 24 April before the first confirmed case of hantavirus was reported on 4 May, with four remaining there.

SOUTH AFRICA PRESIDENT FACES CALL TO RESIGN AFTER COURT RULING

AGENCY South African opposition leader Julius Malema has called on President Cyril Ramaphosa to resign after the Constitutional Court ruled that parliament had violated the constitution by blocking moves to impeach him in 2022. The judgement follows a legal challenge by Malema's Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) and others, and could result in fresh impeachment proceedings. Ramaphosa's office said he respects the judgement. In 2022, an independent panel said Ramaphosa may have a case to answer after burglars stole \$580,000 (£430,000) in cash, hidden in a sofa, from his rural home. The theft led to allegations that he had



not accounted for where the cash had come from. The president denied wrongdoing. But impeachment proceedings were blocked four years ago in a parliamentary vote. At that time Ramaphosa's African National Congress (ANC) had a majority in parliament, but since the 2024 general election the ANC has been governing in a coalition.

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



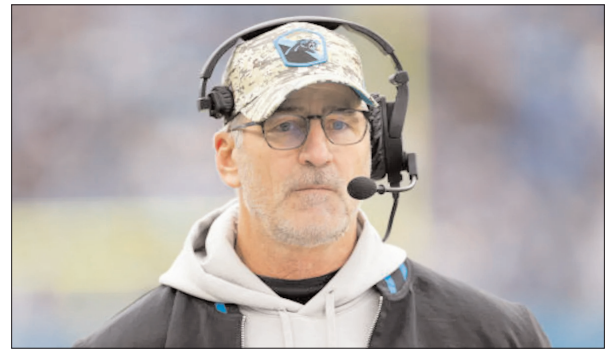
Slovenian guard revealed doctors originally told him the recovery process could take around eight weeks after scans confirmed the Grade 2 strain. Doncic spoke publicly for the first time since suffering the injury and admitted the original medical timeline was never short-

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 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. 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.

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NBA Legend LeBron James' Historic 300-Game Playoff Mark Overshadowed As Oklahoma City Thunder Push Lakers To Brink

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.

Even at 41, his production has barely dropped. The four-time NBA champion averaged 20.9 points, 6.1 rebounds, 7.4 assists and 1.2 steals this season, numbers that still place him among the NBA's elite players despite constant discussions about retirement, roster changes and the Lakers' long-term future. Against Oklahoma City, James finished with 23 points, six assists and three steals in 38 minutes. He also appeared to be dealing with physical discomfort after taking several hard falls, at times grabbing his right hip and wrist during play.

Oklahoma City Thunder Push Lakers to Brink Despite LeBron James' Big Night The individual milestone offered little relief for Los Angeles once the final buzzer sounded. Oklahoma City again looked younger, quicker and far more comfortable dictating the pace of the series, leaving the Lakers searching for answers before Game 3. The Thunder's defensive pressure repeatedly disrupted the Lakers' half-court offence, while their transition play exposed deeper roster concerns that continue hovering around Los Angeles during this postseason push.

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 of heads 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.



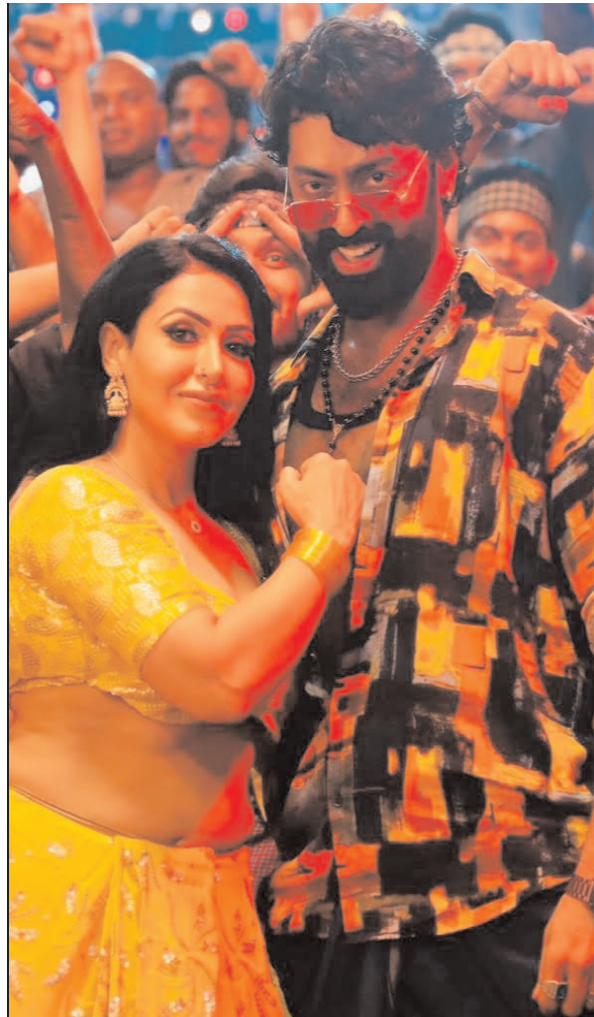
The aesthetic, the mood, the raw rural intensity, and Charan's rugged makeover have together created a powerful wave of excitement among audiences. The upcoming theatrical trailer, which the team has already locked, is expected to take the hype

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 Vasishtha 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 Horseshit"

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 build 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 influ-

encer-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."